



2023 BI-ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

January - June 30, 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



My first term as Chair of the Edmonton Police Commission has been a time of both triumph and tragedy. The senseless losses of Edmonton Police Service (EPS) Constables Travis Jordan and Brett Ryan, as well as Constable Harvey Singh of the Alberta RCMP, were felt deeply within our community and beyond. These officers paid the ultimate price while serving in the line of duty, and their sacrifice and dedication will never be forgotten. The Commission decided to cancel two public meetings in March and April following these tragic deaths.

Although two meetings were cancelled, the Commission continued to be active in the community while undertaking its important police governance role on behalf of Edmontonians. In lieu of a holiday party, the Commission held a Mid-Winter Meet and Greet in February with the EPS and local community organizations which helped raise donations for more than 3,000 meals for Edmonton's Food Bank. We will continue to reach out and meet with community organizations as we move forward with plans to increase community engagement on policing in our city.

The Commission is a non-political and arm's-length board of governors who oversee the civilian oversight of the police service. We are an independent body committed to ensuring Edmonton remains a safe and vibrant city. To support this, we proposed a Reporting and Accountability Framework containing several improvements to the structure of our important arm's-length relationship with City Council. This framework was supported by Council and we look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Edmonton. The Commission, EPS and the City have also been working to address the level of safety on and around Edmonton's downtown and transit system, with monthly updates provided to Council and the community. The Commission has also been working with the City on a funding formula that would fund the EPS operations budget from 2024-2026, and Council is scheduled to make a decision in the latter half of this year. In addition, we continue working with the City and the EPS to find a solution for the 75 per cent capital funding shortfall resulting from last year's municipal budget decisions.

Despite recruitment challenges, we celebrated the graduations of EPS recruit training classes 155 and 156, at which Vice Chair Aneela Hussainaly and I presented valedictorian awards to the top recruits. The entire Commission wishes these hardworking and dedicated individuals all the best in the rewarding career path they have chosen.

Following the resumption of our public meeting schedule, the Commission received presentations on collecting race-based data from third-party experts, including the United Way, Equity in Action, End Poverty Edmonton, and the RCMP. The Commission heard about the importance of collecting this data, which is why we decided to amend a previous motion that asked the Government of Alberta to add race to driver's licences. The revised motion called for the Commission to write to the Government of Alberta to request that collection of race-based data be prioritized and actioned by the government, as per the 2022 action plan Taking Action Against Racism, Alberta's plan to combat racism and promote social inclusion. Our intent with the amended motion was to strike a balance between respecting individual privacy and the collection of race-based data. The Commission remains committed to its strategic goal of ending systemic racism in Edmonton. This work part of a broader initiative across Canada, and beyond policing, to use race-based data to make better policy decisions.

After changes were made to the Police Act, the Commission welcomed its first two appointees from the Government of Alberta: Dr. Michael Lee and Dr. Jayan Nagendran. Their diversity, expertise and experience make both welcome additions to our Commission and I look forward to working with them.

We also said goodbye to former Commissioner Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse as she was elected to the Alberta Legislature and wish her well in her new opportunity to represent Edmontonians.

Finally, my firsthand experience from the past six months has given me much appreciation for the role of Commission Chair, and I recognize and thank Past Chair John McDougall for all of his hard work in leading the Commission. I look forward to serving Edmontonians for the rest of 2023.

Erick Ambtman, Chair, Edmonton Police Commission

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The first six months of 2023 asked a lot of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) and its members. For all of us, we will forever be marked by the tragic deaths of Constable Travis Jordan and Constable Brett Ryan.

Constables Jordan and Ryan tragically lost their lives in the line of duty on March 16, 2023. Surrounded by our extended first responder family, we grieved alongside Jordan and Ryan's loved ones, and Edmontonians came together to support us. During this time, our motto was "lean in, lean on, and look after each other" and I am so proud of the resiliency every EPS member has shown as they continue to rise to the occasion and provide outstanding professional service to the community in every circumstance. Our police officers and the entire EPS team show up – always.

The beginning of 2023 focused on safety concerns involving the level of crime and disorder throughout the city. The growing brazenness of shootings and other firearms offenses is having a citywide impact, and members have been relentless in exhausting all resources to hold offenders accountable. A more permanent solution requires change to our criminal justice system to make sure these violent individuals do not keep reoffending, which is why myself and others within the law enforcement community are advocating to all levels of government on issues like bail reform.

Another element of community safety is having the right resources, in the right place, with the right authorities. Calls for police service increase with rising issues such as addiction and violence and we need effective partnerships for the right response. With aid from the Government of Alberta, our Human-centered Engagement and Liaison Partnership (HELP) team has expanded citywide and the Police and Crisis Team (PACT) has access to more Alberta Health Services mental health professionals, continuing their important work addressing crime and disorder while connecting vulnerable individuals with supports. The Alberta Sheriffs also joined us and our partners to add resources to the Healthy Streets Operations Centre, which is making a difference in the downtown, Chinatown, and Kingsway areas.

Escalating violence in transit has required a pivot, and we have redeployed officers from across the Service to create two dedicated teams for safety challenges and brazen crimes on Edmonton's LRT, many of which are random. To help us, the provincial government has promised an additional 50 police officers to ensure we have enough resources to keep transit users safer. We are stretching ourselves, but constantly adapting to keep public safety a priority. This and the pressing need for additional frontline officers have led us to create ambitious recruiting goals. As police and other front-line services across Canada face a drop in applications, we have increased recruit class sizes, simplified the application process, and added more resources for those interested in becoming a part of the Service.

