



# Addressing Urban Crime and Social Disorder: The Community Engagement Response Teams

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- History on Encampments
- History on LRT and Crime/Disorder in Public Spaces
- Evolution of the Community Engagement Response Team
- High System Users
- Q&A



# Why Encampments Matter

- Health and Sanitation Risk
- Fire Hazards
- Drug Trafficking and Crime
- Environmental Impact
- Social and Mental Health Concerns
- Legal and Regulatory Issues





**CPS Case Studies** 

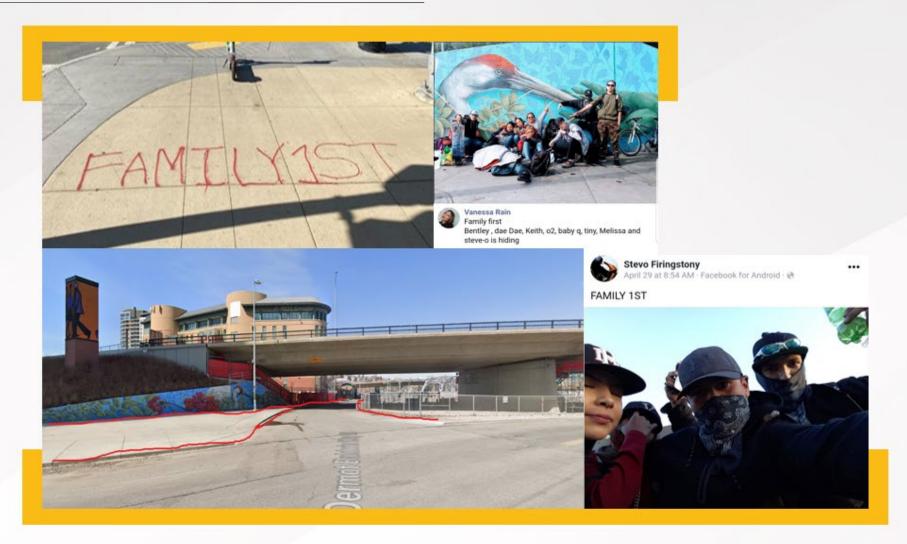
Operation Bloodline: 2020-2021

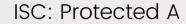
Operation East Side: 2021-2022





# Encampments: The Family







# Encampments: The Family

October 2020 – Tents begin to appear

#### Between Jan. and June 2020

- 80 acts of violence
- 32 persons of interest identified
- Occupants part of "The Family"
- Storage of drugs and weapons in the tents
- Leader of the group was identified
- Vulnerably addicted recruited
- Used psychological and resource-based manipulation tactics





#### Arrests and Resources

14 people arrested

The leader arrested and charged with organized crime and human trafficking (now sentenced to 16 years custody and facing deportation)

Outreach teams of officers and community partners deployed to "The Block"

Contact with more than 100 vulnerable persons to offer support



#### Community rallies around vulnerable after lead drug trafficker charged

We have been working hard to address the drug-related crime and violence that has occurred throughout our city since it began to increase in 2015. Our goal has always been to identify and hold to account, those who prey on vulnerable Calgarians, and to not criminalize addiction.

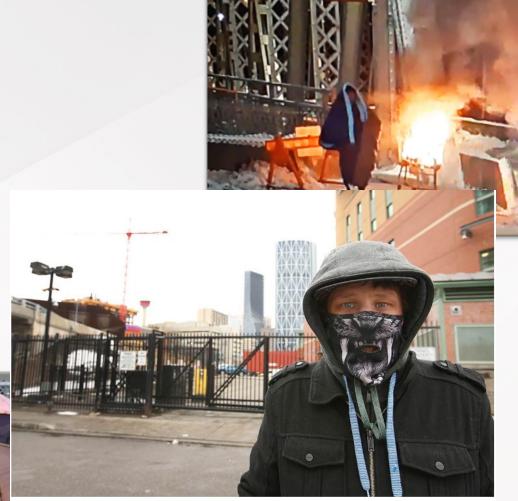
Over the past year, the District 1 General Investigations Unit (GIU) identified what they believe is a network of individuals, known as 'The Family.' More than 500 people are believed to be involved or connected to 'The Family's' drug distribution network as either sellers or buyers. Over the course of the last 18 months, more than 80 violent incidents are believed to be connected to 'The Family.' The group is comprised of individuals with addictions and other vulnerabilities, who are primarily homeless and mostly reside in and around the downtown area.



