



# EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

## REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

**DATE:** 2019 October 25

**SUBJECT:** EPS Street Check Update

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### RECOMMENDATION:

That the following recommendations be approved:

1. The 2018 external audit recommendation status update be marked as complete.
2. EPS reports to EPC on the Street Check File Reviews annually in November in line with the current audit process.

### INTRODUCTION:

Street checks are a tool that the EPS uses to proactively gather street level intelligence and further investigations. In Edmonton, street checks are in essence wellness checks by a police officer on a member of the public. They are initiated by officers in response to crime trends, public safety concerns and may result from a Call for Service. When properly exercised, street level intelligence gathering is a critical tool for police in crime prevention and for furthering investigations.

### BACKGROUND:

Across North America, the processes and practices used by police agencies to collect and store street level intelligence have been scrutinized by the public, media, and varying levels of government over the past few years. This scrutiny originated and centered in Toronto, where the term 'carding' was popularized. The EPS strives to maintain trust and transparency with the public, and so in 2016 initiated and completed a comprehensive Street Check Review on its policies, practices, and processes. The 2016 Street Check Review made 10 recommendations. Barring recommendations relying upon guidance from the Provincial Street Check Working Group, all recommendations have since been completed.

In 2018 the EPC engaged an external consultant to conduct a further review and audit designed to examine the use of Street Checks by the EPS amidst concerns of biased policing. This resulted in 17 recommendations focused on specific Street Check processes as well as broader suggestions such as increasing the diversity of EPS officers. EPS has done considerable work since then to address the recommendations – attachment 1. The outstanding recommendations from the

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external audit are general observations on the state of EPS which are being addressed outside the street check process (such as diversity in hiring and the development of a community engagement strategy).

### **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**

Street Checks are a critical tool for crime prevention and intelligence gathering and the Street Check Report (SCR) is an oversight mechanism to properly capture the *what, where, when, who and why*. Since the 2016 Street Check Review, extensive training has been delivered to recruits, frontline patrol members, patrol supervisors, and beat foot patrol members. Street checks and Street Check Reporting training is now a permanent syllabus component for all new sworn recruits and new patrol supervisors. Additionally, as part of an overall desire to make EPS more reflective of the communities it serves, EPS's recruiting practices have put an emphasis on increased diversity over the past few years.

Twice a year, an EPS committee of civilian and sworn members, uses a robust audit tool to assess compliance on average 190 randomly selected SCRs on information collection, fair and equitable policing and usage of correct reporting mechanisms. The May 2019 Street Check File Review noted that descriptors, which could be beneficial for police work were being omitted from SCRs. The same observation was noted in the October 2019 Street File Review. A project has been initiated to create an updated glossary for appropriate descriptors, which would provide consistent language for officers to use with confidence when filling out a SCR.

EPS reports to commission on the Street Check Reports currently through two different processes: through the semi-annual Street Check Report File Review and the Street Check Risk Audit Recommendation status update – attachment 2. The information EPC receives through the Street Check Risk Audit Recommendation status update can be provided through the November Audit process, instead of as a separate report. As the remaining work on street checks is part of larger organizational conversations, reporting to EPC on street checks should be streamlined with the internal risk audit process and the external audit recommendation status update be marked as complete.

### **CONCLUSION:**

EPS has done considerable work over the past several years related to policy, practices, and training. EPS is continuing this work with projects like the descriptor ten codes; project on appropriate descriptor terminology and a review of its audit tool.

Oversight of outstanding recommendations on Street Checks will be tracked through the internal risk audit, planning and performance processes going forward.

EPS will continue to audit Street Check Reports twice a year to inform oversight and bring an annual report to EPC on the semi-annual Street Check Report File Review in November annually.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:**

Attachment 1 - 2019 Street Check Audit Recommendation Status Update


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**Written by:** Mariam Masud, Program Manager, Strategic Design Section,  
Strategy & Engagement Branch, Value & Impact Division

Cal Schafer, Program Manager, Corporate Performance Section,  
Strategy & Engagement Branch, Value & Impact Division

**Reviewed by:** Lori Solon, Director, Value & Impact Division 

**Approved By:** Enyinnah Okere, Executive Director, Value & Impact Division

**Chief of Police:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** Nov 8, 19

No.	Audit Name	Recommendation	Condensed Management Response to Audit Report	Accountability	Proposed Implementation Date	Implementation Status	Implementation Update	CRP Priority Risk Mitigation Action
1	Street Checks Policy and Practice Review  Final Report date: June 2018	Initiate a Public Dialogue on street checks	The Edmonton Police Service's Strategy and Performance Branch will develop and implement a comprehensive Community Policing Strategic Plan. Among other things, this Community Policing Strategic Plan will seek to address, inform, and engage our community on issues such as racism and discrimination and establish an ongoing dialogue on items such as street checks and privacy issues.	Strategy and Performance Branch	Q1 2020	<b>On Target</b>	<p>On track with implementation date.</p> <p>The Edmonton Police Service will be updating its strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. Through this process there will be internal and external engagement on the long and short term outcomes of the organization, how community partners play a role and what success looks like.</p> <p>Future strategies will be dependent on key transformational actions identified. Along with this, the EPS will work with the EPC to outline the context issues emerging, and forecast how they may impact the EPS goals and outcomes and the community.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation will occur in alignment with related Strategic Planning work.</p>	
2	Street Checks Policy and Practice Review  Final Report date: June 2018	Address the privacy issues surrounding street checks.	<p>In the short term, the Edmonton Police Service's Intelligence Division has drafted information packages to be distributed in several different languages in order to inform and educate the community on the purpose and function of Street Checks and the use of related data.</p> <p>There has been a delay in distribution as the Provincial Government has not yet ratified their own requirements and guidelines on this topic. EPS will review the Provincial requirements and guidelines once</p>	Criminal Intelligence Branch	Q4 2020	<b>Off Target</b>	<p>The status has not changed since the last update. The Government of Alberta has advised that there will be changes to the street check legislation. EPS has not received any updates from the Government of Alberta since the election. EPS continues to wait, as there is no point in going out with a public education initiative until it's understood what the new rules are.</p>	