Despite these challenges, we are advancing how our officers interact with the community. In response to direction from the provincial government and taking into consideration public feedback from our Commitment to Action, EPS began trialing body worn cameras. Our goal is to enhance transparency and public trust, aid officers in gathering evidence and de-escalating situations, and reduce instances where force is used by and against officers. Cameras are also known to protect officers in cases where edited or partial videos surface to discredit police.

The past six months have been marked by many challenges, but EPS is an incredible team that understands the importance of partnerships in responding to the complex needs of our city. Even in the most unthinkable circumstances, we never falter in our commitment to Edmontonians. We are proud of the diverse communities we serve and are committed to cultivating public trust so everyone feels safe. It is a privilege to hold this position and work with the dedicated professionals at EPS to provide the best service possible for Edmonton.

Dale McFee, Chief, Edmonton Police Service

COMMISSIONERS

The Edmonton Police Commission consists of two city councillors and 11 appointed citizens who live and work in our community and represent the views of all Edmontonians on policing matters.



ERICK AMBTMAN, CHAIR

Mr. Ambtman holds degrees in Economics from the University of Manitoba and the London School of Economics. He worked as the Executive Director of Aboriginal Friendship Centres in Calgary, Rocky Mountain House, Red Deer and Fort McMurray. He completed an internship in South Africa working for a social housing company doing community development. Erick has also been the Executive Director of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and is currently the Executive Director for Poverty Edmonton. He has been the chair of the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies, the vice-chair of the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, board member of the Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance, the Alberta representative on the National Settlement Council and member of Edmonton's Vital Signs Committee.



ANEELA HUSSAINALY, VICE CHAIR

Aneela Hussainaly is a management consultant turned entrepreneur who completed her Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering at the University of Alberta followed by a Master's degree in Business Administration from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Aneela spent ten years as a senior managing consultant at IBM Canada focused on strategy with the Global Business Services unit before launching her career in the field of early learning and childhood development. In addition to her role on the Edmonton Police Commission, she served as a member of the Board of Directors for the TELUS World of Science Edmonton from 2012-2018 and currently serves a national member for the Ismaili Council for Canada.



JOHN MCDUGALL, PAST CHAIR

Mr. McDougall joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1989 as an Army Medical Technician and has served at a variety of bases across Canada. He completed his physician assistant training and has received his Masters from University of Nebraska Medical Centre specializing in Emergency Medicine and Hyperbaric Medicine. John worked his way from a Private to the highest rank a noncommissioned officer can reach, Chief Warrant Officer and was recently promoted to Major. John has been a very active advocate for LBGTQ2+ rights in the community and in the CAF and has been a very active and constant advocate. In 2013 he raised the Pride Flag at CFB Edmonton, a first for any military base. He currently serves at the LBGTQ2+ advisor to 3 Canadian Division, the Army of the West. John has also sat on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA) as well as director of volunteers for the Edmonton Pride Board.



KEMI KUFUOR-BOAKYE

Ms. Kufuor-Boakye is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and holds the designations of Chartered Professional Accountant and Certified Internal Auditor. She currently serves as the Senior Financial Officer for the University of Alberta Library and Museums. Kemi was the inaugural co-chair of the University of Alberta Library's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee from 2017-2019. Kemi is currently a member of the Junior League of Edmonton where she served as the General Secretary on the Board from 2017-2019. She is also a current member of the Finance and Audit Committee for both the YWCA of Edmonton as well as the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

COMMISSIONERS



SHAZIA AMIRI

Shazia Amiri has a bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Manitoba. She is a Registered Social Worker with the Alberta College of Social Workers and throughout her career has worked in various non-profits agencies, such as E4C, Boyle McCauley Health Centre, and Boyle Street Community Services as well as with the Edmonton Police Service working collaboratively with members on the Heavy Users of Service (HUoS) project. She has worked for the Government of Alberta since 2015 within the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the AISH program and Disability Services and currently, for the Ministry of Children's Services. Within Children's Services, she has held various positions working with high-risk youth, completing community assessments, as well as completing investigations for children in care.



IRFAN CHAUDHRY

Irfan Chaudhry has been working in the area of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) since 2011. He currently works as Director, Office of Human Rights, Diversity, and Equity at MacEwan University. He has held numerous roles within the EDI space including the City of Edmonton's Racism Free Edmonton project and the Edmonton Local Immigration Partnership; advisory positions with the Edmonton Police Service Chief of Police Diversity Recruitment Committee and Chief of Police Community Advisory Committee; the Alberta Hate Crimes Committee, as well as committee roles with Public Safety Canada's Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence. Chaudhry has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and master's in criminal justice from the University of Alberta.



ANNE-MARIE LAMBERT

Anne-Marie Lambert has resided in Edmonton since 2011, when she transferred here as an Intelligence Officer with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Saskatchewan and Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Criminology from Simon Fraser University, followed by over 14 years with CSIS, including time as Chief of the Edmonton District Office. Currently the Director of Security at West Edmonton Mall, Anne-Marie is also enthusiastic about teaching future law enforcement personnel about social justice in her third year criminology class at Lethbridge College.



