



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2020 Third Quarter



EPS COMMITS TO ACTION FOR RACIALIZED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

On Sept. 21, Chief Dale McFee announced a commitment to action by EPS to engage with the city's Black, Indigenous, racialized, and underserved communities in improving policing and reimagining community safety and well-being.

The new strategy acknowledges current community concerns and calls for change, addresses racial injustice, and advocates for the need to work collectively to build, strengthen and repair police-community relationships.

Following worldwide protests calling for social justice and changes to policing, Edmonton City Council held public hearings in June 2020 to better understand how Edmontonians viewed police. The comments at the hearings highlighted the tenuous nature of police relationships with marginalized communities in Edmonton, and that a segment of the population has historically not felt seen, heard or protected by police. Overall, the need for an equitable, restorative and ongoing approach came to the forefront.

In response, EPS is now moving forward with a commitment to action through community engagement, where safe spaces will be created for extensive conversations with communities, then EPS will work with these communities to implement the required changes as soon as possible.

As part of the ongoing engagement, EPS will also be introducing a new community advisory council, which will work directly with various areas of EPS on changes to policy, procedure and operations. The new Chief's Community Council will be guided by people who experience marginalization, racism and discrimination, as well as community and business partners, and allow for meaningful intercommunity collaboration and problem solving.

EPS recently kicked off the first of its community engagement sessions, and the response from participants was both powerful and promising – not only in helping to build understanding and trust, but in providing new opportunities to discuss concerns and ways to work together.

These engagement sessions will be offered across the city through 2021, and groups also have the option of hosting their own events. Those who do not feel comfortable sharing their stories in an open setting, or are looking for more information on the engagement process, can visit www.epsinput.ca to get involved in the conversations.



INVESTIGATIVE TEAMWORK LEADS TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF HATE CRIMES UNIT FILE



On June 4, HCVEU became aware of and began investigating an Edmonton-based Instagram account identifying itself as a "Nazi page." The account began targeting a local student and their family, publicly posting their home address. The account owner quickly shut it down, but not before the harm had been done.

"The public who saw this thought the family were the ones responsible for creating the account and began harassing them," says EPS Constable Freddie Challenger, an investigator with the Hate Crimes and Violent Extremism Unit (HCVEU).

While the Unit set to work on the investigation, obtaining screenshots and reviewing citizen tips, Const. Arias, a School Resource Officer (SRO), received an email from one of the educational institutions she works with during the school year. Although schools closed in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Const. Arias and her fellow SROs continued to provide their services by way of the Youth Enhanced Deployment initiative, assisting students and their families where needed, as well as school staff and administrators.

"After the account was brought to my attention, the staff shared their concerns with me that this account may have been created by one of the schools' students," explained Const. Arias.

Const. Arias approached Const. Challenger to see if she could provide any assistance in the investigation. Working together, Const. Arias went door-to-door to speak with students and their families, while Const. Challenger focused on safety planning for the family affected by the Instagram account. Ultimately, it was Const. Arias' information that led to the identification of a suspect.

"What was most important to me was trying to understand the context as to why the account was created in the first place. I'm happy to say that I have a great relationship with many of the students, and many of the kids and families I spoke with were comfortable opening up to me. As it turns out, this case wasn't about racism, but about bullying," says Const. Arias.

In the end, what could have taken the Hate Crimes Unit months to complete was reduced to an approximately three-week investigation, as Const. Arias played a pivotal role in determining a starting point in the early stages of the investigation.

Once the creator of the account was identified, the officers worked with the school to find a solution and decide the best level of intervention. Rather than being charged, the student was given an opportunity to make amends and avoid unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system.

