

Healthy Streets Operation Center/ High Risk Encampment Team

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TIMELINE

August 2023

- CJHR Constitutional Challenge

January 2024

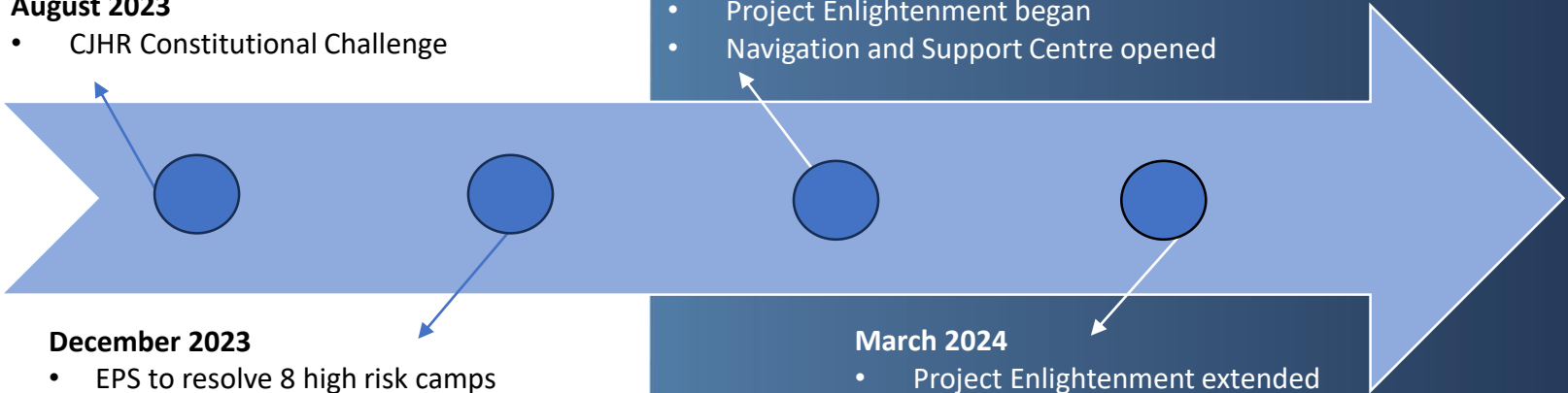
- Rowland road resolution occurs
- Lawsuit against City of Edmonton dismissed
- Project Enlightenment began
- Navigation and Support Centre opened

December 2023

- EPS to resolve 8 high risk camps
- EPS appeared in court regarding proposed injunction.
- CJHR receives Emergency Injunction

March 2024

- Project Enlightenment extended
- Downtown Shelter resolutions started



Constitutional Challenge

- The Coalition for Justice and Human Rights (CJHR) initiated legal action against the City of Edmonton, saying the city's continual displacement of individuals in encampments has placed vulnerable communities in dangerous situations (Aug 31, 2023)
- Lawsuit also seeks Injunction
- In December of 2023, the City of Edmonton planned to clear multiple encampments in Edmonton. When the plan went public, the Coalition for Justice and Human Rights applied to the Court of King's Bench for an emergency injunction.
- Granted Interim Injunction December 18 to January 11



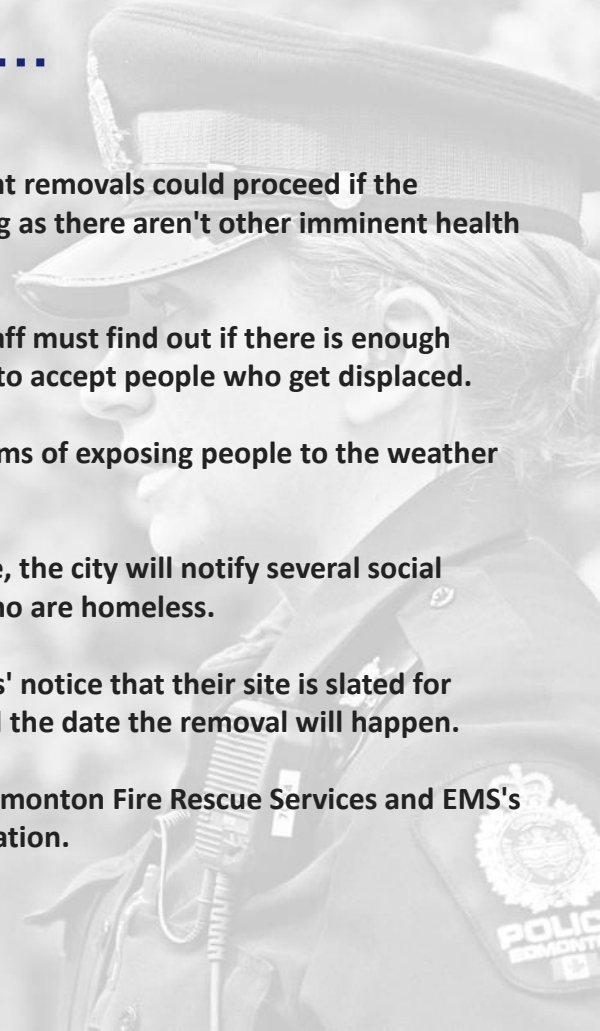
About 100 people gathered outside Edmonton's courthouse on Monday to protest a major sweep of homeless encampments planned by Edmonton police. (Danielle Bedard/CBC)

Constitutional Challenge cont...



