



Board of Police Commissioners

Agenda

Monday, September 11th, 2023

10:00 a.m.

2nd Floor Council Chambers

**City Hall
320 Esplanade
Sydney, N S.**

Commission Members:

Commissioner Eldon MacDonald, Chair

Commissioner Ken Tracey

Commissioner Lorne Green

Citizen Appointee – Commissioner Dale Deering-Bert, Vice Chair

Citizen Appointee - Commissioner Helen Luedee

Citizen Appointee - Commissioner Tom Vickers

Provincial Appointee – Commissioner Noelle Gouthro

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Board of Police Commissioners

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Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

1. **Approval of Agenda** (motion required)
2. **Approval of Minutes:** (previously distributed)
 - **June 19, 2023**
3. **Business Arising:**
 - 3.1 **Council August 22, 2023**
 - a) **Street Racing and Vehicle Noise:** Robert Walsh, Chief of Police (See page 3)
4. **Summary Statistics Canada:** Robert Walsh, Chief of Police (See page 4)
5. **Divisional Reports:** Staff Sergeant Joe Farrell and Staff Sergeant Keith Power (See page 6)

Adjournment

Street Racing and Vehicle Noise

Motion:

Moved by Councillor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that the issue of street racing and excessive vehicle noise be added to the Police Commission meeting agenda dated for September 11, 2023. This motion includes the request for response to Council outlining what actions can/will be taken to address the issue going forward.

Discussion:

The following was then discussed:

- All terrain vehicles
- Excessive speeding / drag racing
- Resident safety
- After market motor vehicle parts
- Possible penalties
- Noise by-law
- Traffic technology (i.e. camera systems and automated ticketing / mailing) and traffic calming devices
- Mobile speed signs

Motion Carried.

Summary of Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2022

| | Canada | | | Nova Scotia | | | CBRPS | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | % Change | 2021 | 2022 | % Change | 2021 | 2022 | % Change |
| | Police-reported crime rate (per 100,000) | 5397.66 | 5,667.76 | +5.00% | 5,522.46 | 5,973.28 | 8.16% | 4,707.72 | 4,542.68 |
| Crime Severity index | 74.90 | 78.10 | +4.27% | 72.23 | 74.67 | +3.38% | 60.58 | 56.52 | -6.70% |
| Violent Crime Severity Index | 93.43 | 97.74 | +4.61% | 99.01 | 99.24 | +0.23% | 88.20 | 74.58 | -15.44% |
| Non-Violent Crime Severity Index | 68.13 | 70.91 | +4.08% | 62.14 | 65.48 | +5.37% | 50.05 | 49.78 | -0.54% |
| Weighted Clearance Rate | 36.84 | 35.82 | -2.77% | 32.82 | 31.87 | -2.89% | 39.91 | 43.61 | 9.27% |
| Weighted Clearance Rate - Violent | 56.01 | 55.56 | -0.80% | 47.77 | 48.40 | +1.32% | 50.12 | 69.82 | 39.31% |
| Weighted Clearance Rate – Non Violent | 26.33 | 24.95 | -5.24% | 23.29 | 21.85 | -6.18% | 32.7 | 27.9 | -14.68% |

* The police reported crime rate is defined as the volume of crime per 100,000 population including all Criminal Code violations, excluding traffic violations.

* The Crime Severity Index is calculated based on two factors, the volume of crime and the severity of crime. More serious crimes are given more weight and impact the Crime Severity Index more than less serious crimes.

* Clearance Rates are defined as “the number of criminal incidents solved by the police in the year divided by the number of criminal incidents reported in the year.”¹ “The weighted clearance rate is based on the same principles as the Police Reported Crime Severity Index (CSi), whereby more serious offences are assigned a higher “weight” than less serious offences.

¹ <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&id=199470>

Rate Comparisons: CBRPS, Provincial, National and Selected Cities

*Note: Moncton includes the Codiac Region which is comprised of Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview, NB

| Crime Rate/100,000 | Nova Scotia | Canada | CBRPS | St. Johns | Halifax | Moncton* | Fredericton | Saint John | Thunder Bay |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Total, all Criminal Code violations (excluding traffic) | 5,973.28 | 5,667.76 | 4,542.68 | 6,060.86 | 5,660.50 | 8,205.54 | 8,019.06 | 4,223.72 | 5,842.05 |
| Total Violent Criminal Code violations | 1,590.53 | 1,364.61 | 1,011.24 | 1,691.64 | 1,439.47 | 1,930.36 | 1,772.12 | 1,150.24 | 2,070.50 |
| Total property crime violations | 3,437.99 | 3,314.20 | 2,671.73 | 3,429.68 | 3,528.45 | 4,789.48 | 4,963.12 | 2,247.96 | 2,832.68 |
| Total other Criminal Code violations | 944.76 | 988.95 | 859.71 | 939.54 | 692.58 | 1,485.70 | 1,283.82 | 825.51 | 938.87 |

