



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2015 Fourth Quarter



TIGHT BUDGET PROMPTS TOUGH DECISIONS

On December 3, City Council made their final decisions regarding the Service's 2016-2018 operating budget. Council had the difficult task of keeping property taxes as low as possible, while meeting increased demands across the many City of Edmonton departments.

Supported unanimously by fellow Councillors, Mayor Don Iveson presented a funding formula that provides EPS with three years of guaranteed funding increases. Although the value of the annual funding is less than 20 per cent of the requests, the formula allows the Service to plan for the next three years.

In addition to the funding identified in the formula, City Council supported the request for additional office space to address overcrowding issues in the headquarters. However, several service packages put forward during the budget process were not approved. This included additional frontline patrol positions; specialized criminal investigators; increased staffing in business areas such as human resources, information technology, and training;

community outreach programs; and improved staffing in the 9-1-1 and non-emergency call centre.

As a result, the Service and the Commission were tasked with finding ways to support the unfunded requests. Closing out the fourth quarter, the Commission and the EPS embarked on a process to obtain public and employee input into the future of current services that the EPS provides. Members of the public will be able to provide their views through an online survey and attend open houses in early 2016. EPS employees will also be given an opportunity to contribute via an internal online survey.

In addition, the Service will continue to review and prioritize current projects and services to ensure that they are relevant, efficient, and effective. If a program is shown to be no longer required, does not meet the funding threshold when prioritized, or could be provided by another agency, it may be reduced or discontinued.

[View the EPS 2016-2018 Approved Operating Budget.](#)

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EPS MEMBERS RECOGNIZED BY ROYAL CANADIAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

At a ceremony held on November 16 at EPS Headquarters, the Royal Canadian Humane Association presented 32 citizens with awards to recognize exceptional acts of bravery and lifesaving while under duress. Among those receiving acknowledgement were seven EPS members: Constables Ethan Watts, Nathan Sharuga, Norm Wong, Timothy Moeller, Brandon Myhre, Duane Bateman, and Julianne Toner.

In November 2014, Constables Bateman and Toner came upon an upturned vehicle with a father and his young child trapped inside. Smoke was coming from the vehicle, and there was the possibility that it could erupt into flames. Constables Bateman and Toner assisted Brad Tilley, an off-duty fire-fighter, in successfully freeing the father and his young daughter from an extremely dangerous situation. For their quick and heroic actions, the two officers and Mr. Tilley were awarded the Bronze Medal for Bravery.

In October 2015, Constables Wong and Moeller came upon a burning townhouse complex that was under construction in west Edmonton. Constables Moeller and Wong began banging on the doors and were joined by Constables Sharuga, Watts and Myhre. They were able to get the residents out of two suites but there was no answer at the third. The fire was intensifying and the heat was almost unbearable as Constable Wong continued banging on the door. A female finally came to the door. When she realized the danger she grabbed her small child, followed Constable Wong to safety and informed him that her elderly paralyzed father was still inside.

While Const. Sharuga re-checked the first two suites to make sure they were empty, Constables Moeller, Myhre, Watts and Wong entered the last one to carry out the paralysed victim.

For risking their lives, going above and beyond the call of duty to save the lives of others, the Bronze Medal for Bravery was awarded to all five officers.



Constable Duane Bateman; Brad Tilley; Constable Julianne Toner; the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; His Honour, Doug Mitchell; and Acting Chief Tony Harder.



Constable Ethan Watts; Constable Nathan Sharuga; Constable Norm Wong; the Honourable Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; His Honour, Doug Mitchell; Acting Chief Tony Harder; Constable Brandon Myhre; and Constable Timothy Moeller.

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EDMONTON'S AFRICAN YOUTH MEET WITH CHIEF KNECHT



Edmonton's African youth had a unique opportunity to have a candid conversation with Chief Rod Knecht about policing, as well as their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Approximately 100 youth attended a first-of-its-kind meeting hosted by the EPS African Community Liaison Committee (ALCLC) at La Cité Francophone French Cultural Centre in late November.