The lawyers agreed that the encampment removals could proceed if the following conditions are met, and as long as there aren't other imminent health and safety issues:

- Before clearing a site, police and city staff must find out if there is enough shelter or other indoor spaces available to accept people who get displaced.
- EPS must consider the weather and harms of exposing people to the weather before making a closure decision.
- As soon as a site is identified for closure, the city will notify several social agencies that offer services to people who are homeless.
- Encampment residents will get 48 hours' notice that their site is slated for takedown, including the reason why and the date the removal will happen.
- The other conditions must not affect Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and EMS's ability to intervene and serve this population.



8 High Risk Encampments

Approximately 134 structures for resolution:

- Herb Jamison
- The Bissell Centre
- Hope Mission
- 95 Street and 101A Ave
- 94 Street and 106 Ave, 95 St and 105A Ave
- Dawson and Kinnard Ravines (Rowland Rd)



PROTEST ENCAMPMENTS

Police say samurai swords, machetes found in Edmonton encampment last week



Weapons allegedly found by police in an Edmonton homeless encampment. (Courtesy: Edmonton Police Service)

Rowland RD

<https://globalnews.ca/video/10219378/edmonton-police-make-multiple-arrests-during-rowland-road-encampment-cleanup>

U Of A

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAw15TjUoI>

Dawson Damage

<https://epsnet/NewsAndEvents/Articles/2024/March/DawsonEncampment>



PROTEST ENCAMPMENTS



Successes

- On January 17, 2024, the EPS in partnership with the GOA, CoE, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) initiated the resolution of encampments after the Injunction court decision favored the City of Edmonton
- Project Enlightenment created
- With the ever-increasing number of encampments, specifically encampments that are deemed high risk, coupled with the exponentially increasing incidents of death, violence, victimization, fire, and property crime, the Province of Alberta has committed to assisting the CoE and EPS in managing encampments.
- The EPS has requested the assistance of Edmonton Fire Rescue Services (EFRS) to assist not only in a supportive capacity but one of a lead agency through the utilization of the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The EOC will be activated by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) within EFRS to provide strategic support, coordination and oversight to operational entities and partner agencies during encampment dismantling.
- https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/emergency_preparedness/office-of-emergency-management

Alberta government announces 'navigation and support centre' for homeless Edmontonians

It offers services and supports such as:

- Food, clothes and showers available
- Shelter/ Housing Navigation—Hope Mission
- Radius Health and their mobile unit
- AHS Community Health—paramedics and mobile unit
- AHS mental health and Addiction—access to Opioid
- Dependency Clinic and Virtual Opioid Dependency Program
- Indigenous cultural supports—Treaty Six Confederation
- Animal Rescue
- Hope Mission will provide transportation to offsite services.
- Alberta Registries – on-site government identification services



Navigation Centre Visitors

Total Visitors: 5124



Unique Visitors: 2957

HIGH RISK ENCAMPMENT TEAM (HRET)

Below is our accepted definition of an encampment. It helps reinforce our argument that encampments do not meet minimum health standards.:

“An encampment consists of at least one temporary structure, such as a tent or make-shift structure, which occupies a public or private place where the occupant(s) did not make any agreement with the property owner to erect said structure at that location. Typically, the structures within the encampments do not meet the minimum conditions which are essential to good health which make the encampment safe, sanitary and fit for human habitation by legislated health standards.”

Sgt. Serge Soucy

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Unit Structure

Pre-2024

- Mon-Thurs 2 EPS Members/one CoE Ranger
- 20 City Ops cleaning staff
- 2 week notice on any closures except school playgrounds
- Clean-ups took significantly longer



Project Enlightenment Deployment Structure

Post 2024 (Project Enlightenment start)

- 4 on/4off 4 EPS/2 City Rangers making up 2 teams
 - Soon realized that 3rd team required for strictly downtown shelter areas
- 20 Cleaning staff per day/double on Mondays
- Daily support from Alberta Sheriffs, EFRS, EMS, EPS HELP, EOC
- All encampments on public land deemed high-risk and resolved same-day
- Occupants offered supports through Nav Center and immediate transport
- Provided an opportunity to gather belongings before site is closed
- Cleaned up by City Ops Crews

PARTNERSHIPS

- City of Edmonton Office of Emergency Management
 - Coordinated command with all involved agencies
 - EPS, Peace Officers, Procurement, Mapping, EFRS, Sheriffs, Operations Chief, Director, Logistics
 - Operates out of the Emergency Operations Center in downtown Edmonton
 - Functions under ICS Command Structure
 - Multiple daily meetings to address operational needs, equipment, resources, challenges
 - Strong problem-solving culture



PARTNERSHIPS

- Edmonton Police Service
 - Initially had members members from:
 - High Risk Encampment Team (HRET)
 - Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC)
 - Human-centered Engagement and Liaison Partnership Unit (HELP)
 - Ensure safety of City Ops and Rangers at resolutions
 - Liaise with EPS Patrol requests for cleaning crews
 - RPAS Deployments
 - Coordinate transports of occupants to the Navigation Center if requested
 -