CHARGES LAID IN SERIES OF EDMONTON AREA COMMERCIAL BREAK-AND-ENTERS

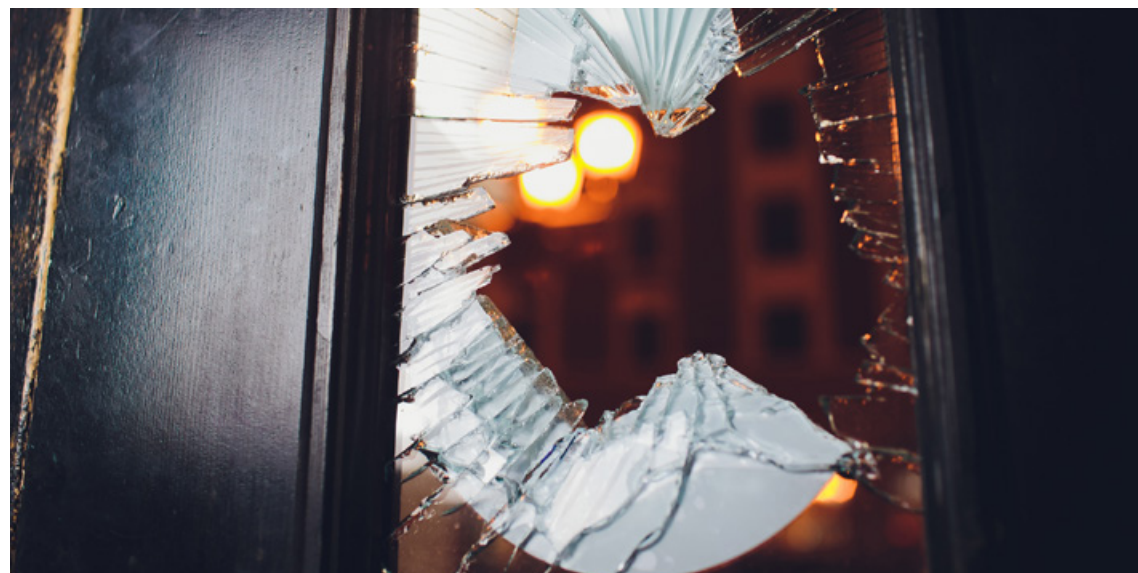
Between July 24 and Sept. 1, the EPS and RCMP responded to more than 55 early morning commercial break-and-enters in Edmonton and surrounding areas. It was reported to police that one or more suspects were targeting neighbouring small businesses in strip malls throughout this time period, including businesses in southwest, southeast and west Edmonton and businesses in Acheson and Leduc.

The suspects reportedly broke into the businesses through the front doors, stole cash and other retail items and then fled the scene in a light-coloured SUV. To date, investigators believe more than \$5000 in cash and goods has been stolen, including beverages, food, haircare products, pet products, gift cards, a computer, cash registers and debit machines.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, Sept. 1, officers spotted the vehicle at a gas station in southwest Edmonton. Working closely with the Leduc RCMP, the vehicle's occupants were then later observed committing a break-and-enter to a business in Leduc.

The two occupants of the vehicle were subsequently taken into custody without incident and remanded where they were charged with multiple counts of break-and-enter. Additional charges are pending against both suspects.

The EPS would like to thank the Leduc and Parkland RCMP for their assistance with this investigation.



A FUN DAY ON THE RIVER STARTS WITH SAFETY

Hundreds of citizens enjoy the North Saskatchewan River during the summer months, but it can turn dangerous in a matter of minutes.

Last summer, EPS' Marine Unit was patrolling near the Terwillegar Dog Park when they came across a large flotation device with four people onboard. As police approached, they could see that the toy was partially underwater. Speaking with the occupants, officers learned that the group left Devon and was heading to the 50th Street Launch in Edmonton, with the intent of a relaxing float down the river. However, the inflatable struck a tree that had fallen into the river. None of the occupants were wearing personal flotation devices, as there were none on board; nor were there any paddles or devices to steer or propel them in case of an emergency like this one.

Although it was a nice sunny day, one of the occupants had signs of onset hypothermia and two others were shivering. EPS' Marine Unit took the occupants to the safe shores of the Terwillegar Dog Park where the officers discussed the need for the required safety equipment such as PFDs, whistles, paddles, and a bailing bucket.

