EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

INFORMATION ON THE NEWS MEDIA DASHBOARD TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: **2021-May-14**

SUBJECT: **News Media Dashboard**

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That this briefing note be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

At the January 2021 Edmonton Police Commission meeting, the EPS agreed to investigate a tool that would allow media outlets to access police calls for service. Media outlets previous had access to police radio signals, however since the move to AFRACs and the subsequent encrypted signal, that access is no longer available.

This EPS News Media Dashboard (NMD) was developed by the Edmonton Police Service (EPS). It is designed to improve access to police dispatch information for local media outlets in a near real-time mode. The application allows users to monitor high priority calls that the Edmonton Police Service receives from citizens. It is a situation-awareness tool and not intended for instantaneous, live-tracking of events. It is not meant to replace police-reported crime statistics as event types often change when additional information is gathered.

The application can be accessed from a desktop computer, tablet or mobile device and the information is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
About the data available:

1. The information provided is based on a 10-hour rolling window of the most recent police calls for service and refreshes every 30 seconds.
2. Calls in the News Media Dashboard (NMD)) will appear 10-minutes after the first officer arrives on scene. This is to ensure the most accurate information is being provided and allows attending officers time to plan and respond.
3. The time provided for each call is the officer arrival time. This is the time that the first dispatched unit arrives at the scene.
4. To prevent unauthorized release of private information, the call location will appear as the nearest intersection to the address provided to the dispatcher. Specific address information is not provided.

Tracking Sheet #

5. All calls will be removed from the portal 10 hours after they appear.
6. Priority one (P1) though priority five (P5) calls will appear on the dashboard, which are defined as:
    a. P1 – High Priority in Progress/Person at Risk – An immediate response will likely prevent or reduce the further harm to a person
    b. P2 – In progress/property at risk - An immediate response will likely prevent or reduce the further loss of property
    c. P3 – Just occurred – an immediate response will increase the likelihood of locating a suspect
    d. P4 – Priority – the nature of the occurrence requires a priority response
    e. P5 – General Service – response to the occurrence is not time sensitive
7. The high priority calls presented on the dashboard will include a variety of event types, including, assault, break and enter, disturbance, intoxicated person, mischief, motor vehicle collision, robbery, stolen auto, suspicious person, theft, traffic stop, weapons call, etc.
8. Some event types have been excluded for the protection and privacy of victims and to protect the first responders attending the scene. These include sexual assaults, family-related events, events involving children or youth, mental health related events, deaths, kidnappings, hostage takings and bomb threats
9. It is important to note that the event type is based on the information initially received by dispatchers. This event type may change as the police response progresses.

The application will go live for media usage in the last two weeks of May, 2021, and access will be provided upon receiving signed media access agreement from the respective news media organizations.

Written By: Michael James, Director of Communications