PARTNERSHIPS

- City of Edmonton Park Rangers
 - Coordinate sites to be cleaned
 - Knowledge of all applicable bylaws
 - Familiar with parks/geography
 - Access to ARC GIS mapping system
 - Public reporting on 311
 - Data tracking
 - Access to equipment
 - RPAS Ops
 - Coordinate CoE Cleaning Crews



PARTNERSHIPS

- City of Edmonton Cleaning Crews (City Operations)
 - 20 crew per day, 7 days a week with Monday as overlapping with 40 crew members
 - Responsible for cleaning up encampments, active and abandoned
 - Access to equipment (compactors, pickers, dumper dogs, side by side, winch and Burnco bags)
 - Deal with bio waste, hazardous materials, explosive materials



PARTNERSHIPS

- Alberta Sheriffs
 - Social Presence
 - Force multiplier
 - Perimeter control
 - Transport of arrests
- Edmonton Fire Rescue Service
 - Assess explosive/fire materials
 - Seize and safely remove materials



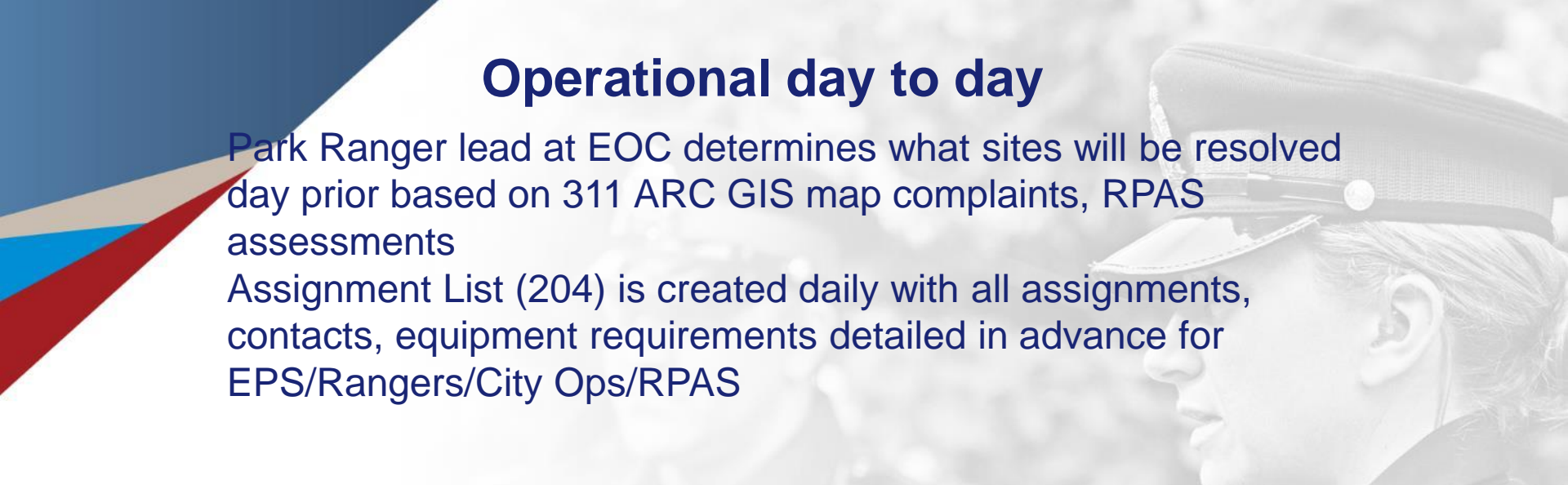
Operational day to day

Park Ranger lead at EOC determines what sites will be resolved day prior based on 311 ARC GIS map complaints, RPAS assessments

Assignment List (204) is created daily with all assignments, contacts, equipment requirements detailed in advance for EPS/Rangers/City Ops/RPAS

- 2 Resolution Teams (2 EPS/1 Ranger) and City Ops (10 crew/4 trucks plus equipment)
- Downtown shelter resolution team 1/6 EPS and City Ops (10 crew/4 trucks plus equipment)
- RPAS on select days (1 EPS/2 Rangers)

pic.x.com/wec6v6inrx



Edmonton		Assignment List (ICS 204)	
1. Incident Name: Operation Enlightenment		2. Operational Period: July 24, 2024	
3. Branch: Office of Emergency Management		4. Operations Personnel: Tom Bechtel	
Operations Section Chief		Name / Contact Number	
5. Resources Assigned:		Reporting Location, Special Equipment & Supplies, Remarks, Notes, Information	
Resource Identifier		Leader / Contact Number	
Team One - Downtown			
ECS - Support			
Cleaning			
Team Two:			
EPS - Support			
Cleaning			
Ranger			
Team Three:			
Cleaning			
EPS			
Ranger			
Air Operations Branch			
Branch Director			
Pilot 1			
Pilot 2			
Pilot 3			
Aired Helix Pilot			
Resource Team:			
EOC - CA Pilots			
Trails			
Assessment (change)			
Specialist - Mapping			
Assessment (EPS)			
EPS Navigation - Centre			
6. Work Assignments:			
Director: verify 1 truck and 1 off regardless of site status			
Assistant: confirm the status and 1 on site			
Director: make to check in with assessment; EPS before meeting by the Registrar			

