



**Summer Report to the City of New Westminster**

*July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019*

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Chief Constables Message



It is my pleasure to present to you our first ever report of this kind that will highlight some of the activities of the New Westminster Police Department over the summer of 2019.

Summer in New Westminster is an exciting time for the NWPD as it allows us an even greater opportunity to engage with the community at the numerous festivals and events. This summer was no different as the NWPD supported a number of community-focused initiatives including the Pulling Together Canoe Journey, the New West Pride Street Festival, Columbia StrEAT food truck fest, New West Grand Prix, and the Multicultural Festival to name but a few. The NWPD was also extremely proud to run our 39<sup>th</sup> summer soccer school that saw over 300 children take part.

This summer also saw our operational and support units engaged in several high priority files as well as participating in an Instagram live ride-a-long.

Internally, the NWPD initiated some new programs to further engage staff. These initiatives included Candid Coffee, the initiation of a dedicated wellness officer, and continued use of videos and online communications from my office to all staff updating them on the issues and programs that impact their workplace.

As we move into the fall we are looking forward to further engaging both internally through in-person meetings, video messaging and a Candid Coffee that will include the Police board, as well as externally with continued work towards the creation of a Chiefs Council and the ongoing efforts on our next strategic plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Jones'. The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

### Emerging Trends & Concerns

Staffing challenges continue to have an impact on many areas of the department.

Police recruitment continues to be an important activity within the NWPD and future trends are signalling that even more attention is required to keep us well positioned in hiring the best candidates available.

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### Number of Dispatched Calls

	Priority 1		Priority 2		Priority 3		Priority 4		Grand Totals	
	July-Aug 2019	July-Aug 2018	July-Aug 2019	July-Aug 2018	July-Aug 2019	July-Aug 2018	July-Aug 2019	July-Aug 2018	July-Aug 2019	July-Aug 2018
New Westminster	371	380	742	812	1574	1839	683	722	3370	3753
Outside Jurisdiction	2	0	2	2	3	12	12	8	19	22
Grand Total	373	380	744	814	1577	1851	695	730	3389	3775

### Top 5 Call Types – Calls for Service (All)

Top 5 Call Types	July-Aug 2019	Rank	Top 5 Call Types	July-Aug 2018	Rank
Assist general public	325	1	Assist general public	332	1
Theft	235	2	Theft	326	2
Property	212	3	Suspicious Circumstances	261	3
Disturbance	205	4	Alarm False	244	4
Suspicious Circumstances	186	5	Unwanted Person	220	5
Grand Total	1,163		Total Top 5	1,383	

## Summary of Key Meetings and Community Events



New Westminster Police has a long tradition of working with other city departments and our varied community stakeholders in the planning and attendance at city events. This past summer was a very busy time for events in the City of New Westminster. Highlights included:

- Farmer's Markets run from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup> on Thursdays and are located at 4<sup>th</sup> Street/Tipperary Park.
- The New West Artisan Market is on Saturdays from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Nagar Kirtan (Khalsa Diwan Society took place June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Queensborough Community Centre.)
- On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Canada Day at Queen's Park, the New West Multicultural Fest, Canada Day fireworks all took place in Queen's Park and around the Pier Park, Boardwalk River Market area.
- Fridays on Front took place from July 5<sup>th</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 600 Front Street.
- On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the New West Grand Prix took place in the downtown area.
- The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual NWPD Soccer School took place July 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> at Queen's Park Stadium. Several police officers and volunteers take part in this event. Approximately 370 children aged 5-10 participated and it continues to be one of the most successful events of the year.
- On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Uptown Live took place in the Uptown area.
- On July 27<sup>th</sup>, the StrEAT Truck Festival took place in the downtown area.
- On July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Canada Skateboard Pacific Open took place in Queen's Park.
- On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Carnawest Brazilian Festival took place at Westminster Pier Park.
- On August 17<sup>th</sup>, the New West Pride Street Party took place in the downtown area.

## Highlights: Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is comprised of two components; the Criminal Investigation Section and the Professional Standards Unit.

The Criminal Investigation Section consists of four separate units; the Major Crime Unit, the Street Crime Unit, the Forensic Identification Service, and the Criminal Intelligence Unit. The Section has two civilians who provide electronic file disclosure assistance to the investigators.

## Criminal Investigation Section

Over the past two months, the Criminal Investigation Section has been busy with a wide range of new and active investigations. One that is most noteworthy was an attempted murder investigation that occurred in the 400 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street in July. Patrol members responded to a complaint of shots fired, where they located a victim. The suspects had fled the area prior to members arriving. The Criminal Investigation Section assumed the lead role in the investigation,



where all four units worked diligently and collaboratively to swiftly identify and apprehend the outstanding suspects. Charges of Attempt to Commit Murder (using a firearm and under the benefit/direction/association of a criminal organization), Discharging a firearm with intent, and Possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Firearm with Ammunition were approved by Crown Counsel. The matter is still before the courts.

