



## REPORT TO THE POLICE SERVICE BOARD

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Author: Inspector Dave Mason

Date of Report: 4/3/2024

Type of Report: Public

Title: 2024 Community Policing

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board finds that all the provisions of the Community Policing Ends Policy have been complied with.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy “Community Policing” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true. I report compliance to all provisions of this policy.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Board Policy Statement:**

*The mission, philosophy and values of the Durham Regional Police Service emphasize the importance of working in partnership with citizens / communities. Working in collaboration with community partners fosters trust and confidence in the police.*

*It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that police services in Durham Region shall be delivered in partnership with communities and citizens to proactively address and resolve community problems. These partnerships will focus on the root causes of crime, aim to reduce fear of crime, and maintain and enhance high levels of community safety.*

#### **Reporting**

*An assessment of community policing in Durham Region shall rely upon quantitative and qualitative analyses of relevant data, information, and public input.*

#### **Interpretation of the Chief of Police:**

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Community Policing relates to Section 1, principle 3 of the Police Services Act, 1990 – Principle #3 identifies “The need for co-operation between the providers of police services and the communities they serve”.

Community policing and its basic principles of a shared responsibility for safe and healthy communities, through an informed and engaged citizenry, is at the core of everything we do at the Durham Regional

Police Service (DRPS). This philosophy is based on the legislative requirements of the Police Services Act, the adoption of the OACP's Community Engagement and Mobilization Model<sup>1</sup>, and reinforced in the Police Services Board's Business Plan, which directs the DRPS to Deliver Community Safety through Collaboration.

As a police service, we recognize the benefits of a community policing approach in helping us prevent and investigate crime. We aim to work closely with each community and its members to ensure that Durham Region is the safest community to live, work, and play. We have instilled an evidence-based proactive policing model to address not only the fear of crime, but also the root causes of crime.

This report will highlight a selection of examples that demonstrate how a community policing approach and its emphasis on cooperative, collaborative, and trusting relationships is threaded through the work that we do every day, in every unit, and across the communities we serve.