- In 2022, the CBRPS crime rates were **lower** overall than in compared jurisdictions, except for Saint John, NB.
- In 2022, the CBRPS overall police reported crime rate (excluding traffic) was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John, NB and lower than Thunder Bay, a city of similar size.
- In 2022, the CBRPS violent criminal code violations rate was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities and the rate in Thunder Bay.
- In 2022, the CBRPS property crime violations rate was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John, NB and lower than Thunder Bay.
- In 2022, the CBRPS other criminal code violations rate was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John, NB and Halifax, NS and lower than Thunder Bay.

| Crime Severity Index | Nova Scotia | Canada | CBRPS | St. Johns | Halifax | Moncton* | Fredericton | Saint John | Thunder Bay |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Overall Crime Severity Index | 74.67 | 78.10 | 56.52 | 81.04 | 72.19 | 105.38 | 96.99 | 54.6 | 103.52 |
| Violent Crime Severity Index | 99.24 | 97.74 | 74.58 | 105.15 | 104.19 | 110.2 | 85.63 | 67.59 | 204.77 |
| Non-Violent Crime Severity Index | 65.48 | 70.91 | 49.78 | 72.08 | 60.01 | 104.34 | 102.35 | 49.86 | 63.93 |

- In 2022, the CBRPS CSI was **lower** than in compared jurisdictions, except for Saint John, NB.
- In 2022, the CBRPS overall crime severity index was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John, NB and lower than Thunder Bay, a city of similar size.
- In 2022, the CBRPS violent crime severity index was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John, NB and lower than Thunder Bay.
- In 2022, the CBRPS non-violent crime severity index was **lower** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John where the rate was equal, and lower than the rate in Thunder Bay.

| Weighted Clearance Rate | Nova Scotia | Canada | CBRPS | St. Johns NF | Halifax | Moncton* | Fredericton | Saint John | Thunder Bay |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|--------------|---------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted clearance rate Total | 31.87 | 35.82 | 43.61 | 26.49 | 27.9 | 26.68 | 29.43 | 42.04 | 58.92 |
| Violent weighted clearance rate | 48.4 | 55.56 | 69.82 | 39.79 | 39.13 | 50.64 | 43.78 | 54.06 | 69.15 |
| Non-violent weighted clearance rate | 21.85 | 24.95 | 27.91 | 18.73 | 20.1 | 16.57 | 24.62 | 35.53 | 45.83 |

- In 2022, the CBRPS overall weighted clearance rate was **higher** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities and lower than the rate in Thunder Bay, a city of similar size.
- In 2022, the CBRPS violent crime weighted clearance rate was **higher** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities and almost equal to the rate in Thunder Bay.
- In 2022, the CBRPS non-violent crime weighted clearance rate was **higher** than the Nova Scotia rate, the National rate, the rate in other major Atlantic Canadian cities except for Saint John, NB and lower than Thunder Bay.



**Divisional Report
June 10, 2023 – September 1, 2023**

Calls responded to by the CBRPS:

June 10, 2022 to September 1, 2022

| Area | Calls for Service |
|--------------|-------------------|
| North | 2762 |
| Central | 6894 |
| East | 3380 |
| Other | 5832 |
| Total | 18,868 |

June 10, 2023 to September 1, 2023

| Area | Calls for Service |
|--------------|-------------------|
| North | 2522 |
| Central | 6170 |
| East | 3233 |
| Other | 7746 |
| Total | 19,671 |

***Other** category contains calls with no specific address unable to be categorized to a division, abandoned 9-1-1 calls, license plate checks, information requests, etc.*

HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

- Successfully resolved two extensive homicide investigations resulting in the arrest of two additional persons responsible. One of the individuals was charged in connection to the homicide of David Sheppard and the second individual was charged in connection to the homicides of David Sheppard and Christopher Reid.
- Registered two unsolved investigation files with the Nova Scotia Government Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program where cash rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) responsible for specified major unsolved crimes.
- Assigned a Tactical Sergeant to supervise the Emergency Response Team and K-9 Unit, coordinating operations, training and qualifications, and critical incidents requiring specialized personnel and tactics.
- Facilitated a Training Workshop for CBRM Police Commission Board Members. Training was led by Dept. of Justice Executive Director Hayley Crichton
- Participated in the first-ever celebration of Pride in Membertou where a flag was raised at our Police Building in front of Red Dress Park.
- Took part in the Pride Parade in support of diversity, inclusion, advocacy, protection and public safety for all citizens in our community.

