



EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: 2018 Jul 09

SUBJECT: Project Watch Semi-Annual Update (January – June, 2018)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That this report be received for information.

INTRODUCTION:

This report will summarize and update the current status of the Project Watch Task Force (PWTF).

The PWTF was formed to address crime, disorder and violence occurring in and around several Edmonton hotels, motels, as well as rental accommodations. Many of these locations were found to house numerous families and vulnerable persons, including vulnerable workers in derelict conditions. In response to this situation, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) has taken the lead in forming an integrated team (not formalized) to address these concerns city wide.

On April 24, 2015, subsequent to a Project Watch presentation provided by Chief Knecht to the Edmonton Police Commission (EPC), EPS was requested to provide semi-annual updates on the status of Project Watch, going forward.

BACKGROUND:

The Residential Living Governance Committee developed out of a City of Edmonton initiative to formalize the commitment to what began as the Project Watch Task Force. The purpose was to address complex residential living situations to achieve compliance with minimum housing standards using a coordinated and integrated approach to foster safer and more harmonious communities in Edmonton. This multi-agency committee includes leadership and front line staff from Alberta Health Services (AHS), Edmonton Police Service, the Government of Alberta, and from the City of Edmonton: Fire Rescue Services, Safety Codes Compliance, Development Compliance, Community Standards, and Housing and Homelessness.

In late 2017, The Residential Living Governance Committee (RLGC) sought out a more effective way to work together. The Community Hub/ Situation Table Model is a systemic approach leveraging existing structures and programs including Project Watch Task Force, City of Edmonton Problem Properties Unit and City of Edmonton Safe Housing Program. The intention of the new model is to coordinate efforts and better manage residential living challenges. The model supports sharing appropriate and relevant information for efficient, coordinated, integrated interventions to high risk properties with composite needs using a highly-replicable structure.

The Hub/Situation Table Model is comprised of 3 components:

- Steering Committee: The governance group providing organizational oversight, developing strategy, negotiating funding and resources, ensuring accountability and advocating for upstream policy and system-level changes. The Steering Committee is comprised of senior leaders from the partner agencies.
- Situation Table: Front-line service delivery collaboration of multiple agencies meeting weekly to coordinate actions and proactively assess risk.
- Centre of Responsibility: Supports the work through coordination of activities, administration, data gathering and analysis, and report production.

Beginning in May 2018, the steering committee developed and implemented a Risk Assessment Model ranking all addresses out of 125. Each partner agency was responsible to assess risk based on their newly created matrix, which was developed to be agency specific. The addresses would then be prioritized based on the scores. The process is still developing, but is currently in use.

Currently the MOU, which drives the fuller information sharing component of the model, has 4 of 6 signatures required as of July 3rd, 2018 with the rest to be forth coming.

Year to Date Inspections

Prior to the Risk Assessment Team Model, January 2018 – May 2018

- 14 inspections with external partners both as Project Watch and as part of the RLGC. The inspections broken down by Division are as follows:
 - 3 in Downtown Division
 - 2 in Northeast Division
 - 2 in Northwest Division
 - 7 in West Division
- In all of the above inspections, Project Watch's partners noted similar and ongoing issues that required additional and continued inspections.

- Properties had issues surrounding but not limited to: insect infestations, both cockroaches, and bed bugs, malfunctioning or non-existent smoke detectors, broken windows, and leaks causing water issues, and potential mold problems.
- In many of the inspections, Divisional Community Crime Management Team (CCMT) and Beat members were engaged and attended.

After the implementation of the Risk Assessment Model, May 2018 – July 6th, 2018

- 20 inspections completed as part of the RLGC after each agency had conducted their specific risk assessment. The inspections broken down by Division are as follows:
 - 6 in Downtown Division
 - 1 in Northeast Division
 - 1 in Southeast Division
 - 1 in Southwest Division
 - 11 in West Division
- The above properties continued to have similar issues as above, such as: insect infestations, both cockroaches, and bed bugs, malfunctioning or none existent smoke detectors, broken windows, and leaks causing water issues and potential mold problems. Of note, in two of the properties, AHS issued closure orders due to the condition of the property.
- Project Watch was able to engage other areas of the EPS to assist. Downtown, North, Southwest, and West Division Beats and CCMT members all assisted. On one particular property, Detectives from the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit attended for intelligence gathering purposes.
- A total of 37 addresses have been assessed via the new risk assessment tool and submitted to the steering committee for prioritization. Of those addresses, there are 17 remaining to be scheduled for inspection. With the recent progress of the MOU, the volume of addresses will increase.

Memorandum of Understanding

The MOU mentioned above has the following signatories: the City of Edmonton, Alberta Health Services, Edmonton Police Service, Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, and Ministry of Labour. The purpose of this MOU is to define the roles and responsibilities of partner agencies in this collaborative model, to establish the organizational structure and governance structures of each level of the model, outline the information sharing requirements for each partner organization.

Upcoming:

In consideration of the fact the EPS has partnered completely in this newly developed model, there is intention on evaluating the purpose and usefulness of the name, Project Watch. Rebranding of the EPS unit carrying this work is in development in consideration of the overarching goals of the City driven collaboration, and the EPS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:

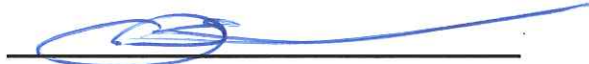
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Approved By: Superintendent David VEITCH, I/C Coordinated Policing Division



Chief of Police:



Date:

JUL 10 2018