## After the Family came...

"One of them is Preston Montour, who said 'the city's coming down on us, and all we're trying to do is survive."

The homeless campers said they'd welcome assistance with low-cost housing but don't have much faith in ever seeing it."



Preston Montur speaks to Postmedia outside the Drop-In Centre on Thursday, PHOTO BY JIM

WELLS/POSTMEDIA

ISC: Protected A





#### Operation East Side



#### • Total:

- 71 Criminal Code Charges
- 27 Violent Encounters
- 28 Weapons Seized

#### **Preston Joseph Montour, 28:**

Three counts of Assault with a Weapon;

Three counts of Poss Weapon Dangerous to Public;

Three counts of Possession of Controlled Substance;

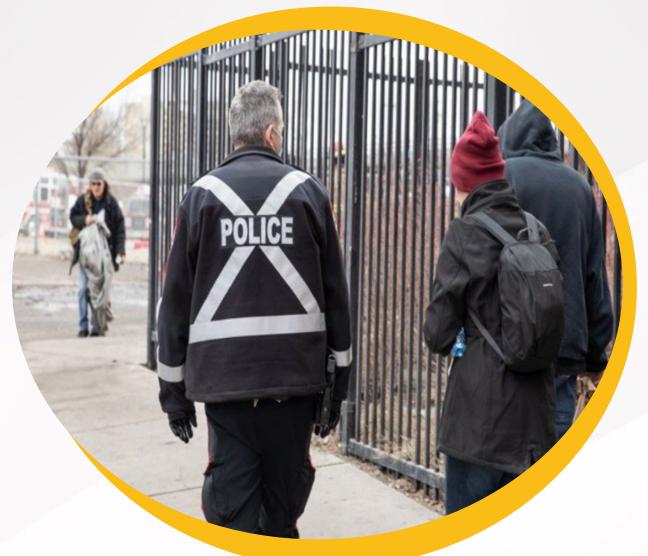
Eight counts of Breach of Probation; and

Seven counts of Breach of Release Order





# Post Operation Management Strategy



- Increased patrols (beats, bikes & patrol)
- Daily maintenance (roads/bylaw/Alpha House)
  - Expanded to seven days/week via contractors
- Ongoing outreach and social services
- Continued enforcement using laddered approach
- Education strategy for officers
- Building partnerships with shelters





#### **Encampment Strategy**

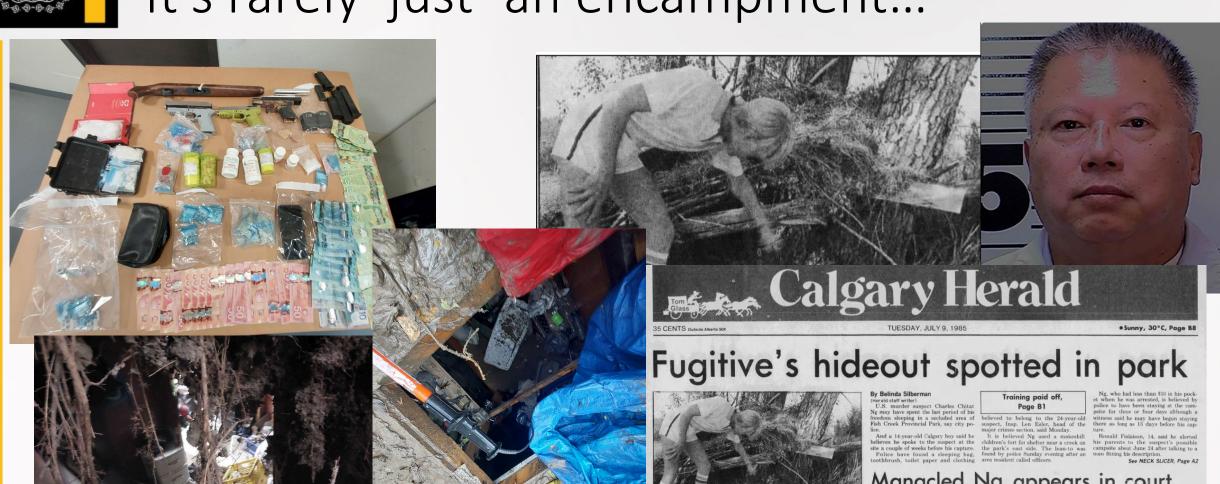


#### **Calgary Ladder Approach**

- Assessment
- •No criminal behaviour or safety concerns
- bylaw primary
- •Confirmed criminal or public safety risks oFirst visit - investigation and
  - coordinate with partners
  - Second visit voluntary
  - compliance or bylaw summons with fine option
  - with fine option
  - oThird visit voluntary
  - compliance or bylaw summons with mandatory court, seizure of
  - structures and remediation of
  - land



It's rarely 'just' an encampment...