With the potential dangers and bylaws in place for users, the Marine Unit patrols over 70 km of the North Saskatchewan River by jet boat and Sea-doo's to provide emergency assistance, education, and enforcement of offences relating to river use, liquor, and noise. Officers check that boat operators have the proper licence, and all river users have the required safety equipment, such as a lifejacket with a whistle so citizens can avoid an emergency like in this story.



"We want the public to know that we take their safety seriously and partnering in these initiatives increases our visibility among water users and partners," explained Constable Joe Spear of the Marine Unit. "It also allows us to provide more education for local water users on the dangers of impaired boating and the importance of safety equipment when heading out on the river. We just want users to know they can still have fun while being safe and prepared if conditions change."



A BUSY SUMMER FOR EPS' COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Members of the EPS' Community Engagement Team (CET) were seen around the city this summer connecting with Edmontonians at numerous pop-up events. The CET team is a new addition to EPS, whose goal is the build positive relationships with communities, increase public safety and reduce crime.

CET Constables use engagement events to learn more about the communities they serve and their perceptions and concerns surrounding crime and disorder. Constables form valuable relationships that help to both increase understanding of community needs and the role police play in society. Despite the effects of the pandemic, the team was able to connect with citizens around Edmonton in a fun and safe manner.

Over the next few months CET will be working with Students from the Centre High Emergency Response Career Pathways (ERCP) Program to conduct engagements in many neighbours, providing crime prevention tips to residents and discussing current issues in neighbourhoods around Edmonton. They are also working with Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET) partners to engage with businesses in higher crime areas by providing them with information and assistance regarding personal safety.

Finally, the team is working on a virtual role out of EPS' Safe in 6 program for grade 6 students in Edmonton's schools.



PORTING BRIGHT COLOURS FOR ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Members of EPS' Equity and Inclusion branch proudly wore orange on Sept. 30 to affirm that every child matters and deserves to be protected from racism. Orange Shirt Day brings awareness to the realities of Residential Schools and recognize the resiliency and strength of Indigenous communities in reconnecting with their culture, fighting injustice and healing generational trauma.



Members of EPS' Equity and Inclusion branch (left to right) Chelsea Hawrelak, Andrea Levey, Enyinnah Okere, Cst. Jaqueline Buchanan, A/Insp. Mitchell Flaman and Yasin Cetin participate in Orange Shirt Day.



PUTTING THE BRAKES ON BIKE THEFT ONE REGISTRATION AT A TIME

In September, EPS officers and volunteers took to the paths to engage with cyclists. EPS officers involved in the Bike Index registration program held three registration events along main bike routes to educate cyclists about the program and register as many bikes as possible.

“Initially, we had planned on attending most of Edmonton’s outdoor events this summer to register citizens’ bikes,” Constable Kenny McKinnon explained. “Unfortunately, the pandemic changed everyone’s plans. But once we had guidelines in place to safely hold our own outdoor registration events, we quickly organized enough members to put together these events before summer’s end.”

Most of the officers who attended were volunteering on their days off because of their passion for cycling and this program. After the first event’s success, the officers agreed to hold two more in September at new locations. Each location averaged 150 registrations; officers registered bicycles, electric bikes, bike trailers, and even wheelchairs. If there was a serial number, they registered it.

“We wanted to make registration as easy as possible, and what’s easier than having someone do it for you? It seemed to be a selling point because each day we had cyclists waiting in line to get registered. We couldn’t have asked for a better turnout.”

Since EPS’ partnership with Bike Index in July 2019, approximately 62,000 bicycles have been registered in the Edmonton area and nearly 500 have been recovered and reunited with their rightful owner.

EPS encourages all cyclists to register their bikes for free on [BikeIndex.org](https://bikeindex.org).