## Street Crime

The Street Crime Unit has continued their efforts to combat the fentanyl and opioid crisis in New Westminster and surrounding areas. Their most recent project, that wrapped in May with the arrest of two suspects and the seizure of drugs, money and offence related property, is nearing completion for disclosure to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. In the meantime, the vehicle utilized by the suspects to facilitate the sale of their product was turned over to the Civil Forfeiture Office of BC as offence related property. The Street Crime Unit also assisted the Crime Reduction Unit and Major Crime Unit with the seizure and forfeiture of four vehicles and cash with a value in excess of \$33,000. To date in 2019, the Street Crime Unit has seized assets related to criminal activity in excess of \$6.8 million that has been turned for the Civil Forfeiture Office of BC.

The Forensic Identification Service had 97 calls for service that resulting in 16 criminal identifications through finger and palm prints examinations and three through DNA matches.

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## Highlights: Patrol Division

The New Westminster Police Department Patrol Division consists of four Patrol Watches, A, B, C and D. At full staffing levels, each watch would include a Staff Sergeant, Sergeant, Corporal and 10 Constables. Patrol Division also includes the Crime Reduction Unit (“CRU”) and the Traffic Section. There is a Staff Sergeant in charge of CRU who, as part of their duties, is responsible for planning and resourcing all community events in conjunction with city staff and our community partners. Under the patrol umbrella there are also the Marine Unit and the Collision Analyst and Reconstruction Team (“CART”).

Our statistics show that in July and August, we have seen higher than average numbers of break and enters, particularly to business compounds and construction sites. Auto crimes (both theft of autos and theft from autos) are lower than expected and have decreased considerably in comparison to prior months. Over the summer, New Westminster and surrounding jurisdictions have seen a significant increase in catalytic converter thefts.



Patrol members were very busy over the summer months and attended calls which included a suicidal male with a knife who barricaded himself in his bedroom. The Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team was engaged but prior to their arrival, the male left his suite, a struggle ensued and members were able to restrain him and he was subsequently arrested under the Mental Health Act and taken to the Royal Columbian Hospital.

Patrol responded to several mental health related calls and there were several Mental Health apprehensions under Section 28 of the Mental Health Act. There were an increase in Assault Police Officer charges being submitted and several missing person reports being investigated.

Patrol assisted at the courthouse when it was reported that a male had a gun in his possession. Members located the male and a search did not reveal a firearm. A further search of his vehicle, which was parked in the courthouse underground, resulted in locating a loaded firearm. Multiple firearms related charges have been approved by Crown counsel.

## Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit were busy over the summer months targeting trucks off truck route, distracted driving, and addressing any traffic complaints that they receive from the public. The Traffic Unit launched the e-ticketing pilot project in July. This is a provincial program that has violation ticket



printers in police vehicles that will print out tickets roadside. The tickets are then immediately uploaded to the province. This is a very efficient system and there is no paperwork for the member to hand in nor any administrative processing on our end. This will also increase accuracy and efficiency. Two of the e-ticketing printers were installed in police vehicles and the Traffic Unit monitored the program over July and August. The Traffic Unit will then be conducting training for Patrol Division in the fall.



Traffic and commercial vehicle inspection special constables took part in several events in July including Canada Day celebrations, Cops for Cancer fundraisers, the Ride for the Kids, the New West Grand Prix, and the NWPD Soccer School.

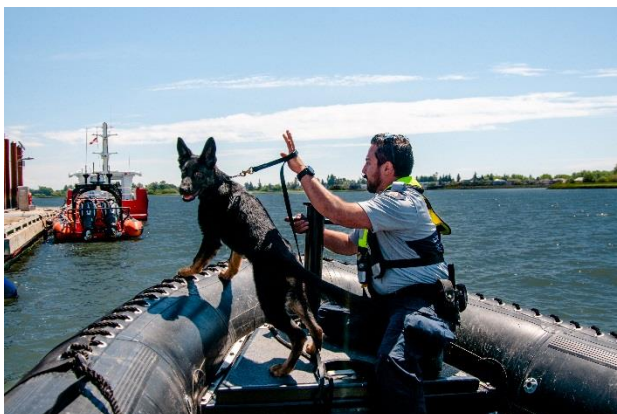
Traffic Unit members, in collaboration with Parking Services and the Strategic Communications Team, produced a back to school traffic safety video that was released to the public, including all school principals in New Westminster. In addition, the Traffic Unit has planned a good driver rewards campaign for early September. The rewards campaign is for drivers who are complying with the posted speed limit and other traffic related offences. The drivers are being pulled over and “thanked” for their compliance and rewarded with a \$10 Starbucks Gift Card. This has been very well received by the public.