DAVID SOWEMIMO

David Sowemimo is a practicing lawyer at the law firm of James H. Brown & Associates. He earned his Bachelor of Arts (Advanced) and Juris Doctor (J.D.) degrees from the University of Manitoba before moving to Edmonton and completing his articles. He was called to the Alberta bar in 2016 and is a member of the Alberta Civil Trial Lawyers Association. David was a finalist in the Canadian Lawyer magazine's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers 2020 award and believes in giving back to the community. In 2021, he created an entrance scholarship for black law students at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law. David provides mentorship for young professionals and volunteers for various organizations, including the Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council.

COMMISSIONERS



WALLY SINCLAIR

Wally Sinclair was raised in Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta, and is a member of the Sawridge First Nations. A veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, Wally has significant experience as a community development practitioner in many areas including employment, social services and addictions counseling. He completed the Local Government Professional Certification and Professional Certification in Addictions and Therapy programs at the University of Alberta. Wally is an Ambassador to Commanding Officer Royal Canadian Mounted Police K Division, the active chair of Lac La Biche Youth Justice, is an Elder at the Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre and was recently appointed to the Alberta Health Services Indigenous Wisdom Council.



DR. MICHAEL LEE

Dr. Michael Lee operates a private practice in general dentistry in Edmonton and is an avid volunteer. Dr. Lee has lectured at the University of Alberta, and is a member of the Canadian Dental Association, and the Alberta Dental Association and its Disciplinary Committee. He is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry International. Dr. Lee is Chair of the Greater Edmonton Chinese Community Foundation, Treasurer and founding member of the Guizhou Rose Society, and Vice Chair of the Edmonton Chinese Benevolent Association. He has previously held various leadership roles in various community organizations, including Chairperson of the Edmonton Chinese Benevolent Association, and National Director of the National Congress of Canadian Chinese.



DR. JAYAN NAGENDRAN

Dr. Jayan Nagendran is a cardiac surgeon clinician-scientist and the Director of the Division of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Alberta (U of A), as well as the Surgical Director of Lung Transplantation for Alberta Health Services. He was born and raised in Edmonton and received his MD in 2001, and his PhD from the Department of Medicine in 2009 from the U of A. He completed his residency in Cardiac Surgery at the U of A, and then received sub-specialty training in heart and lung transplantation at Stanford University from 2009 to 2011 prior to joining the Department of Surgery at the U of A in 2011 and has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery since 2017. Dr. Nagendran is the Director of Research for the Division of Cardiac Surgery with a productive preclinical research laboratory studying Ex-Vivo Lung Perfusion, and ongoing clinical research investigations by creating the Division of Cardiac Surgery Research Office. Dr. Nagendran is a full-time surgeon performing around 200 open heart surgeries per year in Edmonton and is a serial entrepreneur. He is a strong advocate of healthcare and access to healthcare. Dr. Nagendran is proud to call Edmonton his home and wishes a bright future for all who live in our communities. He feels privileged to serve as a member of the Edmonton Police Commission.



COUNCILLOR ANNE STEVENSON

Anne Stevenson was elected to City Council Ward O-day'min in October 2021 and brings her experience as an urban planner who is passionate about building an equitable city that serves all residents. Following an undergraduate in international development and economics at Trent University, she went on to complete a master's in city design at the London School of Economics. She spent seven years working at the City of Edmonton and volunteering on affordable housing and social research initiatives. In 2019, Anne joined Right at Home Housing Society, where she worked to provide affordable housing solutions to meet the diverse needs of our community before being elected to Council.



COUNCILLOR SARAH HAMILTON

Sarah Hamilton is the City Councillor for Edmonton's Ward sipiwiyiniwak. She has worked as an educator, journalist, small business owner, and in various public service oriented roles in provincial and municipal government. In her role with the Minister of Health, Sarah worked on several projects such as the Southwest Wellness Initiative, which sought to bring together wellness strategies at different levels of government. As an adjunct professor in Chicago, she taught Media Studies and Communications, working with students from diverse backgrounds to help develop their communication and critical thinking skills. Most recently, Sarah founded and operated SPARROW Communications & Public Relations, working with several non-profit businesses throughout Edmonton.

COMMISSION REPORTING

PUBLIC MEETINGS

For the period January 1 to June 30, 2023, the Edmonton Police Commission held four public meetings at City Hall. The Commission meets on the third Thursday of every month in the River Valley Room starting at noon. The Commission provides advance notice of upcoming meetings through the media and online on our website at edmontonpolicecommission.ca. Agendas reports and minutes of those meetings are also available on the Commission's website.

The Commission welcomes both media and public guests to attend meetings and/or make a presentation to the Commission. Our forms to make an application to speak to the Commission are available on our website.