Operational day to day

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System RPAS

DJI Matrice 30T

- 200 x zoom, thermal, laser range finder
- 40 min flight time
- All weather capable
- 7000 meter ceiling



DJI Mavic 3T Enterprise

- 56 x zoom, thermal
- 45 min flight time
- High volume loud hailer
- 4000 meter ceiling



Both have transmission distance of 2 – 15 kilometers, downlink video streaming and geo-mapping using DJI Flight Hub

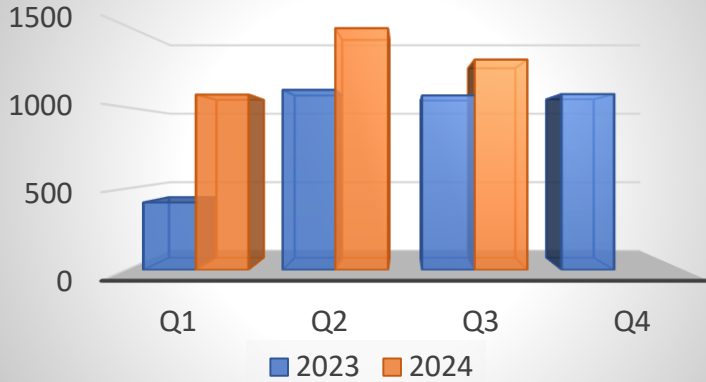


Statistics as of Sept 9th

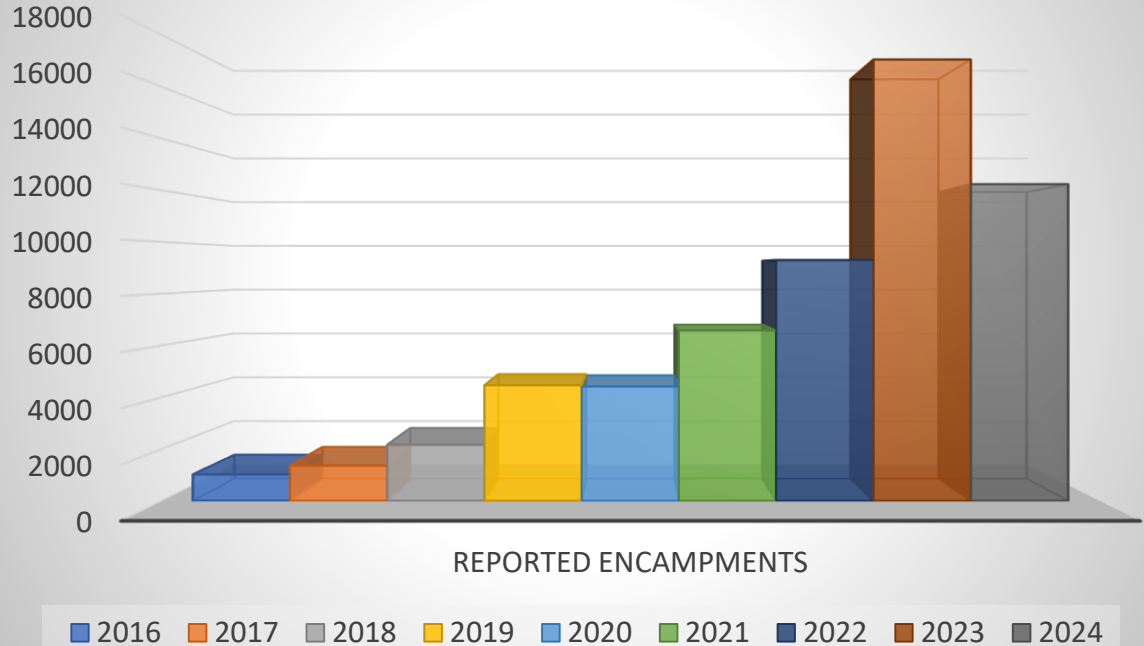
Encampments Resolved	3819
Approx Bags of Trash Removed	212,764
Shopping Carts Recovered	3963
Needles Recovered	21,177
Dumper Dog Truck Loads	5256
Propane Tanks	2197
Approx Weight of Materials	1,167,244 kg