The Commercial Vehicle Unit participated in a three day joint vehicle check on the New Westminster/Burnaby border which resulted in numerous violations.

ICBC funded CounterAttack roadblocks took place throughout the summer where several members worked designated nights to target impaired drivers.

## Marine Unit

Members of the Marine Unit worked in partnership with New Westminster Bylaws, VPD Marine Unit, and the Vancouver Port Authority to safely remove derelict boats that were tied up to a dock off South Dyke Road. The boat was utilized for training with the Lower Mainland Integrated K9 Service and also for demonstrations for the New Westminster Police Student Police Academy.





After receiving a request from the Vancouver Police Department, the Marine Unit attended at the Vancouver Celebration of Lights to assist with enforcement and management of all the additional water craft attending for the fireworks. The Marine Unit also assisted the Delta Police Department with body recovery, assisted Ridge Meadows RCMP with a vessel in distress, and assisted a person in crisis on the Queensborough Bridge.

### **Crime Reduction Team (CRU)**

During July and August, CRU adjusted their schedule numerous times to assist for events around the city, specifically, the Canada Day fireworks and the New West Grand Prix. Due to requests from the Major Crime Unit and Street Crime Unit, CRU adjusted to assist with various tasks on an attempted murder/shooting file and multiple surveillance days.

Members of CRU conducted concentrated patrols, both in uniform, on bikes, and in plainclothes in Pier Park as there had been an increase in calls for service in June coinciding with the start of summer. CRU members spoke with the parks department with the view to find a solution to curb members of the public drinking in the park after hours. Proactive measures like noise beacons (called mosquito boxes), chain fences, signage, and a hired security company assisted in the deterring of negative behavior and drinking alcohol creating a safer environment in compliance with city bylaws.

CRU members provided a uniformed presence and were deployed on bikes and in uniform making constant patrols throughout Queen's Park during the annual NWPD Soccer School.

CRU continues to perform high-visibility patrols, street checks, and enforcement throughout the city with particular attention to Moody Park, Hyack Square, and the Brow of the Hill areas.

This month, CRU has initiated several separate files for drug trafficking. This yielded a seizure of vehicles, cash, and a significant amount of cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, and fentanyl. CRU will be working directly with the RCMP Civil Forfeiture Unit to process the seized assets. Several charges are pending.

### **Highlights: Prevention Services & Administration Division**

There have been several important staffing changes in the months of July and August within Prevention Services. Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) Coordinator Vanessa Viggiani left the NWPD to pursue educational aspirations, Bailey Keeler who joined the NWPD VAU in April 2017 as a caseworker was the successful applicant to the coordinator position. Crime Prevention Coordinator Jenniffer Sanford resigned from the NWPD Crime Prevention Unit and her position remains vacant while a search is underway for a new coordinator.

The Child and Youth Resource Unit worked with the Crime Prevention Unit on two popular and long-running community programs hosted by the NRPD: the NRPD Soccer School and Student Police Academy. Both programs were at full capacity. Feedback from the community was exceptional for both initiatives. All Prevention Services personnel (both sworn and civilian) attended a number of community events staffing information booths, providing logistical and security supports, and most importantly community engagement to strengthen the bond between community and police relations. A large part of this came from our volunteers who contributed a combined total of 1087 hours of service for July and August. Events attended were:



- Canada Day at Queen’s Park & the New West Multicultural Festival,
- Music by the River,
- Friday’s on Front Street,
- New West Grand Prix,
- Uptown Live,
- StreEAT Truck Festival,
- Canada Skateboard Pacific Open,
- Carnawest Brazilian Festival, and
- New West Pride Street Party

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) with two specialized detectives and four trained Family Services of Greater Vancouver counsellors continued to investigate and assist Patrol Division with a number of criminal investigations into power-based crimes (sex assault and domestic violence). Family Services of Greater Vancouver remains a dedicated partner and had managed to secure funding for a specialized sex assault counsellor embedded in the SIU. Unfortunately future funding of the counsellor was not successful and as of October 31, 2019, the SIU will be without that specialized and needed support.

The Strategic Communications Team continue to publish unique and captivating content which has resulted in residents getting valuable information and updates on local crime. Summer campaigns included: back to school safety, volunteering and employment opportunities, and opportunities for public engagement surrounding our new strategic plan (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit). Initiatives of note included an Instagram live ride-along, Instagram stories

highlighting the new Law Enforcement Applicant Development (L.E.A.D.) Program for youth, and a video collaboration between Carol Todd and the Child and Youth Resource Unit.

Police recruitment continues to be an important activity within the NWPD and future trends are signalling that even more attention is required to keep us well positioned in hiring the best candidates available. It is anticipated that competition for recruitment of new constables within the Metro-Vancouver area will ramp up in 2020 and beyond. The NWPD continues to strategize ways in reaching out to police applicants in previously under-represented communities and looking creatively towards ways in which this can be accomplished.

