

Report to Council



Date: February 28, 2022
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: 2021 RCMP Update
Department: Kelowna RCMP Detachment

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive, for information, the RCMP Quarterly Update report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment, dated February 28, 2022.

Purpose:

To present Council with an update on 2021 Q4, public safety and crime data.

Background:

On April 12, 2021, Council approved the Kelowna RCMP Detachment's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. The Plan, which aligns with Council's community safety priorities, focuses opportunities to achieve measurable differences in public safety outcomes, while maintaining other critically important services including frontline policing, traffic services, drug enforcement, and youth engagement.

Through a comprehensive planning process, four strategic priorities emerged:

- 1) Increase the sense of safety in our public spaces;
- 2) Decrease the risk of property crime;
- 3) Earn the trust of more citizens that have experienced persons crimes; and
- 4) Show up at our best for every citizen.

Summary Analysis:

Comparison of year-over-year changes from 2019 to 2021 indicates:

- Significant increase (33%) in social disorder calls from the downtown area
- Total persons offences increased by ~38%
 - Common assaults, domestic violence, assaults with a weapon, and files related to uttering threats increased each by more than 25%
- Alarming increase in drug overdose files included both fatal and non-fatal, increasing the workload and stress / trauma experienced by our front-line police officers

Comparison of Q4 in 2020 with Q4 in 2021 indicates:

- Significant and concerning increase in all categories of reported persons crimes.
- Commercial and residential break and enters, as well as auto theft increased from 2020 but have not reached pre-pandemic levels.
- Theft from motor vehicles and bike theft trended downwards.
- Increased shoplifting and other property related thefts, such as theft of mail and theft of tools from construction sites.

Kelowna's property crime trends are consistent with those seen throughout the RCMP's South East District. Kelowna experienced a year over year increase in Q4 2021 of 14.6%, compared to the District's increase of 15.8% for the same time period.

Conclusion:

Kelowna is not immune to the trends in persons offences being experienced in other communities across Canada. These trends are concerning although some were anticipated as they relate to the effect that COVID-19 has had on personal, familial and community conditions and routines. Many of these are complex, entrenched issues, requiring a multi-system response. Through initiatives such as Kelowna's Community Safety Plan, Kelowna RCMP remains committed to the development of innovative, long-term approaches that involve social, educational and health sectors.

Similar to persons crimes, reported property offence statistics are trending upwards though they remain below pre-pandemic levels. Theft from motor vehicle and shoplifting numbers, although lower than 2019, are rising and result from a small number of prolific offenders for whom access to adequate care or consequences is limited. The RCMP's Community Safety Unit and Investigative Services are collaborating through a pilot project aimed at expanding capacity to address the increase in property related crimes. Further, the Detachment will continue to build strategic communication's capacity and improve messaging to the public including promotion of the gPM Routine and the importance of securing personal property.

Internal Circulation:

Community Safety Department
Communications Department

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:


Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Submitted by: K. Triance, Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment

Approved for inclusion:  S. Leatherdale, Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services

cc: D. Caul, Community Safety Director
S. Coates, Police Services Manager
C. Cornock, Crime Prevention Supervisor

Annual Totalsⁱ

Police Capacity & Response	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2019 to 2020	% Change 2019 to 2021
Total Calls for Service	60274	58972	63888	-2.2% ●	6.0% ●
Disorder calls from downtown area	2297	2344	3052	2.0% ●	32.9% ●
Calls for Service with Mental Health Component	3011	2899	3104	-3.7% ●	3.1% ●
MHA Apprehensions	701	649	599	-7.4% ●	-14.6% ●
Overdose – Non-Fatal (naloxone administration)	39	82	68	110.3% ●	74.4% ●
Overdose – Fatal	18	31	32	72.2% ●	77.8% ●
Drug Overdose Files (fentanyl, illicit, prescription)	64	133	141	107.8% ●	120.3% ●
Total Property Offences	11830	9997	11396	-15.5% ●	-3.7% ●
Auto Theft	559	422	519	-24.5% ●	-7.2% ●
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2813	2181	2336	-22.5% ●	-17.0% ●
Break & Enter – Business	710	524	609	-26.2% ●	-14.2% ●
Shoplifting	1421	1108	1358	-22.0% ●	-4.4% ●
Break & Enter – Residential	356	263	293	-26.1% ●	-17.7% ●
Bike Theft	691	552	521	-20.1% ●	-24.6% ●
Other Theft & Property Crime - total property minus categories above	5280	4947	5760	-6.3% ●	9.1% ●
% of Residences which reported forced entry	28%	30%	24.5%	2% ●	-3.5% ●
% of reports to Crown Counsel receiving charge approval (Kelowna Regional)	Metrics built April 2021		90%	-	-
# of individuals referred to Kelowna Integrated Court	-	-	23 clients, involved in 985 calls for service.	-	Court began 2021