Structures Resolved



Reported Encampments to 311

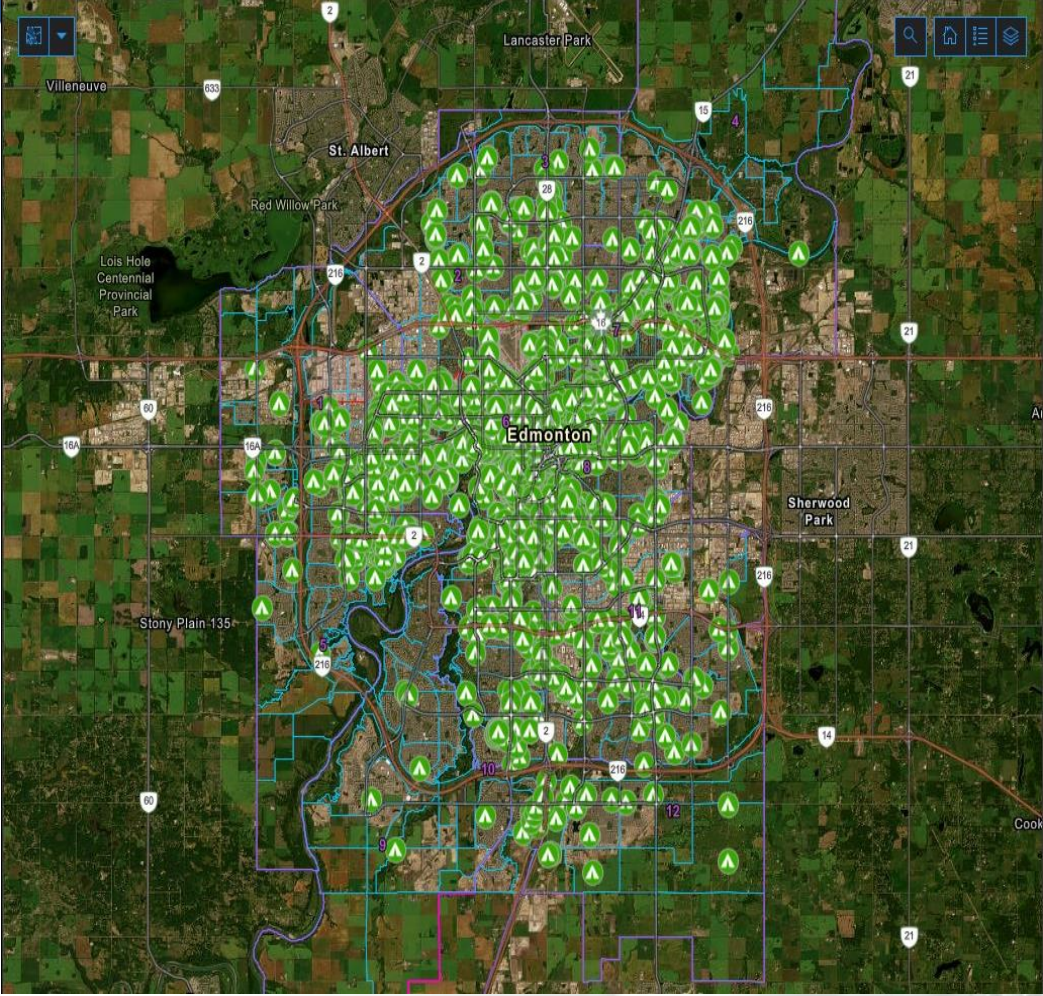


Current State

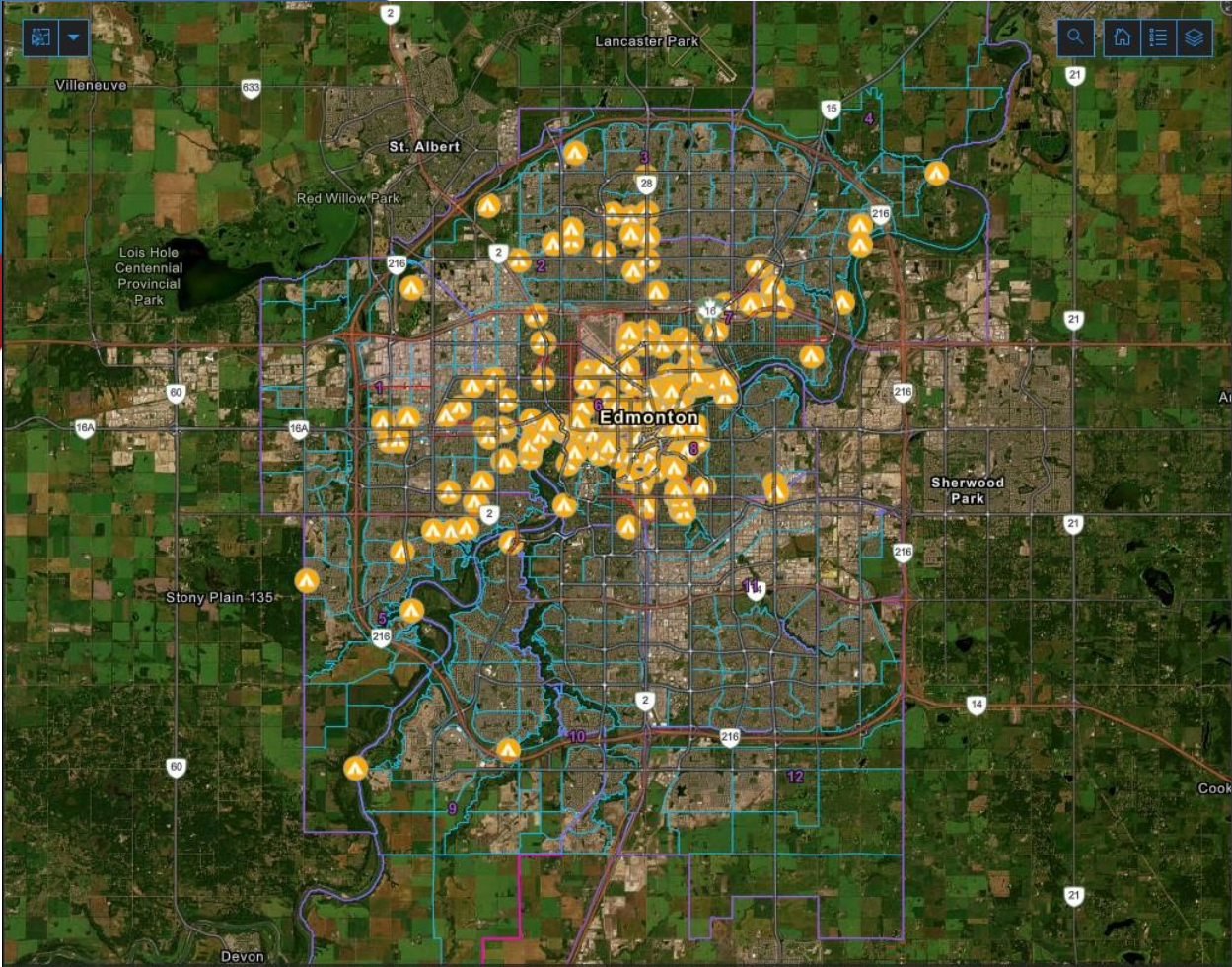
- EOC Operations Center stood down as of Sept. 1
- Command transferred to CoE with EPS in support
- CoE Rangers continue to create/distribute 204
- No change in day-to-day ops for the most part
 - o Important to remain focused on tasks
 - o Avoid interference from outside influences
- RPAS slowed until tree canopy drops
- Influx of community members from outside CoE
- Possibility of resources being leached to other hot topic projects