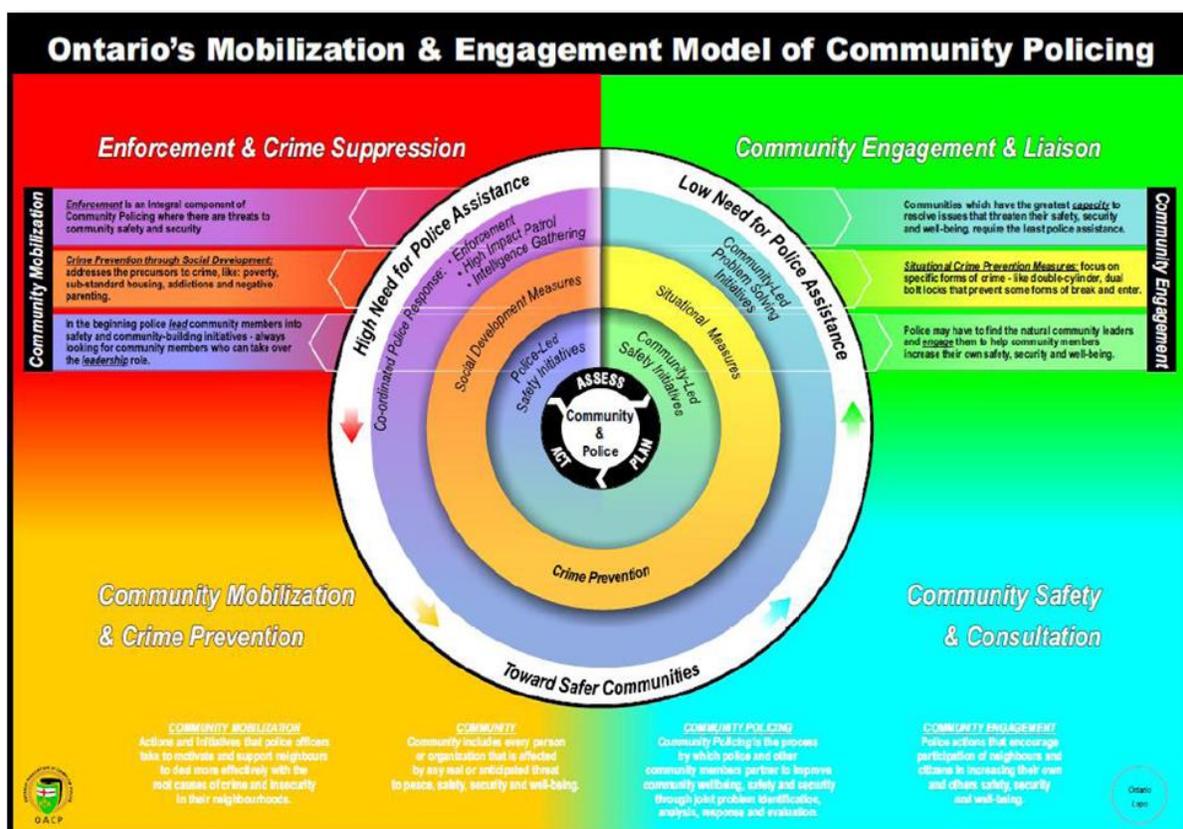


Figure 1

<sup>1</sup> Figure 1.

## EQUITY & INCLUSION UNIT

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) Equity & Inclusion (EI) Unit (@DRPSDiversity) is a centralized branch that leads Service-wide efforts toward a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive police service. The EI Unit's mandate is to provide strategic direction, advance core activities, and embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles throughout the organization to ultimately achieve transformative change. We aim to foster an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment where all individuals are valued, respected, and empowered to contribute to the organization's success.

The EI Unit manages three main portfolios: EDI Training, EDI Engagement, and Youth Engagement. These portfolios enable DRPS to implement focused strategies, facilitate important conversations, and build partnerships to advance EDI principles within our organization and the communities we serve.

### **EDI Training Portfolio Highlights**

The EI Unit coordinates the development and delivery of evidence-based corporate training Service-wide to enhance the EDI competency of DRPS members. In 2024, highlights included:

- OACP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Training Course (34 organizations, 104 members trained)
- Call it Out: Racial Discrimination and Human Rights (E-Learning, 883 members trained)
- Anti-Racism & Unconscious Bias for the Workplace (E-Learning, 857 members trained)
- Hate Crime Awareness training (1132 sworn and civilian members trained)
- Special Constable training on human rights, systemic racism and multiculturalism
- Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) – 883 members trained
- Women in Policing – National Research Project – focus groups and consultations held

### **EDI Engagement Portfolio Update**

The EI Unit, through evidence-based approaches, coordinates and develops EDI engagement initiatives to foster positive organizational culture and externally deliver services and programs that inspire the trust and confidence of all communities. In 2024, highlights included:

**Internal Support Network (ISN)** - Establishment of ISN Directive to support specific, self-identified groups and their allies, sharing experiences and providing mentorship and guidance

**Women's Internal Support Network** – Program providing supportive and inclusive space for women, both civilian and sworn.

**Afro-Caribbean-Canadian Internal Support Network** – providing supportive and inclusive space fore Afro-Caribbean-Canadian sworn/civilian members of the DRPS

### **Engaging with Community Partners (included):**

- 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month celebrations (kick-off brunch and various events)
- Durham Community Action Group –engagement and dialogue with 40 black and racialized youth (disrupting anti-black racism in education and policing)
- Durham Pride Parade (20 members and 16 Auxiliary members attending at the event in Ajax)
- Annual Pow Wow with Mississauga's of Scugog Island
- Truth and Reconciliation Walk
- Flag Raising Ceremonies (Black History, Pride, Transgender Day of Remembrance)

### **Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC):**

Established to collaborate with DRPS in addressing challenges impacting the diverse communities of the Durham Region, DAC has made significant strides in the past year. Currently a cohort of 19 appointed citizens serve as a consultative and advisory body to the Office of the Chief of Police. Throughout the year, DAC members actively engaged in a range of initiatives, including:

- Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce's Hate Crime Campaign and poster
- Consultation with EDI consultant, Ty Smith
- Participating in job posting process for two positions within the EI Unit
- DRPS Newcomer and Visitor Guide
- Participation in 29 engagement opportunities including the DRPS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Galas, OACP DEI training, DRPS Women's Recruiting Symposium, DRPS Citizen Academy and 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Black History Brunch.