HORSEPOWER FOR HOPE

EPS Chief Dale McFee participated in Horsepower for Hope in support of Kids with Cancer on Aug. 25. Despite rainy weather, the fundraiser put participants through a modified version of EPS driver training on the grounds of the former Municipal Airport – all for a good cause.





AIR 1 HELPS RESCUE MISSING FATHER AND SON

At 7:40 p.m. on July 11, Camrose RCMP received a call from a woman who reported that her 40-year-old husband and nine-year-old son went onto Miquelon Lake in an inflatable tube and had not been seen or heard from for several hours.

The Camrose / Wetaskiwin RCMP coordinated an immediate search of the area with the assistance of the RCMP Police Dog Services, Camrose County Fire Services, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park staff, as well as volunteers. Two boats also participated in the search but were hampered due to low water levels and aquatic vegetation.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., with sunlight and hopes fading, the RCMP requested the assistance of the EPS Air 1 helicopter as their helicopter was unavailable at that time. The EPS Air 1 helicopter is often called out to help search for missing persons in the Edmonton region – not only because of its unique vantage point from high above, but for its state-of-the-art GPS navigational overlays and enhanced digital camera / infrared system, which can quickly pinpoint individuals and direct resources on the ground to that location.



Despite heavy winds that evening, Air 1 was over the lake a short time later and located the missing rafters within minutes of arrival. The two rafters were stranded across the lake on a shoreline about three kilometres north from where they went missing. They were standing in a marsh area surrounded by dense bush with the nearest road over a kilometre away, so the flight crew decided to land Air 1 nearby and pick them up to expedite the rescue.

The father and son were wearing only their swimsuits and t-shirts and were feeling the effects of the cold and numerous bug bites. They explained that they lost their paddle, became disoriented, and had to wait for assistance. Air 1 was able to return the two safely to the Miquelon Lake Park Site where they were treated by EMS and reunited with grateful family.

The enhanced capabilities of the Air 1 helicopter make it a vital part of the Edmonton Police Service and helps provide a greater level of safety and support to the public and first responders. Air 1 responds to over 3,000 calls annually, including calls to assist Edmonton Fire Rescue and the RCMP.

MACEWAN UNIVERSITY CAPTURES FIRST STAGE OF LIQUOR STORE THEFT CHALLENGE

A strategy to combat liquor store thefts entered by MacEwan University's Social Innovation Institute has been selected for field trial of the first-ever challenge to be analyzed by the Edmonton Police Foundation's new Community Solutions Accelerator (CSA).

Through an analysis of the liquor store theft and robbery crisis in Alberta, MacEwan proposed the development and implementation of a high-profile awareness campaign, the use of hidden tracking devices in bottles, and a whistleblower cash prize targeted at restaurant employees who tip off police about their establishments buying stolen liquor. These measures intend to make those establishments purchasing stolen liquor fearful of being caught, which could have negative effects on their business including the loss of their liquor license and/or criminal charges.

In 2019, EPS officers responded to 9,565 theft of liquor calls across the city, or approximately 26 per day. Each call took an average of 1.5 hours of investigation time, constituting a significant draw on police resources and creating substantial burden in communities where the crimes are occurring. These crimes also place staff and public in stores at great risk.

Although the concept will now undergo field trials, and the results must meet the criteria set out in the challenge before it can be declared a winner, ALCANNA will initially award MacEwan a \$25,000 prize in recognition of their leading proposal. MacEwan's winning proposal was selected from 222 Liquor Store Theft Challenge submissions, which were received from Canada, Mexico, Russia, Japan, Nigeria, Tunisia, Iran and Brazil, among other countries.

The CSA is a new approach to public safety and community well-being that merges innovation and research. Made up of two distinct sections: one side of the CSA concentrates on issuing public challenges, such as Alcanna's liquor store theft challenge, through the Edmonton Police Foundation, while the other side focuses on data and research, as guided by the EPS.



ALCANNA presents MacEwan University's winning team with their prize.