The Commission receives presentations from EPS and community agencies on various topics. For January 1 to June 30, 2023, topics included:

- Bias Check Audits
- Healthy Streets Operations Centre
- Rezoning of Downtown Beat Boundaries
- Detainee Management Unit
- Race-based Data Collection
- Y:FIVE-O Unit & RELENTLES Outreach
- Criminal Flight Events Analysis



Guardian of Public Trust

COMMISSION REPORTING

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Commission work is supported by five standing committees that meet several times a year: Human Resources, Finance & Audit, Governance, Professional Standards, and Technology Committee. Ad hoc committees are created as needed, such as a search committee for hiring a new Chief of Police or Internal Auditor.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Governance Committee is to provide a focus on governance that will enhance performance for both the Commission and the EPS. The primary purpose of the Governance Committee is to consider and recommend actions and propose policies that are in alignment with the Commission's and Service's strategic plans, priority areas and strategic goals.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Human Resources Committee is to provide a focus on areas of human resources that will enhance performance for both the Commission and Service. The primary purpose of this committee is to consider and recommend actions and propose policies that are in alignment with recruitment and retention, succession planning, performance planning, and review.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Finance & Audit Committee is responsible to assist the Commission in fulfilling its obligations and oversight responsibilities related to - Financial Planning and Reporting; the Audit Process; Internal Controls; and Risk Management. The committee makes recommendations to the Commission for approval when required.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Professional Standards Committee is to monitor and oversee the public complaint process. While the Service is responsible for investigating complaints, the committee and the Public Complaint Director ensure investigations are thorough, fair to all parties, and are conducted in accordance with laws and policies.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee assists and advises the EPS in fulfilling governance responsibilities with respect to information technology and technology projects. The Committee also assists the police with establishing strategic plans, principles, and policies relevant to the adoption of information technology and other technology.

Inspiring trust and innovation in policing and community safety through effective oversight

COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORTING

FINANCIALS

EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION (EPC)

BUDGET VARIANCE BY MAJOR CATEGORY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 (\$000'S)

	CURRENT PERIOD *				YEAR END FORECAST (DEC 2023)			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	%	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	%
POLICE COMMISSION	679,697	804,784	(125,087)	-18%	1,409,354	1,409,354	-	-
Hourly /Support	-	29,058	(29,058)		-	-	-	-
Salaries	319,585	358,305	(38,720)	-12%	639,514	639,514	-	-
Benefits	74,250	48,386	25,864	35%	131,928	131,928	-	-
Employee Allowances	5,270	7,490	(2,220)	-42%	10,540	10,540	-	-
Overtime	2,500	586	1,914	77%	5,000	5,000	-	-
PERSONNEL	401,605	443,826	(42,221)	-11%	786,982	786,982	-	-
					PROJECTION	VARIANCE		
Materials & Supplies	1,390	4,650	(3,260)	-235%	2,290	4,650	(2,360)	-103%
Furniture & Equipment	1,850	18,894	(17,044)	-922%	3,200	18,894	(15,694)	-490%
Contract & Services	146,510	222,690	(76,180)	-52%	368,552	367,910	642	0%
Building Costs	71,404	57,002	14,403	20%	142,810	142,810	-	0%
Travel & Training	42,687	39,951	2,737	6%	86,520	69,108	17,412	20%
Other General Costs	14,250	17,770	(3,520)	-25%	19,000	19,000	-	0%
NON PERSONNEL	278,091	360,958	(82,865)	-30%	622,372	622,372	(0)	0%
REVENUE	-	-	-		-	-	-	
TOTAL	679,697	807,783	(128,086)	-19%	1,409,354	1,409,354	-	-

EXPENSES

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2023

	M. Barker	E. Ambtman	A. Hussainaly	S. Amiri	D. Sowemimo	J. McDougall	W. Sinclair	M. Lee	A-M. Lambert	I. Chaudhry	K. Kufuor-Boakye	J. Calahoo-Stonehouse	A. Stevenson	S. Hamilton
Conferences	1521.68	2892.8	5634.08	1,332.44	3895.37	9031.29	9551.18	0	534.36	221.51	186.51	20	186.51	0
Hosting	5752.53													
TOTAL	\$7,274.21	\$2,892.80	\$5,634.08	\$1,332.44	\$3,895.37	\$9,031.29	\$9,551.18	\$-	\$534.36	\$221.51	\$186.51	\$20.00	\$186.51	\$-

COMMISSIONER MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

COMMISSIONER	# COMMISSION MEETINGS ATTENDED
ERICK AMBTMAN, CHAIR	5/5
ANEELA HUSSAINALY, VICE CHAIR	4/5
JOHN MCDOUGALL	5/5
SHAZIA AMIRI	5/5
IRFAN CHAUDHRY	4/5
DAVID SOWEMIMO	5/5
ANNE-MARIE LAMBERT	5/5
MICHAEL LEE*	1/1
JODI CALAHOO-STONEHOUSE*	3/3
KEMI KUFUOR-BOAKYE	4/5
WALTER SINCLAIR	4/5
SARAH HAMILTON	5/5
ANNE STEVENSON	5/5

*Outgoing & Incoming Commissioners

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

AFRICA DAY GALA



L-R: Commissioners Anne Stevenson, Irfan Chaudhry, Kemi Kufuor-Boakye, Anne-Marie Lambert, and Wally Sinclair attend the Africa Centre's Africa Day Gala.

AFRICA CENTRE OPEN HOUSE



Commissioners Anne Stevenson, second from left, and David Sowemimo, right, attend the Africa Centre's Open House.

RTC 155 & 156



Vice Chair Aneela Hussainy presents the Valedictorian Award to the top grad of Recruit Training Class 155.