### **Youth Engagement Portfolio Update**

The EI Unit coordinates the delivery of youth-related programs and services to promote positive and trusting relationships between the police, youth, and the community. In 2024 highlights included:

- Supporting ProAction Cops & Kids programs in Durham, an increase of applications this year (580%) and 694 youth participated in the program, an increase of 286% over the previous year.
- Supporting Suits for Youth and Gowns for Grads programs – 550 youth received suits or gowns for graduations and prom events. Over 95 volunteers from across the DRPS and community supported these initiatives.
- Supporting the Durham Community Action Group with their Disrupting Anti-Black Racism and Hate project.
- Participating in the Durham Children's Aid Society – Youth Pride Durham Event.
- Participating in the Durham Community Health Centre – Get Ready for Back-to-School event.
- Supporting the DRP Children's Games, which featured 61 athletes

### **Youth in Policing (YIP)**

The YIP Initiative is a paid personal, professional, and community development opportunity for Durham youth aged 15-18. The program has been running since 2006 in partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. To date, the program has provided 2095 employment opportunities. In 2024, highlights included:

- 2024 Winter and Summer Initiatives – 100 students and 18 youth leaders selected for each program
- The programs jointly received 1470 applications
- YIP worked with 70 community organizations and public safety partners

### **Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)**

Established in 2021, the Committee is comprised of youth from across the Region age 16-24. The Committee identifies and responds to youth-related community challenges and provides strategic advice to the Chief of Police. There are 12 youth appointed to the YAC and in 2024 discussion topics and projects included,

- The DRPS 2024 Strategic Plan

- A revised meeting structure to better provide and receive information
- Corporate Communications
- Police Service Board community engagement and safety priorities
- Improve accessibility and awareness of DRPS youth resources
- Building trust with elementary-aged youth and understanding perceptions of safety and policing with secondary-aged youth

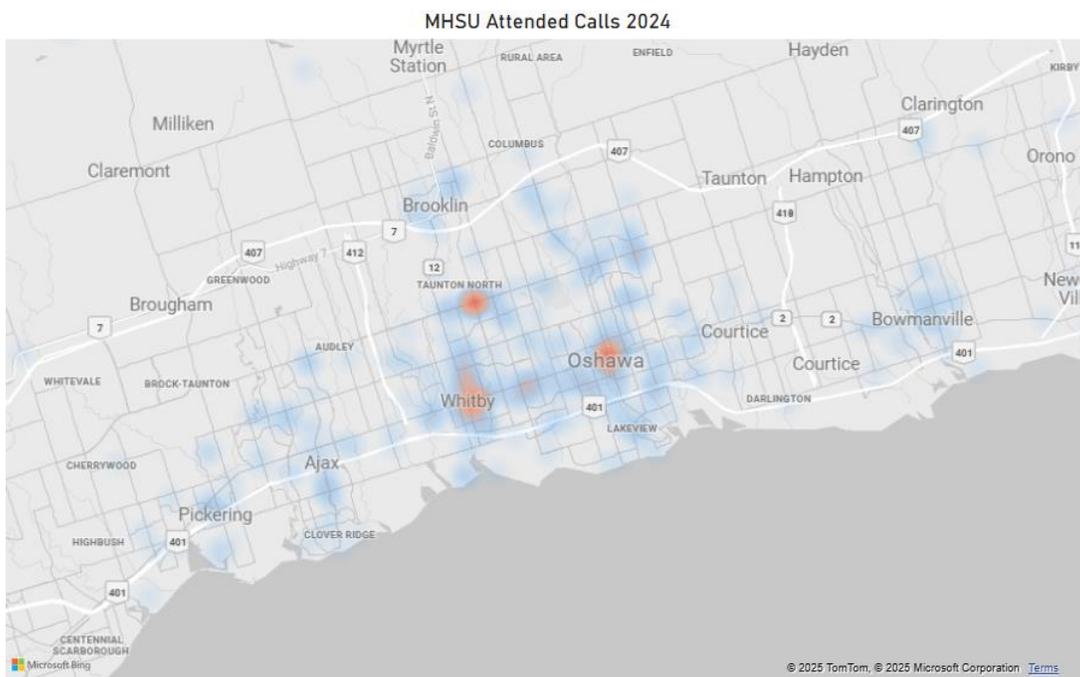
## SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE PERSONS