Chief McFee's opening remarks during the CSA award underscored the importance of finding innovative solutions in addressing crime.



EPS CADETS BUILD LEADERS FROM WITHIN

On Sept. 19, 15 second-year EPS Cadets were up at the crack of dawn to take part in the inaugural Leadership Retreat at the Edmonton Police Association's Blue Meadows.

EPS School Resource Officers (SRO) and Youth Enhanced Deployment (YED) Constables engaged the Cadets in events that fostered teamwork, leadership and communication.

"We want our Cadets to be equipped with tools that will enable them to grow and adapt to any situation they find themselves in," said EPS Constable Daniel Yaassoub, Coordinator of the Cadet Corps program. "Ultimately, this was an opportunity to learn the importance and value of teamwork while working on their leadership skills."

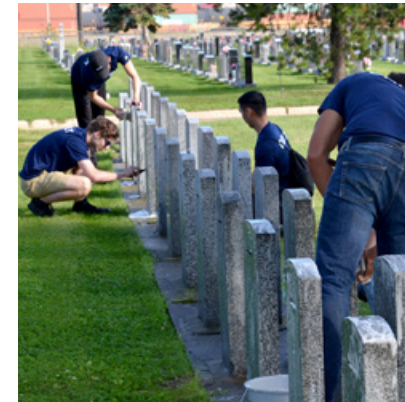
Arriving at Blue Meadows for an 0700-hours start, the Cadets prepared for a series of mental and physical challenges that would see the day wrap-up with an Air1 rescue simulation, working through how they would prep an injured civilian for successful medical air evacuation.

"We're learning to be better leaders, cheer on our team, and help each other," said EPS Cadet Jonathan Hobson, who joined the Cadets in October 2019 with hopes to one day pursue a career in law enforcement or the military.

The retreat complements the Cadet program, which focuses on the development and preparation of youth in becoming responsible citizens through leadership-based activities, teamwork and community volunteering.

"I believe that it's also building leadership and building meaningful connections, which in the long run, in any career, is very beneficial," said EPS Cadet Nicoletta Kavgaoulis.

This is one of many new opportunities for the Cadets to connect since being forced to step back from the program for an extended period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the more recent collaborations has the youth group honoring the fallen with a new agreement made with the City of Edmonton Municipal Cemeteries to help clean and refresh military markers in the Fields of Honour located at Beechmount Cemetery, Edmonton Cemetery, and Northern Lights Cemetery.



EPS Cadets honour the fallen by helping to clean military markers in Fields of Honour in cemeteries around Edmonton.



It was an early morning at Blue Meadows, where EPS Cadets faced a series of friendly challenges intended to build character and strengthen teamwork at the inaugural Leadership Retreat.



CONSTABLE AWARDED CPTED ICA ADVANCED PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION

On September 10, EPS Constable John Beatson was awarded the International CPTED Association (ICA) advanced practitioner certification. With this designation, the EPS now has three accredited Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) practitioners in the Collaborative Policing Unit.

CPTED, is a multi-disciplinary approach to crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments. CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among citizens while reducing, and minimizing the fear of, crime.

EPS members now make up 50 per cent of the six ICA accredited practitioners in Canada. The Service is also home to the only accredited course in Canada — and was the first police service in the world to earn the certification in January.



Const. John Beatson displays his official advanced practitioner certification, joining the ranks as EPS' third accredited CPTED practitioner.



22ND POLICE AND PEACE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY

Although COVID-19 prevented law enforcement agencies across Alberta from gathering in their usual spot at the Pillar of Strength on the South Grounds of the Alberta Legislature, a handful of EPS officers traveled to Calgary to partake in a smaller ceremony honouring those who have fallen in the line of duty.

As is custom, representatives from agencies around the province attended to pay their respects, including a reading of the names of all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Police and Peace Officer's Memorial Day is an annual occasion to remember fallen officers and recognize the families, friends and colleagues who have also suffered the devastating loss of a loved one.

