

COMMITTED TO POLICING EXCELLENCE



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2011 Fourth Quarter



4TH QUARTER REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

*Vision:
A safe, vibrant city
achieved in partnership
through innovative,
responsive and
progressive policing.*

BUDGET UPDATE

Following several months of preparation, the EPS's 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets were presented to Edmonton City Council for approval in December. After considering multiple priorities for the city, Council approved the following funds.

- Capital funding of \$81 million for the Northwest Division Campus - this facility will include the Northwest Division station, a new Arrest Processing Unit, and a new training facility.
- Operating funding of \$3 million for the hiring of new sworn members to implement Violence Reduction Strategy initiatives.

In the months leading up to the budget presentation, Chief Knecht led senior officers in a "budget scrub" exercise, to clearly understand where EPS was spending its money and to determine whether some of those funds could be reallocated. As a result, 34 higher priority positions were established internally. EPS was able to reduce its budget request by several million dollars. Encouraged by its success, the EPS will conduct similar budget scrubs in 2012.

REDUCING CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

COMMUNITY CRIME UPDATE

In support of the Violence Reduction Strategy, the EPS created 15 weekly community crime awareness videos. The themes of the new videos are alcohol and drugs, weapons, distressed communities, and social disorder. EPS analysts and police officers compiled the topics for the videos to deal with a broad range of concerns from domestic violence to public intoxication.



All videos can be viewed by going to edmontonpolice.ca and clicking on 'News.'

EYES ON THE ALLEY CONTINUES TO FLOURISH



Students from a Victoria Composite High School art class decorated dumpsters in Central McDougall on Nov. 25. The paintings depict human eyes with a message to call police if you see suspicious activity. Painting the dumpsters is one activity in the larger Eyes on Central McDougall strategy, which will see a community clean-up event, improved lighting and wide-scale graffiti removal.

"This project is a great example of the community taking ownership of their neighbourhood. The students are given the opportunity to put their artistic skills to use and make a difference in the McDougall area," said Const. Bryan Kincheloe, School Resource Officer at Victoria Composite High School.

This unique project is a partnership with the City of Edmonton, Victoria Composite High School, Neighbourhood Empowerment Violence Reduction Team, and Colours Art & Framing.

In addition, as part of the Violence Reduction Strategy a Neighbourhood Empowerment Team was assigned to Central McDougall in mid October.

"This project is a great example of the community taking ownership of their neighbourhood. The students are given the opportunity to put their artistic skills to use and make a difference in the McDougall area."



CURB THE DANGER CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

In October, the EPS along with several community partners celebrated the 5th anniversary of the Curb the Danger program in Edmonton.

In the fall of 2006, the EPS took a proactive approach to addressing impaired driving by creating Curb the Danger as a pilot project. In early 2007 the EPS partnered with the City of Edmonton's Office of Traffic Safety and the pilot project became a permanent initiative.

"Their efforts made the city's streets much safer for everyone."

The Curb the Danger program encourages concerned citizens to call 911 when they suspect an impaired driver on city streets. Every effort is made to dispatch a police car and intercept the vehicle. If interception is not possible, a letter is sent to the registered owner advising that their vehicle was spotted being driven erratically and was reported to the program.

Since 2006, citizens made more than 44,000 calls through the Curb the Danger program. As a result, over 4,200 impaired driving charges were laid, nearly 1,500 24-hour suspensions were given and 8,000 letters were sent to registered owners.

"More than 4,000 impaired drivers were taken off the road because concerned citizens took the time to call 911," said Chief Rod Knecht. "Their efforts made the city's streets safer for everyone."

At the celebration ceremony, Councillor Amarjeet Sohi declared October 31 "Curb the Danger Day" in Edmonton.

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS (CAT)

CAT is an organized and focused mobile police unit created to identify and target struggling communities in Edmonton. CAT works to empower and educate communities and reassure our citizens that the EPS is dedicated to reducing crime and building trust.



Since September 2011, CAT has been deployed four times in the communities of McCauley, Central McDougall, Queen Mary Park and Boyle Street. Three community groups participated in the first deployment. By the fourth deployment, nearly 20 community partners were onboard.

Successes from the four deployments:

- 221 arrests
- 1,080 tickets issued
- 23 johns intercepted
- 235 homes visited
- 20 people were assisted in getting off the streets and finding homes.

CAT operates in conjunction with Neighbourhood Empowerment Violence Reduction Team and various social agencies.

CITIZEN-CENTRED POLICE SERVICE



MIRACLE ON 82ND STREET RETURNS

Once again, local residents, businesses and agencies lit up the alley on 82 Street between 120 and 121 avenues with strands of holiday lights in December. The light up has become a tradition and helps to address illegal and negative activity in the area. This year the initiative expanded to the east side of the alley, where residents agreed to have lights strung along their fences.

“The campaign as a whole has resulted in more calls for service, showing greater citizen engagement, and the calls we’re getting are less serious than before,” says Acting Sgt. Steve Sharpe with the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET).

Partnering on this initiative is the Downtown NET, Macs, City of Edmonton, Safeway, Music as a Weapon, and ABC Weddings.

EPS CANINE TEAMS VISIT THE STOLLERY

The EPS Canine Unit visited with kids at the Stollery Children’s Hospital in November. Along with their human partners, three police dogs – Indy, Chevy and Xeiko - helped cheer Stollery patients by giving away more than 100 stuffed dogs. The police dogs and their handlers enjoyed the outing just as much as the kids did.