Chair Erick Ambtman inspects the graduates of Recruit Training Class 156.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR



L-R: Commissioners Wally Sinclair, David Sowemimo, Anne-Marie Lambert, and Past Chair John McDougall met with Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi to explain the Commission's legislated role in police governance.

MID-WINTER MEET AND GREET

The Commission, the EPS and local community organizations attended the Commission's Mid-Winter Meet and Greet to help raise donations for more than 3,000 meals for Edmonton's Food Bank.



EPS FINANCIAL REPORTING

CAPITAL BUDGET

2023-2026 (\$000'S)

	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
INITIAL APPROVED CAPITAL BUDGET					
<i>Renewal</i>	\$13,198	\$11,561	\$12,569	\$10,735	\$48,064
<i>Growth</i>	\$7,950	\$3,850	\$2,070	\$2,135	\$16,005
TOTAL	\$21,148	\$15,411	\$14,639	\$12,870	\$64,069

NET OPERATING REQUIREMENT

2023-2026 (\$000'S)

	2023	2024	2025	2026
<i>Edmonton Police Service</i>	\$495,090	\$496,077	\$490,253	\$490,251
<i>City of Edmonton</i>	\$3,294,185	\$3,348,816	\$3,483,226	\$3,595,474
PERCENT OF EPS EXPENDITURES TO COE TOTAL EXPENDITURES	15.0%	14.8%	14.1%	13.6%

Notes:

EPS Expenditures and COE Total Expenditures for 2023-2026 as per City of Edmonton Approved Budget in December 2022.

City Council approved revised EPS Funding Formula for 2023 only.

EPS Funding Formula discussion for 2024-2026 is scheduled for August 2023.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

On April 17, 2023, the Edmonton Police Commission presented a [Reporting and Accountability Framework](#) that City Council unanimously approved. This framework is another way for the Commission to enhance the accountability and transparency of the work we do.

The Commission recognizes and embraces that Edmonton is changing and that these changes affect how our city must be policed. By working closely with the Chief of Police and the Edmonton Police Service, and listening to the public, we are able to fulfill the essential role of public oversight in police accountability. The Commission connects with the community through public meetings and forums, as well as through its relationship with City Council and the Government of Alberta. This allows us to respond to civilian concerns and expectations and take the necessary steps to build a safer community for everyone.

The Commission undertook a comprehensive review of existing reporting and accountability measures set out in Alberta’s Police Act, the City’s Bylaw 14040 - Edmonton Police Commission Bylaw, City of Edmonton policy, and additional requirements set out by motion or past practices. The Commission’s authority and accountability are derived from provincial legislation under the Act. The specific legislative intent behind the creation of the Edmonton Police Commission is to make sure that the police service remains a distinctly separate and independent body from the municipality and its elected officials. The Commission is responsible to both the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta for exercising good governance in its oversight role of the Edmonton Police Service on behalf of the public, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. We are also responsible for making sure that the police service provides effective and efficient services, which

guarantee an adequate level of public safety exists in our city for the benefit of everyone. We endeavoured to make sure the proposals were aligned with the Act, while also considering changes made by the Government of Alberta in December 2022. We provided Council with proposals for enhanced reporting and accountability focused on five themes: Accountability, Enhanced Public Involvement, Governance, Information Sharing and Other. Advancing these changes with the support of Council will help achieve the Commission’s vision of “Inspiring trust and innovation in policing and community safety through effective oversight”.

We believe Council should consider moving forward with our additional recommended governance changes from December 2020. These changes would see the Commission phased out over time as a standalone entity in favor of a broader Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Commission. A CSWB Commission would report directly to Council while overseeing housing, police and peace officers, social services, and family and community support services, while working with liaisons from the Government of Alberta for community and social services, emergency medical services, and mental health.

Our Commission enhances community safety in Edmonton through effective oversight of the police service. The Reporting and Accountability Framework is another way we are delivering a high level of transparency and accountability of the police service by instituting best practices in governance and oversight to enhance this vital public service.



REGIMENTAL FUNERAL FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

EPS HONOURS FALLEN OFFICERS WITH REGIMENTAL FUNERAL

Constable Travis Jordan and Constable Brett Ryan were tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to a family violence call on March 16, 2023.

During this difficult time, the community came together to show support for the fallen officers, their grieving families, and members of the Edmonton Police Service.

On March 27, 2023, thousands of Edmontonians lined the streets to pay their final respects as the hearses for Constables Jordan and Ryan were escorted to Rogers Place, where their lives and sacrifices were honoured with a regimental funeral.

Thousands more police officers, first responders, and military personnel from across North America joined EPS employees, special guests, and surviving family for the touching final tribute.

While this tremendous loss is still carried in the hearts of police officers and citizens today, the Edmonton Police Service is sincerely grateful for the extraordinary support received from the community.



EPS ANNUAL REPORT AND CITIZEN DASHBOARD

EPS PUBLISHES 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

On April 27, 2023, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) published its 2022 Annual Report and Citizen Dashboard.

While the EPS continues its work to be a modern police service committed to increasing community safety, it recognizes the need to demonstrate a high level of transparency, share relevant safety information and data with the public, and measure performance toward building a safer community for all.

The 2022 Annual Report is a comprehensive overview that aims to provide Edmontonians with this valuable information and showcase the direction of the EPS, highlight the work of staff in serving the needs of the community, and provide statistical insight into crime and community safety. It also serves as a public update on EPS goals and outcomes set out in the 2020-2022 EPS Strategic Plan.