FINANCIALS

EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION (EPC) & AUDIT
BUDGET VARIANCE BY MAJOR CATEGORY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 (\$000'S)

	CURRENT PERIOD*				YEAR END FORECAST**			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	%	BUDGET	PROJECTION	VARIANCE	%
EXPENDITURES								
PERSONNEL								
Salary	463	435	28	6%	619	619	-	0%
Benefits	95	94	1	1%	128	128	-	0%
EPC Overtime	5	-	5	100%	7	7	-	0%
	563	529	34	6%	754	754	-	0%
NON-PERSONNEL								
Materials & Supplies	2	2	(0)	-10%	2	2	0	8%
Furniture & Equipment	3	1	1	49%	4	2	2	43%
Contracts & Services	245	127	118	48%	439	319	120	27%
Building Cost	101	106	(5)	-5%	134	132	2	1%
Travel and Training	57	11	46	81%	96	11	85	88%
Other General Costs***	14	10	4	28%	19	19	-	0%
	421	257	164	39%	694	486	209	30%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	984	786	198	20%	694	486	209	30%
REVENUE	-	-	-		-	-	-	
NET POSITION	984	786	198	20%	1,448	1,239	209	14%

* Variances for the current period are determined through a comparison of the year-to-date budget and actual results, and is composed of timing differences that are expected to reverse during the remainder of the year.

EXPENSES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 - NOTE: THERE WERE NO HOSTING OR CONFERENCE EXPENSES FOR Q3

	Executive Director	T.O'Brien	M. Ruth	K. Mackenzie	L. Hawn	J. McDougall	A. Hussainaly	J. Hamilton	E.Ambtman	A. Singh
Conferences										
Hosting										
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

COMMISSIONER MEETING
ATTENDANCE RECORD

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

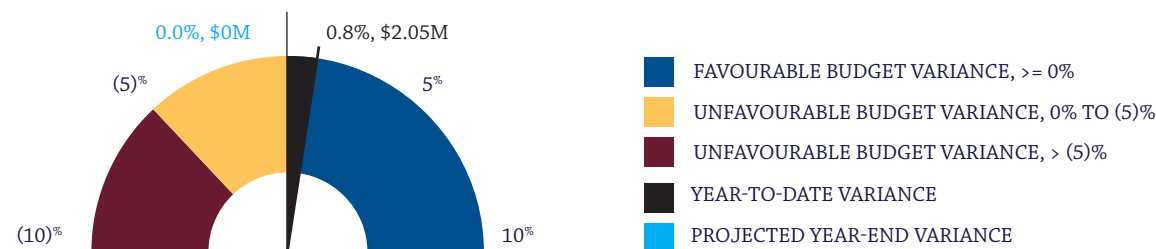
COMMISSIONER	# COMMISSION MEETINGS ATTENDED
MICKI RUTH, CHAIR	8/8
JOHN MCDOUGALL, VICE CHAIR	8/8
KAREN MACKENZE	8/8
LAURIE HAWN	8/8
JANET-SUE HAMILTON	8/8
ANEELA HUSSAINALY	7/8
TIM O'BRIEN	8/8
ERICK AMBTMAN	7/8
ASHVIN SINGH	7/8
SARAH HAMILTON	8/8
TIM CARTMELL	8/8