Chief Knecht spoke openly with the young adults about their concerns and answered their questions. Topics included trust, communication, bias awareness, cultural safety, community outreach, and recruitment from diverse communities. The group was particularly interested in how world events such as racism, terrorism, and police violence impacted their perceptions of police in Edmonton.

The conversations were lively and ran late into the evening. Afterwards everyone agreed that the meeting was valuable, and that all had a part to play in making Edmonton a safer community.

EPS VOLUNTEERS GATHER DONATIONS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

The holiday season is a time of year that encourages people to think about what they can do for the less fortunate in our community. With numerous Syrian refugees arriving in Edmonton with little more than the clothes on their backs, many citizens and agencies felt compelled to reach out and help.

On December 22, EPS volunteers played Santa Claus and loaded up their sleigh with donations of clothing, toys, goods, and other necessities for the refugees. The members assembled the large number of donations at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and delivered them to the Edmonton Relief Services Society to be distributed to families.

These efforts of charity and goodwill are appreciated by partner agencies, and also help EPS build positive relationships with our growing newcomer communities.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, all the volunteers finished up with a round of Christmas carols singing "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."



Santa's EPS helpers join staff and volunteers at the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers to bring tidings of comfort and joy (and a truckload of donations) to Syrian refugees in Edmonton.



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EPS ADDS INSTAGRAM TO SOCIAL MEDIA REPERTOIRE

In early December, EPS expanded its online community reach to include Instagram.

Photos and videos on the Instagram account provide an inside look at what EPS is doing in the community, including public education campaigns, positive events members are participating in, awards, EPS updates, and more.

EPS Instagram is another tool to help EPS obtain their vision of being recognized as a leader in policing.

[Follow the EPS on Instagram.](#)



CONSTABLE HONOURED BY AMISKWACIY ACADEMY

In the First Nations community, to be presented with a blanket is a very high honour. In December, Constable Jeff Thomsen was privileged to receive one from the Amiskwaciy Academy.

Prior to becoming a Community Liaison Constable (CLC), Constable Thomsen was a School Resource Officer (SRO) for five years.

"Amiskwaciy doesn't have an SRO. So as a CLC, one of my priorities was to continue and build upon the excellent relationship the EPS already has with the Academy," says Constable Thomsen. "The kids at the Academy are great. They're learning about First Nations traditions and beliefs."

So in late December, when the faculty invited him to join them for a winter feast, Constable Thomsen thought it was just a lunch.

"When I was called up to accept the blanket, I was totally surprised. It's a great honour to be presented with one, and I will always treasure it," he said. "Although it was presented to me, I accepted it on behalf of my colleagues. We're all in this together."

Constable Jeff Thomsen receives a traditional blanket from faculty members of Amiskwaciy Academy.



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VICTIM SERVICES UNIT CREATES MAJOR INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

The EPS Victim Services Unit (VSU) has been operational for almost four decades. Advocates offer both comfort and practical information to the victims of all manner of crimes. Based upon experience and intense research, the unit created the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) model to address and support families of homicide victims.

MIRT is a group of trained advocates who respond to major incidents such as homicides. MIRT is assigned during the early stages of an incident and supports those impacted throughout the investigation and, if applicable, the criminal justice process. The intent is to ensure family members are knowledgeable about the investigation, have timely information about criminal justice activities, and are able to reach out to community resources.

In developing MIRT the biggest benefit has been the relationships that have been built. VSU has created, and maintains, strong relationships with the Homicide Unit, the Crown, the local Victims of Homicide Support Society, and with other internal and external agencies. Thanks to these relationships, information flows freely, ultimately helping ease the anxiety of victims.

In September 2015, the VSU hosted a national conference entitled "Exploring Challenges/Creating Solutions: Supporting Families of Missing or Murdered Persons." The conference was attended by 350 delegates from across the country, including VSU advocates, police agency professionals, and community services agency representatives. The MIRT model, and how it was built, was the focus of a special seminar at the conference.