ARCGIS Ranger Map



ARCGIS Ranger Map



Awaiting Investigation

218

Last update: a few seconds ago

Camps Investigated

0

Non-duplicate Complaints

Last update: a few seconds ago

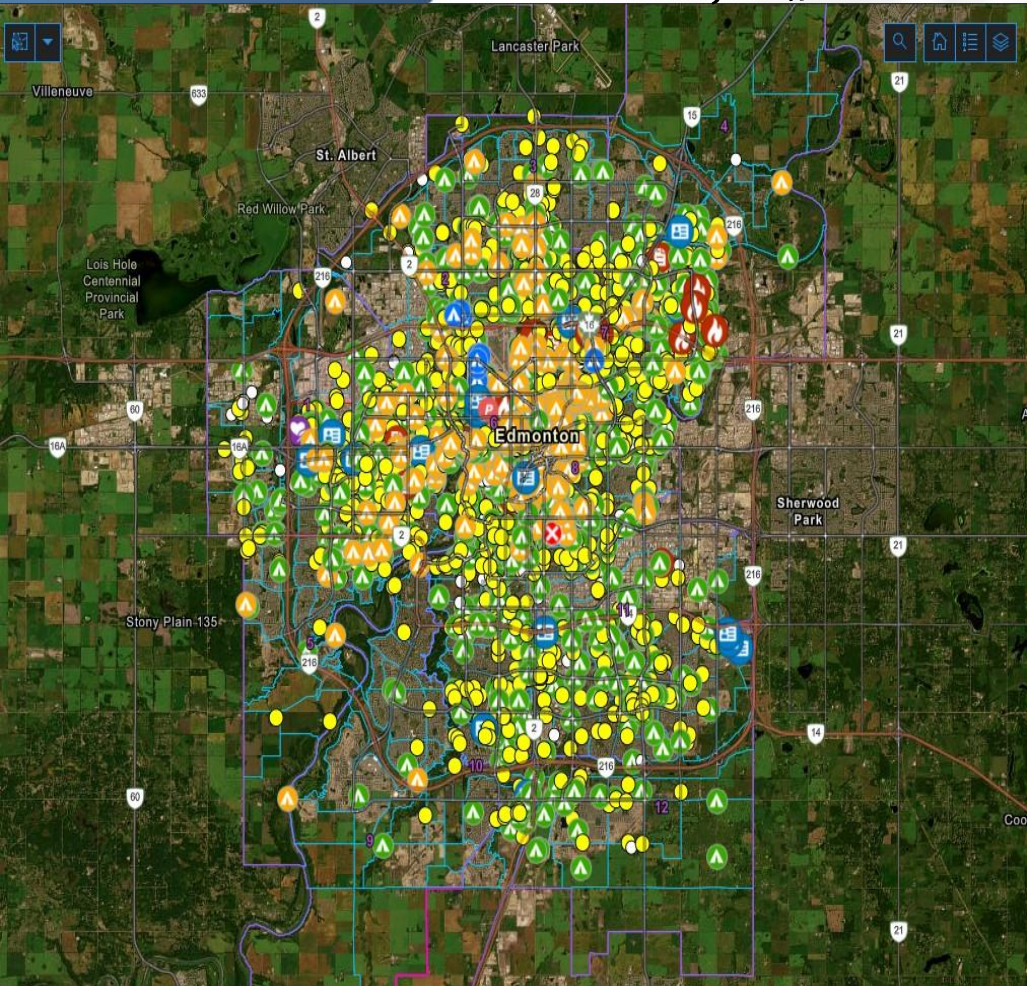
ALL GOA MEO

Removal

0



ARCGIS Ranger Map



Awaiting Investigation

217

Last update: a few seconds ago

Complaints Received

11643

Last update: a few seconds ago

Camps Investigated

4,490

Last update: a few seconds ago

Camps Currently Investigating

12

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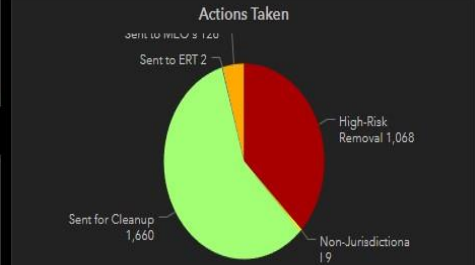
Non-duplicate Complaints

ALL GOA MEO

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Removal

1,648



*Data capture of sent for cleanup started Jan 1, 2023

*Data capture for ERT/High-Risk started Jan 1, 2023

Last update: a few seconds ago

Need a break?

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Healthy Streets Operation Centre

Creating Safer Communities with
Multidisciplinary Community Safety Teams

A/Sgt. Kevin Lorette



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Accused in Chinatown homicides was dropped off in Edmonton by RCMP 3 days before killings

Bail conditions prohibited Justin Bone from being in city unsupervised

 Wallis Snowdon · CBC News · Posted: Jun 10, 2022 5:00 AM MDT | Last Updated: June 10, 2022



Days before Hung Trang and Ban Phuc Hoang were fatally beaten in Edmonton's Chinatown, Justin Bone — now accused in both homicides — was dropped off in the city by RCMP officers. (Gabriela Panza-Beltrandi/CBC)

- Perception of safety is generally used as a way to measure fear of crime. Statistics Canada defines fear of crime as "the fear, rather than the actual likelihood, of being a victim of crime". - TCG

How did it begin?

Edmonton police lay murder charges in 2 Chinatown deaths

 By Karen Bartko · Global News
Posted May 20, 2022 5:06 pm · Updated May 20, 2022 5:53 pm · 2 min read



The owner of an autobody shop in Edmonton's Chinatown neighbourhood is devastated after an employee who was with him from the start of his 33-year-old business was fatally attacked Wednesday. As Nicole Stillger reports, business owners in the area says something needs to change — May 20, 2022

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Re-Imaging Community Safety

- Complex Community Safety Challenges within historically known areas of concern.