EPS FINANCIALS

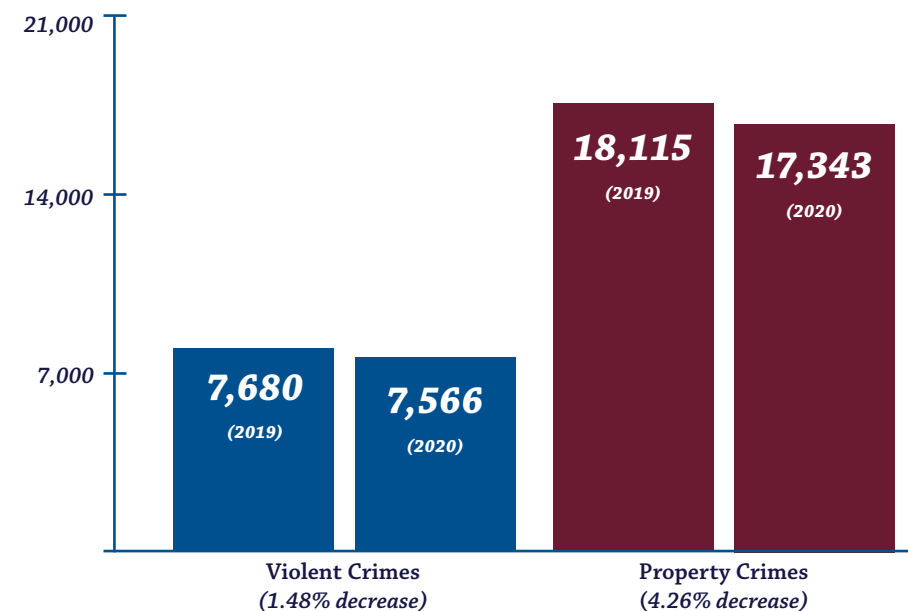
BUDGET VARIANCE BY MAJOR CATEGORY OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 FORECAST (\$000'S)

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE \$	%
THIRD QUARTER 2020 FORECAST				
REVENUE	62,453	59,373	(3,080)	-4.9%
<i>Personnel</i>	252,271	252,854	(583)	-0.2%
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	52,470	46,753	5,717	10.9%
EXPENSE	304,741	299,607	5,134	1.7%
NET POSITION	242,288	240,234	2,054	0.8%

	2020 PROJECTED YEAR-END			
REVENUE	96,904	92,731	(4,173)	-4.3%
<i>Personnel</i>	381,623	383,891	(2,268)	-0.6%
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	81,564	73,859	7,705	9.4%
EXPENSE	463,187	457,750	5,437	1.2%
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	9,658	9,658	-	0.0%
TRANSFER TO/FROM EPS RESERVE	-	1,264	(1,264)	0.0%
NET POSITION	375,941	375,941	0	0.0%



OVERALL CRIME IN THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS 2019 VERSUS 2020 Q1- Q3 COMPARISONS



*2020 is a leap year and has one extra day. On Feb 29, there was 21 violent violations and 60 property violations.

THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS ARE:

VIOLENT CRIMES

- Homicide
- Assault
- Sexual assault
- Robbery

PROPERTY CRIMES

- Break and enter
- Theft from vehicle
- Theft of vehicle
- Theft over \$5,000

The eight crime indicators are measured daily and the data is used to focus on criminal activity and identify trends, patterns, and hot spots in Edmonton. Police resources are then deployed to address emerging and enduring crime and disorder issues. Violent crime statistics are based on the number of victims of crime, rather than the number of incidents of crime.



EPS STAFF COMPLEMENT

SWORN, CIVILIAN, AND RECRUITS			
STAFF	2020 AUTHORIZED FTE'S	2020 ACTUAL FTE'S	VACANCIES/ (OVER STRENGTH)
SWORN	1,849.00	1,807.55	41.45
RECRUITS	0.00	31.00	(31.00)
CIVILIANS	894.00	830.12	76.88
FULL COMPLEMENT	2,756.00	2,668.67	87.33

The authorized FTE's represent 2,756 authorized positions in 2020

OTHER COMMISSION AND EPS PUBLICATIONS

The Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Service publish a number of reports that provide further details on policing in Edmonton.

OPERATIONAL AREA	PUBLICATION
Performance Measurement	Annual Business Plan
Performance Results	Annual Business Plan Report Card
Complaints Against EPS	Professional Standards Branch Annual Report
Citizen Opinions on Policing	Citizen Survey

All publications can be found at www.edmontonpolicecommission.ca and www.edmontonpolice.ca