#NOGOODWAY TO USE THE R-WORD

There are few words in the English language as offensive as 'retard.' According to the Canadian Association for Community Living, 899,000 people in Canada have an intellectual disability; that's just over 2.5 per cent of the population. Odds are each one of us is related to, or knows someone, with an intellectual disability. Although most people don't mean any harm when they use the R-word, it is mean—plain and simple.

In October 2015, EPS joined the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Special Olympics Canada, and Motionball in a campaign to eliminate the use of the R-word in everyday conversation. YELLOWCARD Day, held annually on October 8, brings attention to the cause through social media using hashtag #nogoodway.

"Today I ask all of the men and women in law enforcement to become ambassadors for this important initiative and to take the pledge to stop using the using the R-word," says EPS Superintendent Mark Neufeld. "Not because you must, but because you can, and because it matters."

"Even though my family made me feel special, when I would hear the R-word it made me feel sad. I'd like to challenge people to find other words to express themselves rather than using the R-word."

– Special Olympics gold medalist Jenny Murray

Superintendent Mark Neufeld; Special Olympics gold medalist Jenny Murray; President of Special Olympics AB Johnny Byrne; and CTV's Rob Williams.



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KIDS AND COPS FACE OFF IN 7TH ANNUAL MCCAULEY CUP

EPS officers and local youth laced up their skates for a friendly game of hockey at the McCauley ice rink on December 23 to mark 7th Annual McCauley Cup.

Over the years the game has grown in popularity and no matter the weather, youth from the neighbourhood are always ready to showcase their new skills to the police officers and spectators.

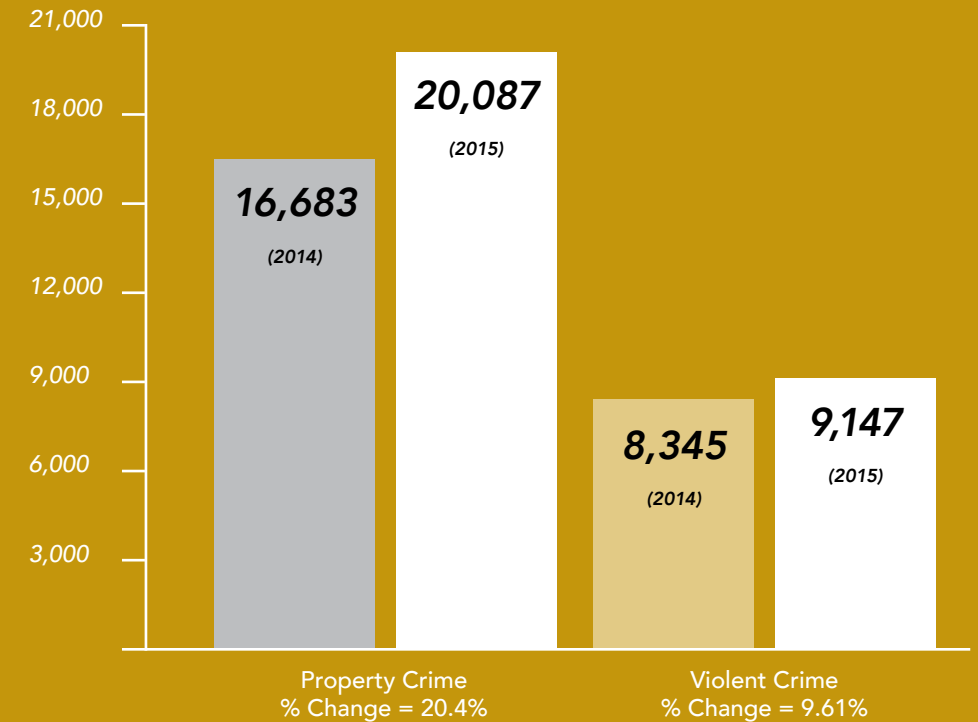


"The positive relationships between the youth and police officers that are built during events like this are invaluable," says Downtown Division Constable Terrance Jakubowski, organizer of the McCauley Cup. "Today's game is extra-special as it marks the official launch of the new and improved McCauley community rink."