“Despite the many changes we faced in 2022, our members have continuously adapted to the demands of each new situation, and I commend them for it,” said EPS Chief Dale McFee.

“We recognize the importance of being proactive and innovative in our approach and have undertaken a number of efficiency exercises to ensure public safety without compromising officer safety. As we continue into 2023, we will remain steadfast in our efforts to be

a forward-thinking police service, and are dedicated to working collaboratively with our community partners to ensure that we are providing the best possible service to Edmontonians and a leading partner in community safety.”

The report highlights EPS’s enforcement efforts, community policing programs, special events, as well as notable investigative and technological innovations. These included significant changes such as: setting up the Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC) Community Safety Teams in areas of the city with high social disorder and violence, launch of the 10-Squad deployment model to improve response to calls for service, and the release of the 2023-2025 Guns & Gangs Strategy to reduce victimization and improve community safety.

To enhance the annual report and continue its commitment to transparency to the public, EPS also launched a robust Citizen Dashboard with specific metrics to measure its progress in achieving strategic goals.

For more information, please visit edmontonpolice.ca/Resources/Publications.



EXPANDED HELP, PACT, NEW INTEGRATED CARE CENTRE

EPS EXPANDS HELP, PACT TEAMS AND OPENS INTEGRATED CARE CENTRE

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) has expanded programs and partnerships that support vulnerable community members with mental health and substance use challenges.

On April 19, 2023, Alberta's government announced \$17 million in funding over three years to support the newly opened Integrated Care Centre (ICC) in Police Headquarters and increase the number of EPS's Human-centred Engagement and Liaison Partnership (HELP) and Police and Crisis Teams (PACT).

"We have seen incredible success with programs like HELP and PACT," said Enyinnah Okere, Chief Operations Officer with the EPS Community Safety and Well-being Bureau. "The ability to lean on the expertise of our community partners to develop long-term, integrated plans means we can get people the right supports, improving their quality of life, while driving down demand on police resources by preventing future interactions with the justice system."

Through partnership with community organizations, HELP teams pair EPS officers and social navigators to connect vulnerable individuals with needed supports. With the new funding, teams have expanded from their current locations at Downtown Division, Southwest Division and the Wicéhtowin Building to West, Northeast, Northwest and Southeast Divisions, to provide services citywide seven days a week. This includes 12 new social navigators, two team leads, and six HELP vehicles. EPS has complemented this with two sergeants and 12 constables to work directly with navigators.

HELP teams divert approximately one community member from the justice system every day, with 889 referrals in 2021, 2,641 in 2022, and 664 so far in 2023. In 2022, the subset of individuals HELP worked with that were considered the highest disorder category, driving the most calls for service of all HELP clients, saw a decrease of 39 percent in average monthly police occurrences following the team's assistance.

Similarly, eight social navigators have been added to EPS's Diversion and Desistance Branch, which works with high-risk individuals and prolific offenders responsible for perpetrating high amounts of the

city's crime and victimization.

EPS has repurposed the former holding cells at Police Headquarters into the ICC for individuals taken into police custody on public intoxication. When detained in the ICC, individuals have access to medical supports, can be referred to the Virtual Opioid Dependency Program, and be provided connection to health and social supports upon release.

The ICC opened on March 29, 2023, and is currently staffed by Community Peace Officers and paramedics on a 24/7 basis. The new funding supports four paramedics and 12 Community Peace Officers at the ICC. An on-site partnership with Radius Community Health and Healing provides wrap-around services that assist individuals in forming care plans extending beyond release. The ICC can accommodate up to 17 individuals at a given time.

"The longstanding relationship we have with EPS will help us develop a much more integrated approach to care between our two organizations," said Tricia Smith, Executive Director of Radius Community Health and Healing. "This expansion is an opportunity to ensure that individuals get access to the health and social supports they may need to stem their crisis and promote ongoing engagement with those supports."

The PACT unit has also grown with the addition of 22 Alberta Health Services (AHS) mental health professionals, and pairs 14 of the resources with officers. The other eight resources have been placed in dispatch for call evaluation and for officer consultation prior to and during call response.

Since 2004, PACT has paired police officers with AHS mental health professionals to assess calls and determine how to appropriately respond to individuals in mental health crisis. EPS officers address aspects of safety and legality, while health professionals address connection to supports and stabilization services. PACT saw 5,031 referrals in 2021, 6,692 in 2022, and 1,772 so far in 2023.



Commissioner Sarah Hamilton attending the Government of Alberta's funding announcement.

HELP HOSTS INDIGENOUS TRAINING DAY

INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS PROVIDE FOUNDATION FOR RESTORATION AND SUPPORT

The Edmonton Police Service Human-centred Engagement and Liaison Partnership Unit (HELP) hosted an Indigenous training day for its staff, Crime and Trauma-informed Support Services, and community partners.

HELP Team Lead Cherie Potskin organized the special cultural event that took place at the Wicêhtowin Building on April 13, 2023.

At the session, Michelle Nieviadomy with the Edmonton Native Healing Centre spoke about the Seven Sacred Teachings as a foundation for HELP to collaborate with the community and provide restoration and support. (The Seven Sacred Teachings of: Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth.)