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			established to ensure alignment before dissemination of these pamphlets.					
3	<p>Street Checks Policy and Practice Review</p> <p>Final Report date: June 2018</p>	View street checks as a microcosm of the larger issues related to racism and discrimination against communities of diversity.	The Edmonton Police Service's Strategy and Performance Branch will develop and implement a comprehensive Community Policing Strategic Plan. Among other things, this Community Policing Strategic Plan will seek to address, Inform, and engage our community on issues such as racism and discrimination and establish an ongoing dialogue on items such as street checks and privacy issues.	Strategy and Performance Branch	Q1 2020	On Target	<p>On track with implementation date.</p> <p>The Edmonton Police Service will be updating its strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. Through this process there will be internal and external engagement on the long and short term outcomes of the organization, how community partners play a role and what success looks like.</p> <p>Future strategies will be dependent on key transformational actions identified. Along with this, the EPS will work with the EPC to outline the context issues emerging, and forecast how they may impact the EPS goals and outcomes and the community.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation will occur in alignment with related Strategic Planning work.</p>	

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4	<p>Street Checks Policy and Practice Review</p> <p>Final Report date: June 2018</p>	<p>Improve officer knowledge of the communities and persons they police.</p>	<p>For several years, the Edmonton Police Service has brought in a variety of representatives from different community groups and marginalized populations to speak to our members on their experiences and perspectives. In addition, Recruit Training includes several courses intended to inform our members of the communities and persons they police. Continuing professional development in these areas includes mandatory training and eLearning material for our membership.</p>	<p>Professional Development Branch</p>	<p>Q1 2020</p>	<p><b>Within Acceptable Range of Target</b></p>	<p>Recruit Training program updated. This included a more robust communication component as well as existing training on cultural safety and the inclusion of diverse communities.</p> <p>The EPS Training Advisory Committee has completed the development of a selection tool to assist with training initiatives. This will assist in a strategic approach to training.</p> <p>Professional Development Branch confirmed that EPS recruit classes have received Modern Policing Analysis (GBA+ training for EPS) training in Q3 2019 and the e-learning ongoing enhancement will be rolled out in Q1 2020.</p>	
5	<p>Street Checks Policy and Practice Review</p> <p>Final Report date: June 2018</p>	<p>Monitor for procedural justice in police-citizen encounters</p>	<p>Throughout recent training efforts, and an update of the EPS recruit training curriculum, significantly more emphasis on communication has been provided. This included professionalism, achieving certain communication objectives, and additional instruction on complex de-escalation techniques in order to achieve successful officer-citizen interactions. Recent training also included the purpose and 'how to' behind street checks, with attention to indicators of criminality (not race) and attention to being fair and managing bias.</p>	<p>Professional Development Branch</p>	<p>Q1 2020</p>	<p><b>Off Target</b></p>	<p>Professional Development Branch confirmed that EPS recruit classes have received Modern Policing Analysis (GBA+ training for EPS) training in Q3 2019 and the e-learning ongoing enhancement will be rolled out in Q1 2020.</p>	



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6	Street Checks Policy and Practice Review  Final Report date: June 2018	Develop a Comprehensive community policing plan.	The Edmonton Police Service's Strategy and Performance Branch will develop and implement a comprehensive Community Policing Strategic Plan. Among other things, this Community Policing Strategic Plan will seek to address, inform, and engage our community on issues such as racism and discrimination and establish an ongoing dialogue on items such as street checks and privacy issues.	Strategy and Performance Branch	Q1 2020	On Target	<p>On track with implementation date.</p> <p>The Edmonton Police Service will be updating its strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. Through this process there will be internal and external engagement on the long and short term outcomes of the organization, how community partners play a role and what success looks like.</p> <p>Future strategies will be dependent on key transformational actions identified. Along with this, the EPS will work with the EPC to outline the context issues emerging, and forecast how they may impact the EPS goals and outcomes and the community.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation will occur in alignment with related Strategic Planning work.</p>	
7	Street Checks Policy and Practice Review  Final Report date: June 2018	Develop a plan to inform/educate communities on the objectives and use of street checks in policing.	The Edmonton Police Service's Strategy and Performance Branch will develop and implement a comprehensive Community Policing Strategic Plan. Among other things, this Community Policing Strategic Plan will seek to address, inform, and engage our community on issues such as racism and discrimination and establish an ongoing dialogue on items such as street checks and privacy issues.	<p>Strategy and Performance Branch</p> <p>Criminal Intelligence Branch</p>	Q1 2020	On Target	<p>On track with implementation date.</p> <p>The Edmonton Police Service will be updating its strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. Through this process there will be internal and external engagement on the long and short term outcomes of the organization, how community partners play a role and what success looks like.</p> <p>Future strategies will be dependent on key transformational actions identified. Along with this, the EPS will work with the EPC to outline the context issues emerging, and forecast how they may impact the EPS goals and outcomes and the community.</p> <p>The implementation of this</p>	

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							<p>recommendation will occur in alignment with related Strategic Planning work.</p> <p>The Intelligence Division continues to provide lectures to the community on the function and impacts of Street Checks and Bias Policing Awareness.</p>	