3RD ANNUAL MCCAULEY CUP

The 3rd Annual McCauley Cup was held at the McCauley community rink in late December. Youth were mixed with officers from both Downtown and Northeast Divisions and split into two teams.

One of the organizers, Sgt. David Kaby, summed up the day by saying, "It's a great way to foster relationships with our youth, and it also gives the kids a chance to interact with police officers when they are not in uniform."

United Cycle donated jerseys and equipment, Northgate Industries lent a large trailer for the day, Culina Cantina supplied hot beverages, and EPS members baked snacks. The Edmonton Oilers also gave out prizes including jerseys and hats.

EPS REMOVES OCCUPY EDMONTON TRESPASSERS

EPS officers executed a well-planned strategy and brought a peaceful end to the Occupy Edmonton encampment at a downtown park along Jasper Avenue.

Officers converged on the privately-owned site just before 4 a.m. on Nov. 21 to enforce the land owner's eviction notice after a 42 day non-violent protest.

The discreet removal of the protesters was planned and carried out with precision and professionalism to ensure the safety of everyone involved, while minimizing disruption to other members of the public.

Nine adults were located in the park and served notice for trespassing. When given the choice to leave without consequences or stay to be arrested, six voluntarily chose to leave and three chose to stay.

The park was quickly fenced off to prevent it from being reoccupied and the remnants of the camp were removed.

The peaceful shutdown followed similar actions by police agencies in a number of other Canadian and American cities.

MODEL OF EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

JOIN EPS.CA

A new recruitment campaign was launched in 2011 to attract qualified applicants to the EPS.

The EPS used a variety of advertising tactics including billboards, newspaper ads, transit ads, wall and rink boards in various sports venues, and Edmonton Eskimo game day magazine ads. In addition, they created website ads and used various social media including Facebook and Twitter. The recruiters also hosted and attended many events.



A unique opportunity for television advertising presented itself in the last quarter. The EPS was able to purchase air time during the popular Hockey Night in Canada program, ultimately reaching audiences across the country.

The recruiting initiatives have been successful, with two recruit classes and one experienced officer class graduating in 2011, adding 57 new officers to city streets. An additional two classes are currently in training, with a total of 65 recruits.

OFFICERS RECEIVE CITATIONS FOR HEROISM

At a ceremony held at police headquarters on Nov. 14, the Royal Canadian Humane Association recognized 23 Albertans for their heroism.

Among those receiving this prestigious acknowledgment were two EPS officers: Const. Jonathan Sinclair and Const. Ryan Hankewich.

Const. Jonathan Sinclair and another officer were patrolling when they came upon a van engulfed in flames. Const. Sinclair helped pull the unconscious driver from the burning van and then assisted in smothering the fire. For his heroic efforts in this very dangerous situation, Const. Sinclair was awarded the Bronze Medal for Bravery.



Const. Hankewich was off duty when a fight broke out between two men at an Edmonton exhibition. A large crowd had gathered and the potential for further escalation and serious injury created a volatile situation. Off-duty Const. Hankewich stepped out of the crowd and restrained the violent male until help arrived. When the police took the assailant away, a loud round of applause broke out from the crowd in appreciation of the constable's actions. For his quick actions Const. Hankewich was awarded the Honourary Testimonial.

L to R - Const. Ryan Hankewich, Chief Rod Knecht, Col. (Ret'd) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; and Const. Jonathan Sinclair.

Appendices

EPS Staff Complement

SWORN, NON-SWORN AND RECRUITS

STAFF	2011 AUTHORIZED FTEs	2011 FTEs AS OF DEC 31, 2011	VACANCIES (OVERSTRENGTH)
SWORN	1588.0	1527.0	61.0
RECRUITS	0.0	65.0	(65.0)
NON-SWORN	577.5	588.4	(10.9)
FULL COMPLEMENT	2165.5	2180.4	14.9

Financials

BUDGET VARIANCE by Major Category of Revenues & Expenditures Provisional Results For the Period Ending December 31, 2011 (\$000's)

	2011 YEAR TO DATE			
	Budget	Actual	Var	%
REVENUE				
Traffic Safety Act	\$12,158	\$12,158	\$-	0.0%
Provincial Grants	23,194	22,983	(211)	-0.9%
Other	26,867	26,711	(156)	-0.6%
Total Revenue	62,219	61,852	(367)	-0.6%
EXPENDITURES				
PERSONNEL				
Salary and benefits	239,997	237,865	2,132	0.9%
EPS Overtime	8,927	8,946	(19)	-0.2%
External Overtime	299	414	(115)	-38.5%
	249,223	247,225	1,998	0.8%
NON-PERSONNEL				
Furniture, equipment, IT, materials and supplies	10,953	11,710	(757)	-6.9%
Contracts and services	19,285	20,253	(968)	-5.0%
Vehicles	7,063	7,720	(657)	-9.3%
Facilities	13,480	13,268	212	1.6%
Other	6,785	6,510	275	4.1%
	57,566	59,461	(1,895)	-3.3%
Total Expenditures	306,789	306,686	103	0.0%
Net Position	\$244,570	\$244,834	\$(264)	-0.1%