Edmonton Oilers right winger Nail Yakupov and former Oilers Captain Al Hamilton cut the ceremonial ribbon, cheered the players on, and signed autographs for the kids.



OVERALL CRIME IN THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS 2014 AND 2015 YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISONS



By the end of the fourth quarter of 2015, property crimes increased by 20.4 per cent and violent crimes increased by 9.61 per cent, compared to the same time frame in 2014.

THE EIGHT CRIME INDICATORS ARE:

VIOLENT CRIMES

- Homicide
- Assault
- Sexual assault
- Robbery

PROPERTY CRIMES

- Break and enter
- Theft from vehicle
- Theft of vehicle
- Theft over \$5,000

The eight crime indicators are measured daily and the data is used to focus on criminal activity and identify trends, patterns, and hot spots in Edmonton. Police resources are then deployed to address emerging and enduring crime and disorder issues. Violent crime statistics are based on the number of victims of crime, rather than the number of incidents of crime.

Source: Cognos CSR-12, generated February 1, 2016

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SAVE RELEASES NEW CAMPAIGN: "WITHOUT CONSENT, IT'S NOT SENT"

Sexual Assault Voices of Edmonton (SAVE), an Edmonton-based society comprised of EPS, Responsible Hospitality Edmonton, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, the University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre, and the Canadian Red Cross, launched a new campaign addressing consent and technology.

The tag line of the campaign - Without consent, it's not sent - aims to educate the public that sharing an intimate photo of someone without consent is never okay. In fact, it's against the law.

Earlier this year, Bill C-13, the anti-cyber bullying law was passed. This legislation states it is illegal for anyone to share intimate photos of a person without their consent.

"We are aware that intimate photos are being distributed without consent," says EPS Staff Sergeant Shawna Grimes. "We're also aware these types of crimes are under reported, perhaps because of fear and embarrassment."

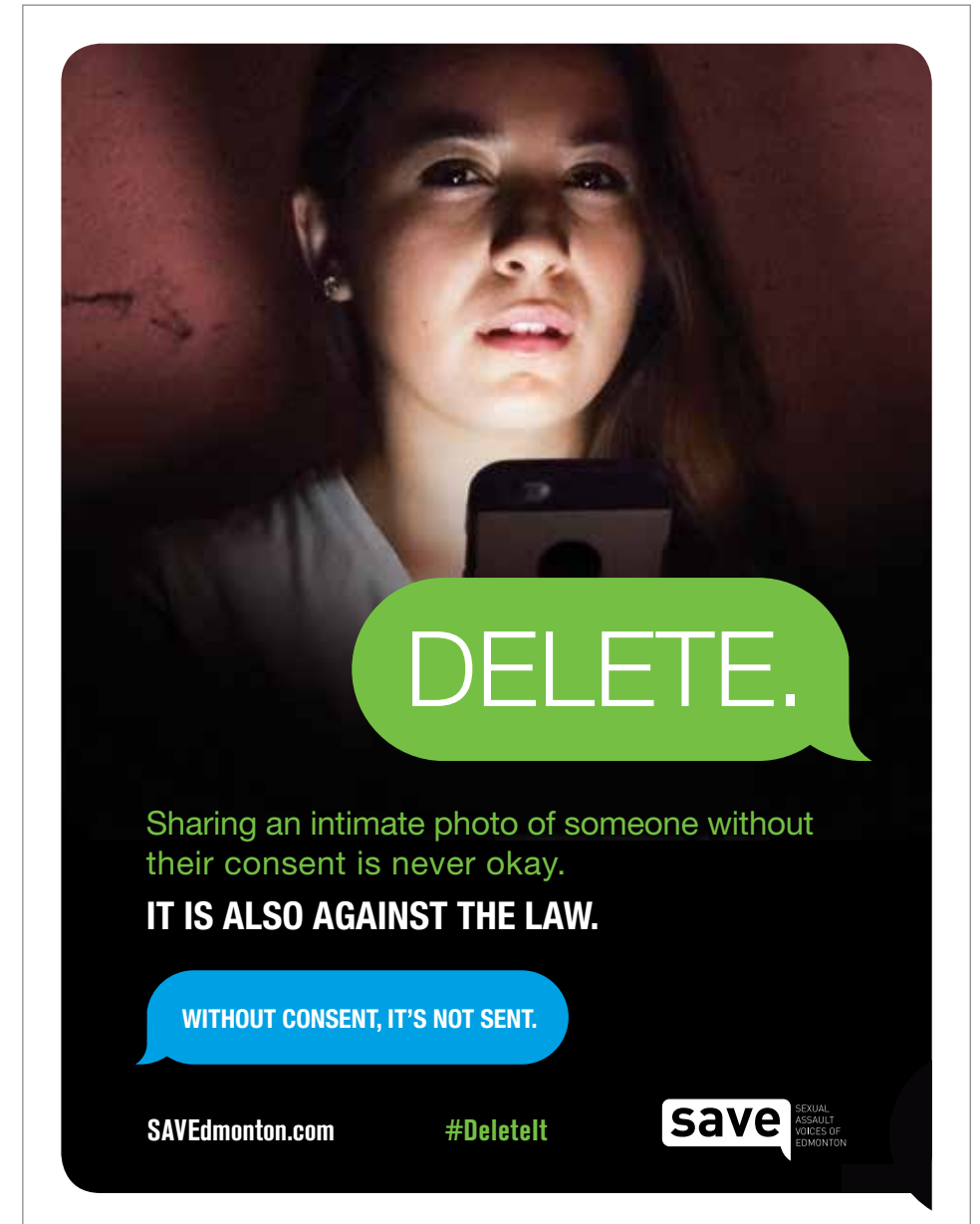
SAVE created this campaign to help alleviate some of the fear and embarrassment that victims of this crime may feel by placing responsibility on the person who is considering sharing a photo instead of on the victim.