#### Manacled Ng appears in court

Ronald Finlaison, 14, spotted lean-to in Fish Creek park

and Roman Cooney

thereals staff writers)
Restrained by manacles and under Restrained by manacles and under constant guard, Charles Chitat Ng, as prime suspect in a series of California sex-and-torture deaths, hobbled into a Calgary courtroom Monday to learn he'll Cupre automatic handgun during the Calgary courtroom Monday to learn he'll Cupre automatic handgun during the Calgary courtons and the court of the Calgary courtroom Monday to learn he'll Cupre automatic handgun during the Calgary courtons and the court of the Calgary court of the Calgary

and restrained by leg manacles and possible early trial shortly after that, the handcuffs chained to a belly shackle, lis-





#### Meanwhile...



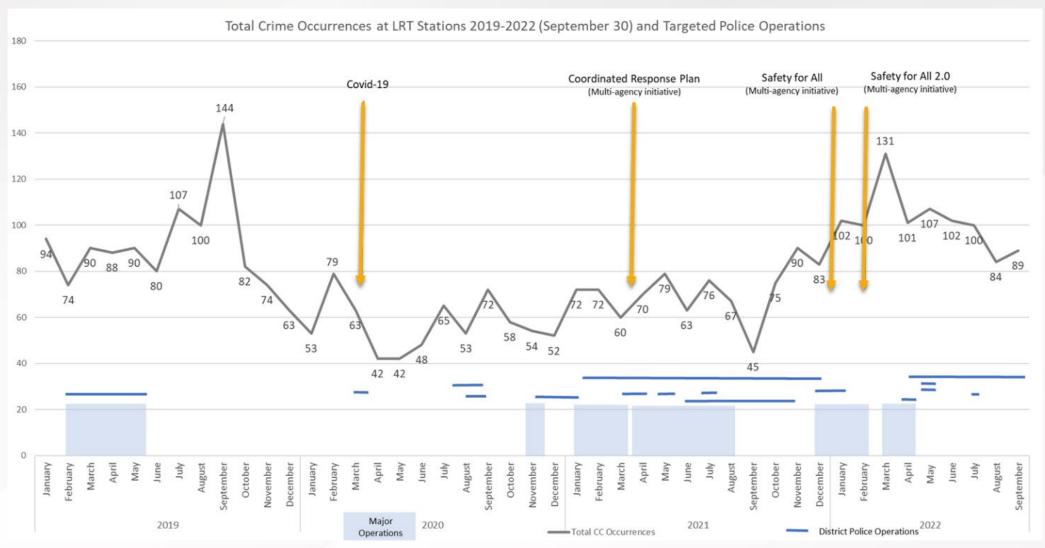


#### Lessons Learned



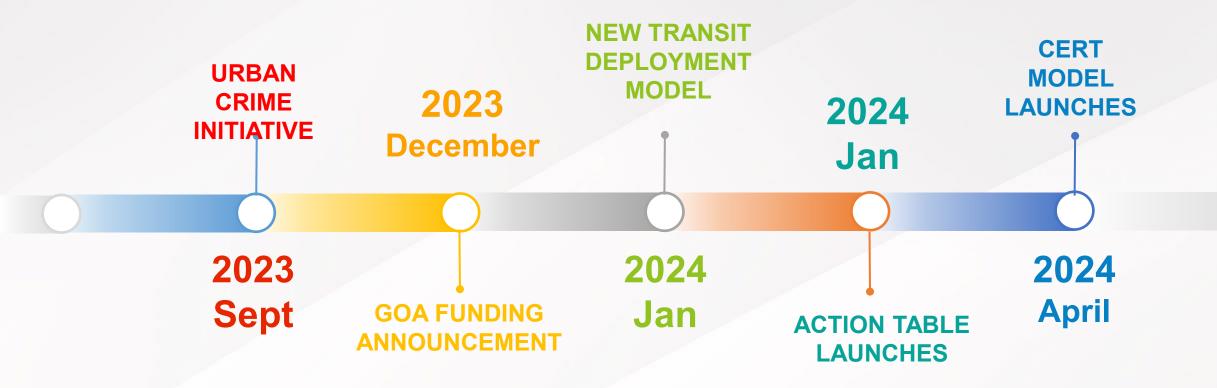


#### What we knew





# The Trajectory Continues...





#### What we learned...

Identified High Volume Stations

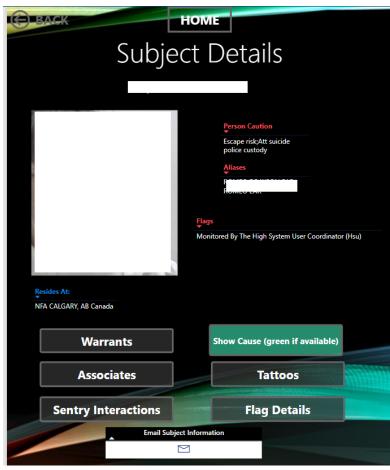
 Leveraged technology to identify and respond to high-volume stations in real time, based on Calls for Service, Information Reports, Warrants, Charges, and Tickets.

Identified High System Users • Recognized increased enforcement in one station displaces subjects to another station.

Developing Subject-Oriented Response







## Leveraging Technology

ISC: Protected A



# Community Engagement Response Teams



#### Mission Statement

Creating safe public spaces by engaging with community and taking action to reduce crime and social disorder through focused, collaborative enforcement and compassionate supports.



# Community Engagement Response Team (CERT)

 Definition: Specialized teams focused on proactive community engagement to build trust and address local issues.

#### Objectives:

- Deployment to District Disorder Hot Spot Locations
- High Profile Uniform Presence
- Reduction in High System User Interactions
- Addressing Criminality in Encampments

#### Key Functions:

- o Community Outreach: Regular interactions with residents to understand and address their concerns.
- Problem-Solving: Collaborative efforts with community members to develop solutions to persistent issues.
- Prevention Programs: Initiatives focused on crime prevention and education.