Artists David Jack and his son Arthur Jack presented HELP with hand-sculpted artwork that reflected these teachings, which was originally designed by artist Tristen Sanderson and former HELP Constable Liam Watson.

The training day opened with traditional smudge, participants shared bannock burgers together at lunch, and the day closed with HELP Navigator Jenn Bryce singing and drumming the Bear Song in Cree.



“I was honoured to be part of the cultural training day and will honour the teachings while supporting our vulnerable clients.”

HELP Constable Lynn Hogan.

EPS LRT DEPLOYMENT

EPS COMMENCES RESOURCE REDEPLOYMENT FOR LRT SAFETY

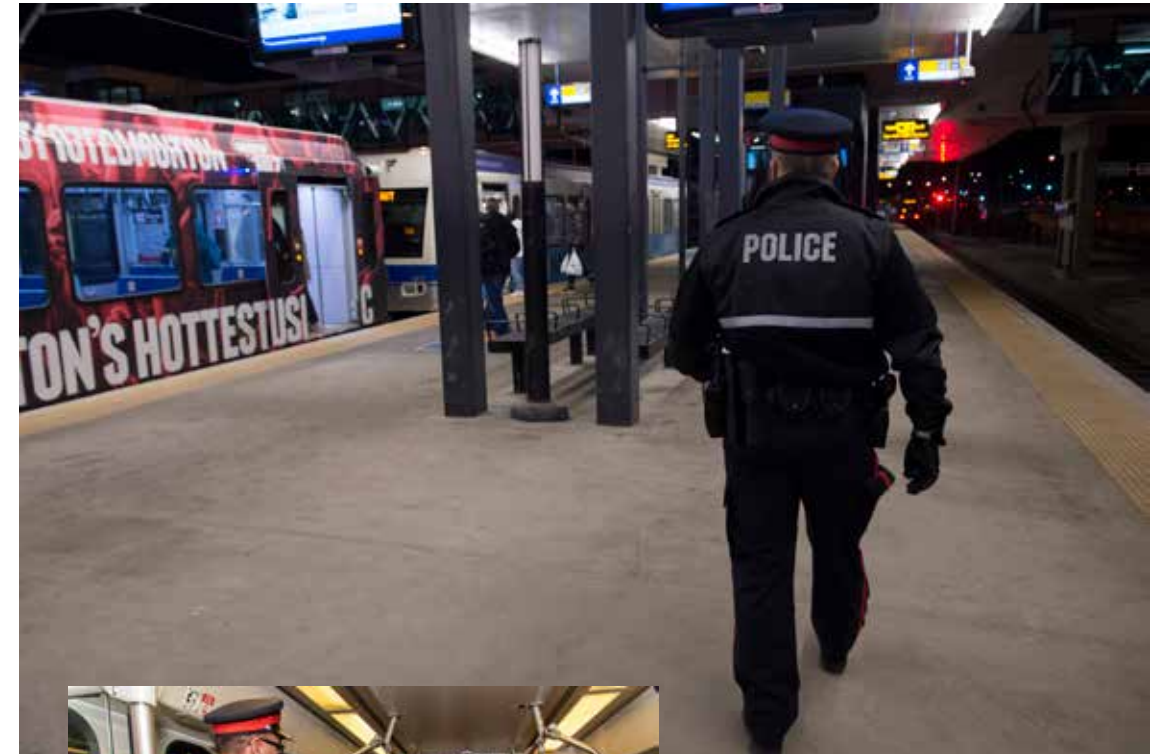
On May 1, 2023, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) commenced a redeployment of resources to Edmonton's LRT in an effort to address the ongoing increase of violent crime that transit riders and members of the vulnerable community are subjected to.

"This is a coordinated and strategic response to deal with the increased levels of violent crime on Edmonton's public transit," said EPS Chief Dale McFee. "The goal is to create safer spaces for all transit users and encourage prosocial behavior within and around Edmonton transit locations."

EPS redeployed 18 sworn positions from various units to make up two dedicated transit teams. These teams supplement the work already done by the Healthy Streets Operation Centre, Community Policing Branch Beats, and City of Edmonton Community/Transit Peace Officers to provide a coordinated response to safety in transit corridors.

"We recognize that violence on transit has escalated and requires a consistent EPS presence, and our previous staffing approach of using overtime shifts alone is not economical or sustainable. We believe a fulsome strategy to increase public safety in our city's LRT corridor must include having the right authorities in place to respond at the right time. The addition of another 50 police resources funded by the province will take time, but sets us on the right path to ensure we are dealing with violence appropriately and keeping Edmontonians and transit users safe," stated Chief McFee.

The EPS completed its 2022 crime analysis, including an overview of crime on transit. Notable statistics include a 31.4 per cent (+680 events) increase in dispatched calls for police service from 2021 to 2022, with violent calls for service up by 52.8 per cent during this time.



CHIEF'S IFTAR

CHIEF MCFEE HOLDS IFTAR FOR EPS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

On April 15, 2023, Chief Dale McFee hosted an Iftar to bring together members of the EPS and the Muslim community to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a time of self-reflection and spiritual renewal through daily prayer and fasting, and the Iftar is a meal taken after sunset to break the daily fast. The Chief's Iftar was steeped in Islamic tradition and provided a unique opportunity for police and community members to foster relationships and have meaningful conversations.