This campaign also targets youth and young adults who have received a photo of someone without consent and are considering what action to take. Using social media, SAVE is encouraging people to #Deletelt (delete the image) as the campaign tag line states, "without consent, it's not sent."

The campaign, launched in late November, is being promoted throughout Edmonton in restaurants, bars, and both Edmonton Public and Catholic school systems.

"As technology becomes an increasingly common means for sexual experimentation, we are also seeing a disturbing and pervasive trend where technology is used to enact sexual violence by sharing intimate photos of individuals without their consent."

– Dr. Cristina Stasia, SAVE Chair



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LEGACY OF HEROES GOES TO THE DOGS

The third installment of the Legacy of Heroes comic book series, Day of the Dog Squad, explores the origins of the EPS Canine Unit.

It was 1963, and Edmonton police officer Val Vallevand asked Chief M.F.E. Anthony about forming a police dog squad. The Chief was reluctant; worried a dog would be overwhelmed with the noise and activity of a big city like Edmonton.

But Val was determined. He knew the value a dog's keen sense of smell and sharp eyesight could contribute to police work.

What happened next reads like, well, a comic book. Val and his dog Sarge found themselves in a race against time to capture a criminal who had escaped police custody and was hiding in a warehouse.

Legacy of Heroes was created to tell Edmontonians about the remarkable people and events that are part of the Edmonton Police Service's history. The popular series – there are 30,000 copies in print as well as a digital edition – is written and illustrated by members of the EPS Corporate Communications Branch.

[Copies are available at EPS divisional stations or online](#)



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CARRT CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Child At Risk Response Team (CARRT) celebrated 20 years of service to traumatized children and their families in late November.

CARRT was one of the first programs in Canada to pair police officers and social workers. Since its inception, police agencies around the world have studied it and based their programs on the CARRT model.

“By having social workers on-scene we provide an effective and efficient response,” says Sergeant Gary Willits, who has been with the unit for eight years. “The social worker provides valuable information and resources regarding children and their families. The police officer is able to provide a safe work

environment and deal with any criminal allegations. This collaboration allows the team to explore alternate problem solving solutions, when looking at what level of intervention is most effective.”