- Magnified by Covid–19 Pandemic.
- Increase in severity of crime, disorder concerns and community safety with Chinatown and Downtown areas.

May 2022 - Project Connection is born

- **Resources shuffled.**
- **EPS launches Project Connection.**
- **Began as a scaled response.**

Multidisciplinary Approach to Solutions: Partner Organizations

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Separate and distinct legislated
authorities



Various community safety
solutions

Evidence Based – Data Driven Solutions

- Use of evidence based methodology for problem solving.
- Geographical focus on high crime, high disorder locations.
- Support and collaboration internally within EPS and externally with partner organizations.

Community Safety Zones



October 2022, HSOC is stood up..

Healthy Streets Operations Centre

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BURGESS

SHERIFF



Healthy Streets Operations Centre - Community Safety Team Framework

Edmonton Police Service

16 FTE

Team 1
1 – Sergeant
8 – Constables

Team 2
1 – Sergeant
8 – Constables

City of Edmonton

TBD - 20 FTE

2 – Supervisor
8 – CPO

2 – NET

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services

TBD - 3 FTE

1 – Fire Investigator

1 – Fire Fighter

1- Data Analyst

Alberta Health Services EMS

TBD - 2 FTE

2 – Advanced Care Paramedic

As Needed Considerations

RESOURCES:

- HELP
- WADU
- GST
- Youth Diversion

Potential Future Partners:

- Government of Alberta
- Bent Arrow
- Homeward Trust
- Additional Social Service Agencies

PARTNERS:

- Navigator
- Recovery Coaches
- ERT Table
- VOPD
- Outreach

Coverage

Requirement: 2 Teams - Rotating Schedule
Monday to Thursday – 0700 hrs - 1700 hrs
Tuesday to Friday – 1400 hrs - 0000 hrs

Communication Strategy

What are We Trying to Solve?

Reduce Harm:

- Illegal Encampments
- Crime - Severity / Harm
- Drug Poisonings
- Mental Health & Addictions

Focus on:

- Trends & Series
- Problem Locations
- Predatory Behavior
- Social Disorder
- Low Perceptions of Safety

Bissell Video November 2022

Credits: Drone Pilot Cst. McFarlane HRET

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Healthy Streets Operations Centre was first on the scene of a propane tank explosion in the area of 105A Avenue and 96 Street on Dec. 13, 2022. PHOTO BY SUPPLIED