Total Persons Offences	2380	2875	3290	20.8% ●	38.2% ●
Assault (Common)	986	1159	1261	17.5% ●	27.9% ●
Domestic Violence	673	686	884	1.9% ●	∅
Sex Offences (Sexual Interference, Exploitation, Invite to Sexual Touching, Production/Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery)	56	54	65	-3.6% ●	∅
Sexual Assault	129	147	159	14.0% ●	∅
Theft with violence (known as robbery)	84	88	76	4.8% ●	-9.5% ●
Utter Threats	514	674	802	31.1% ●	56.0% ●
Assaults with Weapon	267	333	368	24.7% ●	37.8% ●
Drug Offences					
Trafficking	182	189	84	3.8% ●	-53.8% ●
Traffic					
Traffic Violation Tickets	-	2414	2222	-	
Collision – Non-Fatal	241	178	218	-26.1% ●	-9.5% ●
Collision – Fatal	5	6	8	20.0% ●	60.0% ●

Q4 Comparisons

Police Capacity & Response	2019	2020	2021	Change
	Q4	Q4	Q4	2019 to 2021
Total Calls for Service	14645	13642	15228	4.0% ●
Calls for Service Priority 1-3 Combined	12832	11912	12331	-3.9% ●
Calls for service requiring a police presence per officer	58.33	58.97	61.04	4.7% ●
Caseload (Criminal Code offences, excluding drugs & traffic offences, per authorized strength)	Not avail	21	25	Not avail
Response Time for Priority 1 Calls (mins)	8.6	9.5	8.3	-3.5% ●
Response Time for Priority 2 Calls (mins)	10.7	10.6	10.2	-4.7% ●
Disorder calls from downtown area	555	542	852	53.5% ●
Officer hours assigned to public spaces: Downtown, Rutland & parks	Not avail	Not avail	3816	-

Response time to Priority 1 & 2 calls in Downtown and Rutland Area (mins)*	Not avail	Not avail	Not avail	Not avail
Citizen perceived level of safety in areas including Downtown & Rutland	Bi-Annual	87%	Bi-Annual	-
Calls for Service with Mental Health Component	823	684	674	-18.1% ●
MHA Apprehensions	210	134	114	-45.7% ●
Overdose – Non-Fatal (naloxone administration)	12	19	14	16.7% ●
Overdose – Fatal	13	38	22	69.2% ●
Drug Overdose Files (fentanyl, illicit, prescription)	4	14	7	75.0% ●
Citizen satisfaction with police services (CoK Citizen Survey)	82% in 2020			
% of Priority 1-3 calls receiving status callback within 36 hours **	Not avail	Not avail	Not avail	Not avail
% seats at senior decision-making table held by underrepresented groups	Not avail	50%	67%	-
Detachment participation in unconscious bias training & Indigenous Cultural Safety				148 trained
Detachment participation in crisis debrief supports	-	-	200	-
Detachment participation in mental wellness training				66

* Mapping data in progress. Building reporting capability

** Data sets not currently available through records system, staff are pursuing options for accessing data in the future.

Q4 Comparisons

	2019	2020	2021	Change
	Q4	Q4	Q4	2019 to 2021
Total Property Offences	2983	2304	2846	-4.6% ●
Auto Theft	136	100	120	-11.8% ●
Theft from Motor Vehicle	741	498	479	-35.4% ●
Break & Enter – Business	244	115	142	-41.8% ●
Shoplifting	320	276	396	23.8% ●
Break & Enter – Residential	94	54	85	-9.6% ●
Bike Theft	128	102	100	-21.9% ●
Other Theft & Property Crime - total property minus categories above	1320	1159	1524	15.5% ●
9PM Routine media impressions	-	-	-	-
# of occurrences where charges were recommended	-	-	84	-
Total Persons Offences	635	662	848	33.5% ●
Assaults (Common Only)	262	265	309	17.9% ●
Domestic Violence	182	105	224	∅

Sex Offences (Sexual Interference, Exploitation, Invite to Sexual Touching, Production/Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery)	15	11	22	∅
Sexual Assault	35	26	40	∅
Theft with violence (known as robbery)	19	19	24	26.3% ●
Utter Threats/Harassment	144	164	196	36.1% ●
Assault with Weapon	65	86	103	58.5% ●
# of Detachment referrals to Victim Services	Not avail		121	-
Detachment participation in 'Start by Believing'				
Detachment participation in Trauma Informed practice	-	-	80% compliance	-
Drug Offences				
Trafficking	25	54	18	-28.0% ●
Traffic				
Traffic Violation Tickets	1322	695	605	-54.2% ●
Collision – Non-Fatal	67	49	45	-32.8% ●
Collision – Fatal	1	2	3	200.0% ●

ⁱ The following includes standardized indicators from the Canadian Police Performance Metrics Framework and measures of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan. All indicators relate to the City of Kelowna and, unless otherwise noted, will be reported on a quarterly basis. (Red is >5% increase, Yellow is <±5%, Green is >5% decrease)