In 2015, CARRT completed 1,879 initial investigations and follow-ups, and 1,945 consultations based on requests from Children Services and the EPS. That same year, CARRT laid a total of 139 provincial or criminal charges and executed 145 warrants.

CARRT also offers an education program for the Neighbourhood Centres of Children Services. The team gives staff a presentation on joint investigations, safety tips for Child and Family Services assessors, and information on street drugs.



POLICE SERVICE DOG MONUMENT UNVEILED

The EPS Canine Unit proudly unveiled a monument to fallen police service dogs (PSDs) in late October.

PSDs respond to situations where their specialized skills in detection, search, and apprehension are put to good use. Over the past year, handlers and their PSD partners responded to more than 1,500 incidents and were responsible for more than 270 arrests.

PSDs are highly trained, brave and dedicated. They face danger in carrying out their duties. People across Canada were reminded of that fact when PSD Quanto made the ultimate sacrifice to

protect his partner and the people of Edmonton two years ago.

Quanto's loss drew attention to the critical role played by PSDs, leading to an amendment of the Criminal Code that significantly increases the penalties for anyone convicted of intentionally harming a service animal.

The monument, located at the EPS Vallevand Kennels, will serve as a lasting tribute to the service and the contributions of the 111 dogs that have been members of the EPS Canine Unit since its inception in 1967.

[Click here to learn more about the EPS Canine Unit.](#)



Constable Matt Williamson stands beside the canine monument that honours the five members of the Canine Unit that made the ultimate sacrifice.

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EPS STAFF COMPLEMENT

SWORN, NON-SWORN AND RECRUITS

STAFF	2015 AUTHORIZED FTE'S	2015 FTE'S AS OF 2015 DECEMBER 31	VACANCIES (OVER STRENGTH)
SWORN	1,779.00	1,659.36	119.64
RECRUITS	0.00	76.00	(76.00)
NON-SWORN	699.75	721.00	(21.25)
FULL COMPLEMENT	2,478.75	2,456.36	22.39

The authorized FTE's represent 2,478.75 authorized positions in 2015

OTHER COMMISSION AND EPS PUBLICATIONS

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

OPERATIONAL AREA	PUBLICATION
Performance Measurement	Annual Policing Plan
Performance Results	Annual Policing Plan Report Card
Complaints Against EPS	Professional Standards Branch Annual Report
Citizen Opinions on Policing	Citizen Survey

All publications can be found at www.edmontonpolicecommission.ca and www.edmontonpolice.ca

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FINANCIALS

BUDGET VARIANCE BY MAJOR CATEGORY OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015 (000'S)

	2015 YEAR END			
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	%
REVENUE				
Traffic Safety Act Fines	\$14,708	\$12,872	\$(1,836)	-12.5%
Transfer from Reserve (Office of Traffic Safety)	18,819	18,819	-	0.0%
Provincial Grants	27,148	26,703	(445)	-1.6%
Other Revenue	28,033	28,126	93	0.3%
TOTAL REVENUE	88,708	86,520	(2,188)	-2.5%
EXPENDITURES				
PERSONNEL				
Salary and benefits	286,317	283,594	2,723	1.0%
EPS Overtime	10,303	10,660	(357)	-3.5%
External Overtime	445	412	33	7.4%
	297,065	294,666	2,399	0.8%
NON-PERSONNEL				
Furniture, equipment, IT, materials and supplies	12,446	14,964	(2,518)	-20.2%
Contracts and services	20,722	20,941	(219)	-1.1%
Vehicles	7,251	7,143	108	1.5%
Facilities	17,304	16,180	1,124	6.5%
Other Expenditures	13,945	12,912	1,033	7.4%
	71,668	72,140	(472)	-0.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	368,733	366,806	1,927	0.5%
NET POSITION	\$280,025	\$280,286	\$(261)	-0.1%

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