Sheriffs will join EPS on patrols in downtown Edmonton

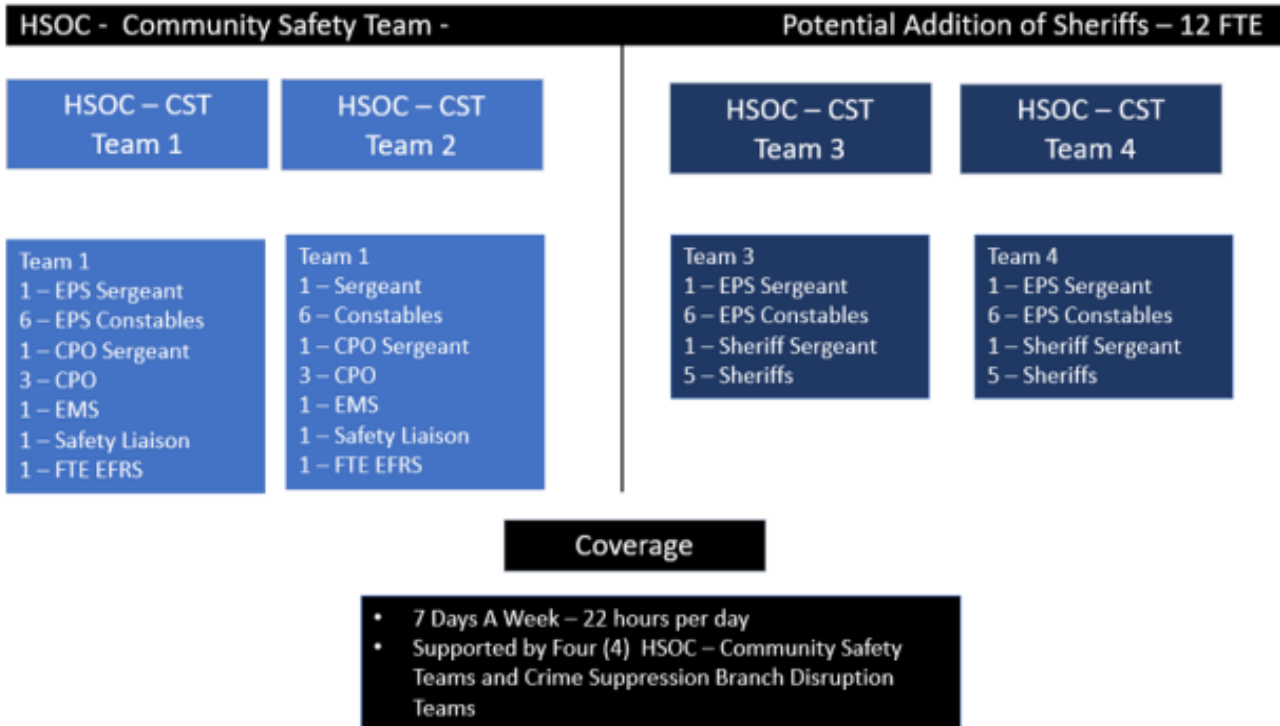
February 1st, 2023

A dozen Alberta Sheriff's are being deployed to Edmonton's Downtown in an effort to improve public safety, the city's Public Safety and Community Response Task Force announced Wednesday. The 15-week pilot partnership between the Alberta sheriffs and the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) will launch later this month to better deter and respond to crime and social disorder, said the group, headed by Alberta's Public Safety and Emergency Services Minister Mike Ellis. *Source — Edmonton Journal*

HON. MIKE ELLIS

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Expansion Feb 2023 – end of Dec 2023 – Structure for Deployment explained



Deployment / Day to Day

- **Proactive checks of hot-spot locations**
- **Investigate any on-view or dispatched crimes / calls**
- **Responding to:**
 - **in-progress disorder calls for service in assigned area**
 - **opioid Poisonings with AHS ACP partners**
 - **critical violence-related calls for service where EMS partners can assist with a quick response (no need to stage)**
- **Conducting proactive patrols with Community Peace Officers**
- **Meet with community members, community leagues and stakeholders**
- **Attend events along with Community Safety Liaison's from Neighborhood Empowerment Team**
- **Attend Residential Inspection Safety Compliance inspections of derelict properties**

Proactive Drug Work

- HSOC members have conducted ongoing Proactive street-level drug-trafficking investigations since 2023.
- Using a combination of plain clothes members in covert assets and uniformed members in marked vehicles, numerous arrests of overt drug traffickers made possible





Numerous Convenience Store
Investigations conducted

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Challenges – Internal

- Creating new Team from ground up
- Direction, Roles & Responsibilities
- Competing interests unions/associations
- Shift hygiene
- Access to equipment / vehicles

Challenges - External

- Complaints on proactive work: Volume of resources seen together
- Concept well received by partners however challenges with allocation of resources during implementation process
- Critics and Public perception of law enforcement leading initiative
- Stakeholders wanting immediate results

HSOC Goals

HSOC is aiming to reach the following final outcomes.

- Reduced criminality and victimization in the area
- Community members feel more safe living, working and being in the area
- Increased health and wellness for people living in the area

Results - Outcomes

- From March 2024 to May 2024:
 - Opioid related Emergency Medical Services events decreased from 127.9 to 99 per month
 - 96 people connected with resources or agencies to improve conditions in their neighbourhood
 - Provided educational sessions to 338 people
 - Ambulances deferred at a rate of 40 per month
 - Average of 433 people per month diverted to shelter or referred to community partners for services
- Information suggests HSOC saving both lives and resources

Thank you.

Questions?



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