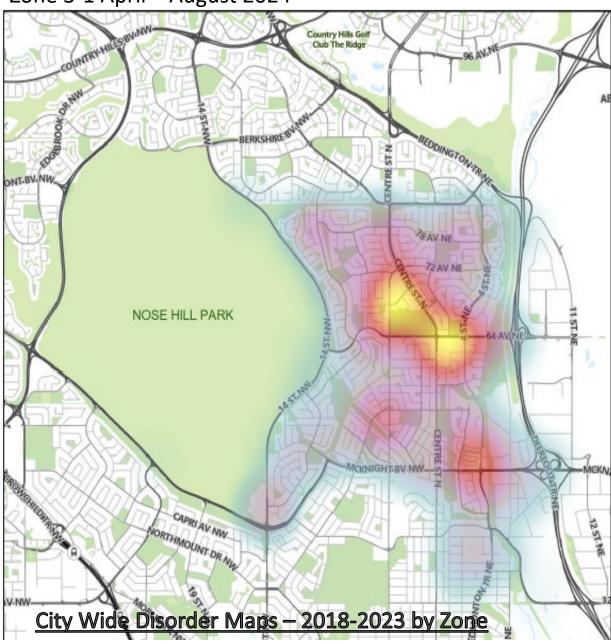


# Working together for safe public spaces



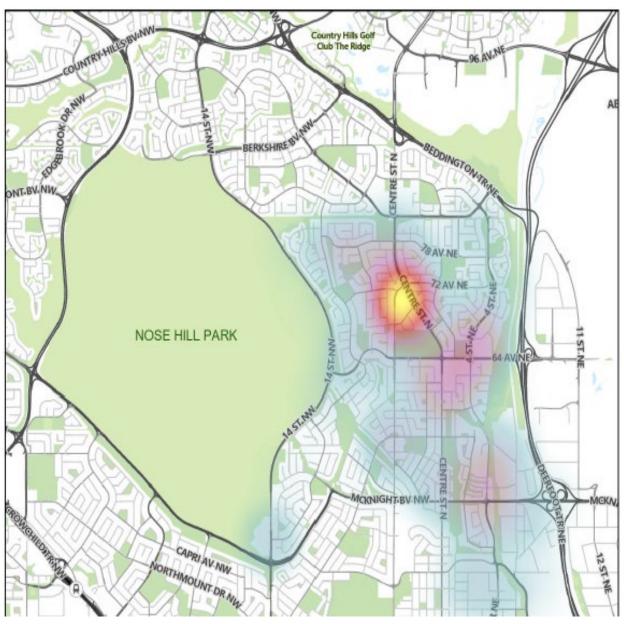
#### **Disorder CFS**

Zone 3-1 April – August 2024



#### Person or Property Crime CFS (This is a combo)

Zone 3-1 April – August 2024





#### Metrics of Success

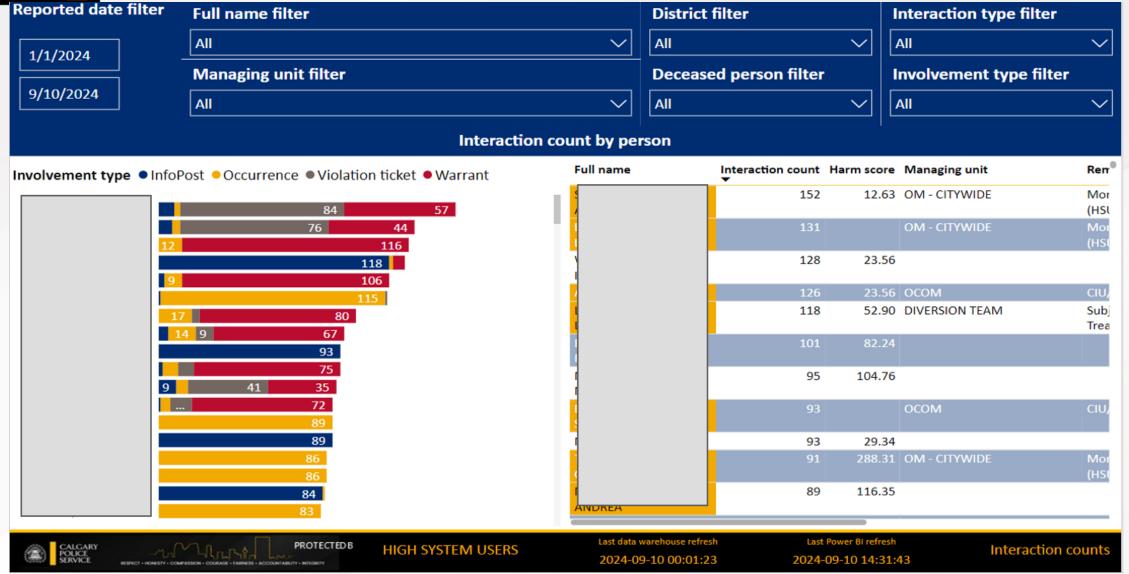
- Metrics are tracked through a variety of means including: arrest warrants executed, summons issued, referrals made, charges laid, and community engagement.
- A PowerBI dashboard has been created collate data for consistency in reporting. A separate Microsoft Forms has been created to begin to capture the community engagement and referrals made within the community