ONLINE REPORTING PORTAL FOR HATE INCIDENTS

EPS ADDS ONLINE REPORTING FOR HATE INCIDENTS

The Edmonton Police Service expanded its online crime reporting to include hate incidents and publicly launched the new portal on June 5, 2023.

Online reporting allows Edmontonians to report hate incidents, even if they do not feel comfortable calling police or coming into a police station. People can also report on behalf of someone else, which will further assist those who may not feel comfortable, or who may require assistance to report an incident.

A hate incident is a non-criminal action committed against a person or property, motivated in whole or in part on the suspect's hate, bias or prejudice towards an identifiable group, defined by real or perceived colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual identity, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. Examples of hate incidents can include racial comments or slurs, or offensive symbols.

These types of incidents are not defined as crimes under the Canadian Criminal Code, and as such, charges cannot be laid. However, police investigators gather information about hate incidents and track them, as they can provide valuable information about subjects involved in hateful activities in Edmonton, as well as opportunities for intervention to prevent the escalation of hateful behaviour.

A hate crime, on the other hand, is a criminal offence committed against a person or property, motivated in whole or in part on the suspect's hate, bias or prejudice towards an identifiable group, defined by real or perceived colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual identity, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. Examples of hate crimes include direct threats of violence, graffiti, distribution of hate literature, and destruction of religious property or symbols.

Hate crimes should be reported over the phone, using 911 for emergencies, or 780-423-4567 for non-emergencies. This allows the urgency of the crime to be assessed immediately and dispatched appropriately, so patrol officers can respond as soon as possible.

For more information, or to report a hate crime online, please visit www.edmontonpolice.ca/hatecrime.



“We know that hate incidents often go unreported for a number of reasons. In some cases, victims do not realize that what has happened to them is reportable to police, even if it was not a crime. As members of marginalized communities, victims may also be reluctant to come forward due to negative experiences with police. We hear those concerns, we are working to remedy them, and we want to make reporting as easy as possible for anyone who has experienced hate.”

Acting Inspector Michelle Greening with the EPS Investigative Services Branch

EDGE REMOVING GUNS OFF THE STREETS

SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF FIREARMS SEIZED IN DRUG INVESTIGATION

On May 4, 2023, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) announced the seizure of 11 firearms and over \$200,000 cash as well as charges against three individuals as part of an ongoing drug investigation.

The Edmonton Drug and Gang Enforcement (EDGE) Section initiated a two-month investigation in July of 2022 based on evidence that suggested a group was involved with trafficking cocaine interprovincially between Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Multiple judicial authorizations were obtained during this investigation, including search warrants for three vehicles and two locations including a hotel room and a residence in southwest Edmonton. As a result of these searches, a total of \$219,525 and 11 firearms were seized. The three vehicles were also found to have hidden compartments. No illicit drugs were recovered, but evidence of drug trafficking, such as packaging materials and cocaine conversion equipment were located.

Arrest warrants were issued and three individuals were charged for numerous firearms and stolen property offences.

“The origin and types of firearms seized are of considerable concern to police,” said Staff Sergeant Dave Paton of EDGE. “The results of this investigation clearly demonstrate the strong correlation between drug trafficking, firearms and violence.”

“In the last four or five drug investigations, we have uncovered five or more firearms. We are starting to see more and more of them out on the street and their capabilities are far more potent.”

EPS continues to see the number of firearms seized and the number of shootings increase in Edmonton. In the first six months of 2023, there were 97 shootings reported, which represents a 26 per cent increase over the same period in 2022 when there were 77 shootings. During this period, EPS seized 587 firearms in 2023.

To better address firearm violence and gang-related crime in Edmonton, EPS released the Guns and Gangs Strategy 2023-2025 in November 2022. For more information on the plan to improve community safety, please visit www.edmontonpolice.ca/gunsandgangs.



Police reveal sophisticated hidden compartments in the seized vehicles that could only be opened by a series of switches.



PRIDE PARADE AT GARRISON

EPS MEMBERS JOIN EDMONTON GARRISON PRIDE PARADE

Chief Dale McFee and EPS members showed their support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community by taking part in the 2nd Annual Edmonton Garrison Pride Parade on June 27, 2023. They joined hundreds of people in attendance from the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, and other agencies. EPS is committed to continuing to create a safe and inclusive organization for everyone.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

EPC PUBLICATIONS:

- Bi-Annual Reports to the Community
- Professional Standards Reports
- Strategic Planning Reports
- Citizen Survey Results

EPS PUBLICATIONS:

- Approved Operating Budgets
- Annual Policing and Business Plans
- Control Tactics Reports
- Criminal Flight Reports
- Response Times and Dispatch Call Volumes

These and other publications can be found at edmontonpolicecommission.ca and edmontonpolice.ca.

The Edmonton Police Service’s website includes a [Community Safety Data Portal](#) to enable the public to take an active role in community safety and crime prevention. This interactive platform provides access to data including crime statistics and trends occurring in Edmonton. It offers increased transparency into policing activities and encourages public engagement.

The City of Edmonton also has a public citizen dashboard that gives Edmontonians access to the latest data on a wide range of municipal services. Several are related to policing such as Crime Severity Index, Safe City measures, and Vehicle Collision rates. The Dashboard is available at edmonton.ca/city-government/citizen-dashboard-city-by-the-numbers.



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