- Attended India's 76th Independence Day celebrations at Wentworth Park.
- Hired two experienced officers from outside agencies as part of our ongoing recruitment campaign to fill existing vacancies and maintain our compliment of front line officers keeping our communities safe.
- Attended Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training at CBU. In attendance were the Executive Director of the Cape Breton Victoria Center for Education, all school principals, Chief Walsh and CBRPS School Liaison Officers. This is the first time this training has been provided in Nova Scotia and the CB Victoria Center for Education and CBRPS were the first to receive it.

Training:

- Arwen Operator Course, New Brunswick (2)
- Basic Pipeline Convoy Course, Sydney (9)
- Level I Violence Threat Risk Assessment, Sydney (7)
- Major Case Management Team Commander (1)
- Analyst Training, Halifax (1)

Patrols:

- Attended calls relating to incidents of Assault, Assault with a weapon, Suspicious Fires, Theft, Vandalism, Deceased Persons, Missing Persons, attempted suicide/suicide, Break and Enter, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Domestic, Mental Health assistance, and impaired driving complaints
- Addressed citizen complaints regarding speeding and off road vehicles
- Checks are conducted on a daily basis in relation to high risk offenders on conditional sentence orders and release orders through the courts
- Assisted investigative units with vehicle stops
- Monitored and enforced compliance through patrol and property checks

Lock-up:

| June | July | August |
|------|------|--------|
| 136 | 111 | 153 |

Lock-up Total: 400

Membertou:

- Responded to 774 calls for service and laid 86 charges
- Attended various meetings with Chief & Council, Interagency, Neighborhood Watch, and various other meetings

- Carried out foot patrols and property checks on all businesses
- Provided traffic support for the Pride Walk and Parade

K-9 Unit:

- Responded to 40 calls for K-9 service including, Alarms, Arrest Warrants, Assault with a weapon, Break and Enter, IPTA, Domestic Assault/Threat, Missing Persons, Motor Vehicle Collisions, Public Relations, Robbery, Weapons complaints, assist patrol members, Street Crime Unit, Major Crime Unit and ERT.
 - Located / arrested 1 person, located 6 articles
- Assisted patrols with 91calls for service and 33 alarms

School Liaison Officers:

- Participated in coaching and mentoring students
- Worked closely with school administration to address potential issues and ensure school safety
- Participated in training sessions on fire drills, lock downs and lock and secure procedures
- Investigated criminal matters that occurred during school hours
- Assist Patrol Officers with files connected to students at schools
- Dealt with incidents including: bullying, assaults, threats, working with school administration and parents to address issues internally through suspensions and restitution or through further police investigation and the Court system where warranted
- Attended various after school activities and events

Community Officer:

- Attended several meetings with the Sydney Downtown Development Association and local merchants in an attempt to initiate a Business Watch Program
- Conducted presentations at several schools on vaping and cyber bullying
- Conducted sessions on senior safety in Membertou and also Parkland Senior's Complex
- Attended a Community Engagement Session with MLA for Northside-Westmount
- Attend several cruise ship visits and spoke with numerous passengers
- Attended India's Independence Day Celebrated at Wentworth Park where Police had a booth set up and greeted over a thousand people

- Conducted foot patrol in many CBRM communities and spoke with merchants and citizens
- Attended and information session for Filipino students who recently arrived in Sydney to attend University
- Attended numerous community events throughout the summer months including Canada Day celebrations at Petersfield Park, the opening of Hawks Dream Field, several events during Lambert Todd Days, a Seniors Expo in Glace Bay, Making Waves events at Wentworth Park, Coal Dust Days, Seaside Days, Multi-Culture Day in Sydney, Heritage Day events in Sydney Mines, Bay Days, Hot Summer Nights car show and Make a Wish car show.
- Attended Flag Raising at City Hall for Bike Week and facilitated bike rodeos in Membertou, Open Hearth Park and Marion Bridge
- Attended the Atlantic Burn Camp parade and visited the Bible Camp where attendees stayed for the week. The children and Chaperones were very happy to see police visit the camp

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Traffic Safety Unit:

- Responded and/or assisted in over 511 occurrences
 - Enforced over 151 *Motor Vehicle Act* charges
- Traffic Safety Unit assisted with several complaints throughout CBRM in regard to stop signs and speeding
- Responded to and investigated several Motor Vehicle Collisions
- Provided traffic support for events throughout CBRM such as Hot August Nights, Sydney's Pride Parade and the Ben Buffet Memorial Run
- Traffic Safety Unit continues to address public complaints concerning traffic related issues

Street Crime/Drug Unit:

- Officers Executed 9 search warrants and conducted 3 vehicle stops resulting in 39 charges and seized in excess of \$50,000 in cash
- Assisted other sections of CBRPS with executing search warrants, conducting surveillance and assisting Patrols during the summer months

Community Safety Enforcement Unit:

- Assigned 6 new files and laid 80 charges including Fraud, Uttering Counterfeit money, theft, Mischief, Property Damage, Domestic Assault, and various breaches

- Assisted patrols, Investigative sections, and Safer Communities with ongoing investigations providing surveillance and information gathering in response to complaints of increased criminal activity
- Assisted Street Crime Unit in the execution of warrants resulting in several charges

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) – (NS Department of Justice Public Safety Investigation Section)

- Received 8 SCAN referrals resulting in 5 Notices, 5 Evictions, and 1 arrest
- Provided assistance with 6 Maintenance Enforcement Files
- Assist Police, Sheriff's Department, and Housing with 9 requests
- Conducted 2 Presentations to other agencies

Major Crime/Domestic Violence Unit:

- Assigned 29 new investigations and laid 28 criminal code charges, including, Sexual Assaults, Robbery, Major Assaults, Domestic Violence, Criminal Harassment, Uttering Threats, Break and Enters, Fraud, Weapon Violations, Breach Violations, and charges under the Youth Criminal Justice Act
 - Currently managing 43 active investigations
- Executed 12 search warrants and production orders along with sealing orders
- Prepared Court documentation for upcoming trials
- Received 125 domestic violence referrals resulting in 207 charges

General Investigation Section/Arson Investigator

- Assigned 32 new files for investigation, including sexual offences, Arson, assaults, possession of a firearm, extortion, as well as breaches of court orders. A total of 23 files have been concluded by way of charges laid, pending information or closed
- Currently managing 60 active investigations
- Prepared and executed judicial authorizations related to their assigned investigations
- Assisted other units with criminal code investigations

Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) / Computer Forensic Unit:

- Worked on 40 active investigations including child luring, child pornography, sexual assault, and sexual interference.

- There were 2 judicial authorizations obtained (production order, search warrants, etc.), forensically analyzed more than 6 devices and completed 6 drone operations.
- Operation support provided for ongoing investigations into Homicides, Robberies, Drug related offences, assaults, and domestics where cell phone warrants are executed by the unit

Forensic Identification Unit:

- Responded to 102 calls for service including: Arson, Deceased Persons, Break & Enter, Mischief Complaints, Sex Assault, Domestic Assault, Stabbing, Robbery, Home Invasion Assist Other Agency requests, Assault, Motor Vehicle Accidents, DNA Orders, Weapons Complaint, Disturbance, Recover Stolen Vehicle, Fingerprint Identifications, and Search Warrants
- Maintained exhibit control for all evidence seized by the police service, and managed all photographic evidence
- Conducted lab work associated with file exhibits submitted by Major Crime, General Investigation Unit, Arson Investigation Unit and Patrols for processing
- Liaise with outside agencies such as Deputy Fire Marshall's office, Sexual Assault Program, Sheriff and Correction Services, Nova Scotia Firearms Officer and RCMP Forensic Lab
- Maintain SOCO (Scenes of Crime Officer) files

Solid Waste:

- Investigated numerous complaints associated with heavy garbage and illegal dumping, resulting in 4 charges being laid and over 25 warnings issued. Currently managing 34 active files
- Several interviews with suspects and/or witnesses were carried out
- Assisted Patrols with calls for service

Mental Health Liaison Officer:

- Acts as a liaison between the NSHA and the CBRPS to help address systemic issues and resolve particular situations involving individuals with mental health disorders
- Assisted officers with cases involving emotionally disturbed persons and incidents involving patients within the Cape Breton Regional Hospital

- Conducted several Polygraph examinations, Assist Major Crime Unit, General Investigative Section, Arson Investigator and Patrols with several investigations, conducting interviews, and advising on interview strategy and technique
- Registered individuals for the National Sex Offender Registry
- Conducted pre-employment polygraph examinations for CBRM during the current reporting period