#### **HSU Dashboard**

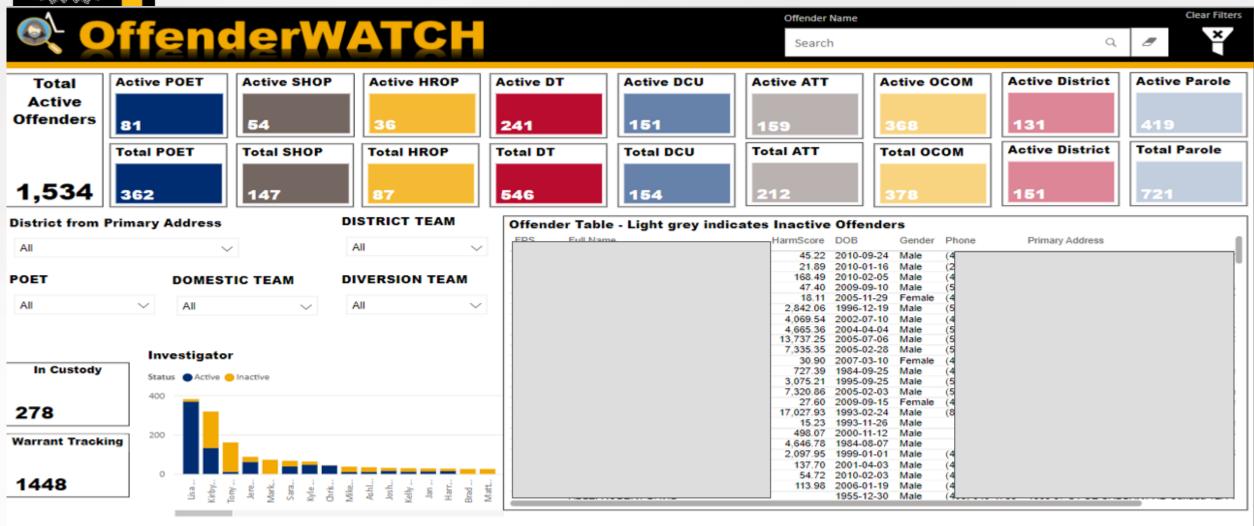
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#### OffenderWATCH

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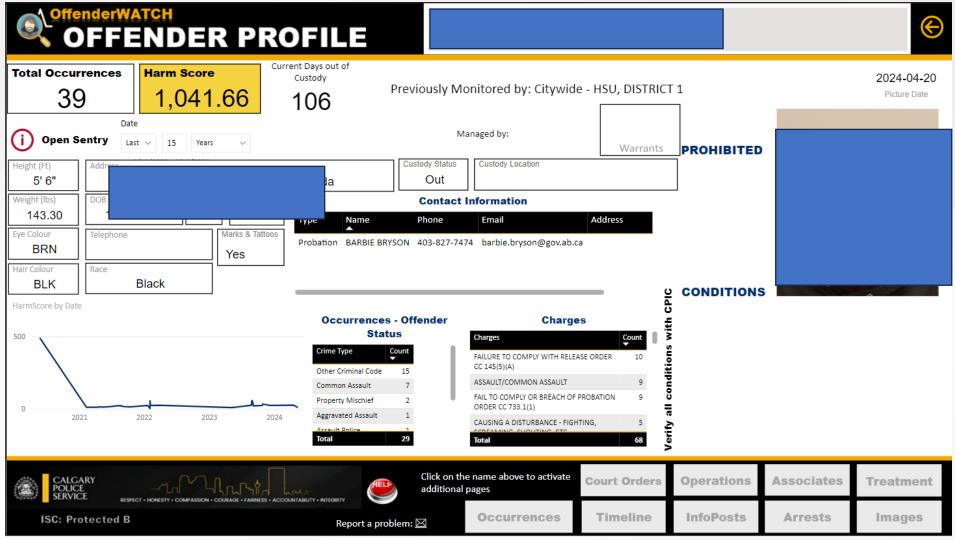






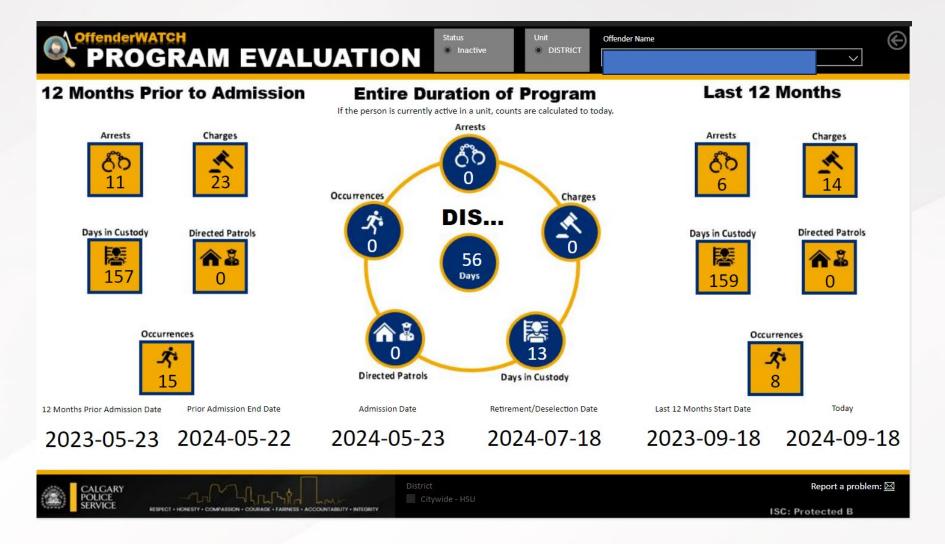


#### Offender Profile – MJ

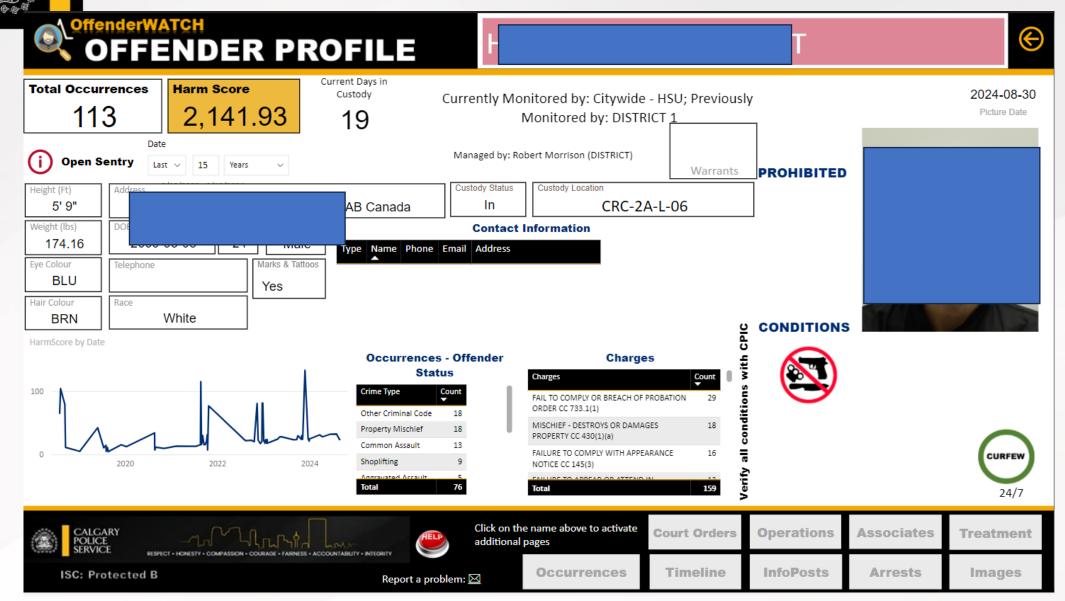




#### Offender Evaluation— MJ

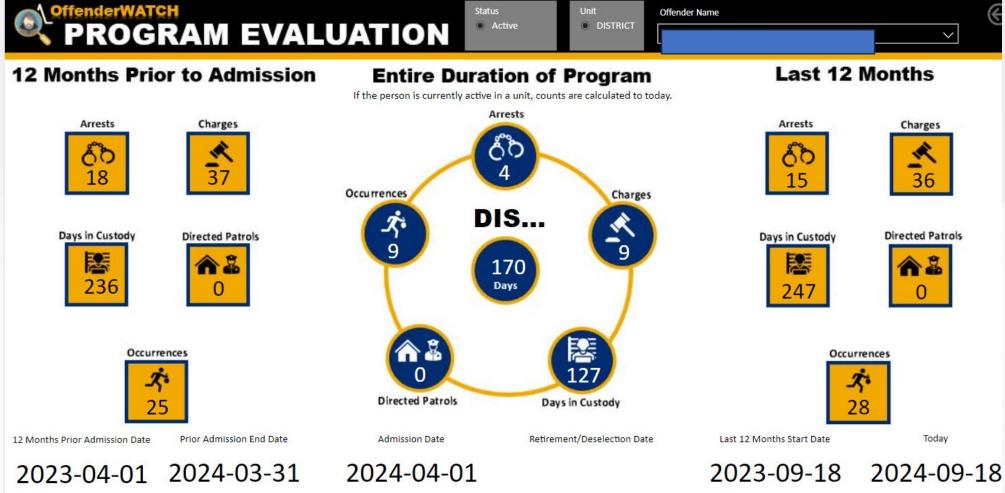


#### Offender Profile – CH

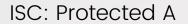




#### Offender Evaluation - CH

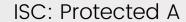








## The Evolution Continues...





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