### **Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU)**

In 2024, the DRPS Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU) continued its partnership with the Home and Community Care Support Services Central East (HCCSSCE), Lakeridge Health, and the Region of Durham. The MHSU currently operates with five teams, each consisting of a police officer and a mental health nurse. These five teams allow for regional coverage seven days a week, 17 hours a day, between 0700 and 0000 hours.

MHSU members review mental health-related reports, conduct proactive follow-ups, and check on the well-being calls in person and over the phone. MHSU members act as a resource to front-line members of DRPS, providing advice and/or attending calls at their request. MHSU members offer referrals and support to individuals referred through DRPS investigative and support units, as requested. Teams also provide a reactive response to persons requiring immediate mental health support, as well as provide referrals and service navigation to individuals and their families/caregivers/and support persons.

In 2024, members of MHSU authored 1405 reports documenting their activities and engagement with members of the public. They diverted 892 calls from frontline officer response and communications/911 calls, de-escalated 329 incidents, referred 115 individuals for support and resources, and attended 19 proactive community engagement sessions/parade visits. The heat map below visually illustrates the density of calls MHSU attended in 2024.



## **Durham Connect**

Durham Connect was established in 2015 as a collaborative partnership among various multidisciplinary agencies, including community-based organizations and local, regional, and provincial entities. Each participating agency plays a critical role in supporting and serving vulnerable individuals across Durham Region.

Historically, the Durham Connect Situation Table has served as a key resource for addressing acutely elevated risk (AER) cases involving individuals and families in the Region of Durham. Cases that met the AER threshold at the agency level were presented to the Table for evaluation and voting. If approved, a multidisciplinary team would be assembled to provide tailored services aimed at mitigating or reducing the identified risks. This "wraparound" approach ensures that individuals and families receive the support they need in a timely and coordinated manner. Durham Connect aligns with the goals of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan by fostering agency collaboration to proactively address risks and prevent their escalation.

We are currently working with our partners at the Region of Durham to revitalize the program. The plan is to co-lead the initiative with the Region to ensure its long-term success and sustainability.

Participation in the Durham Connect Situation Table is voluntary, and success depends on cultivating strong relationships, creating effective case referral pathways, and encouraging active engagement from all partners. Efforts are being made to allocate sufficient time to rebuild relationships with previous Durham Connect members, engage the community, and integrate best practices from across the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA). To expedite the relaunch of the Table, United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT) and a community engagement consultant are being contracted to support the reinstatement activities. UWGT is providing valuable expertise, having assisted with the City of Toronto's Situation Tables, relaunching the Peel Region Table, reinventing and launching new Situation Tables in York Region, and recently supporting the City of Calgary in replicating the FOCUS Toronto model.

## **POLICING OPERATIONS**

Five operational policing divisions provide policing operations. Each Division is led by an Inspector who reports to the Superintendent of Patrol Operations. The Divisions develop a Community Safety Plan to support our common business plan goals. At the same time, these plans allow Divisional Leadership to address the unique needs and challenges of the communities they serve. Some of the activities represented in these plans are provided below.

Each Divisional Community Safety Plan is developed to include active participation by Divisional Leadership, which includes the Divisional Inspector, the Patrol Services Leader, Platoon Staff Sergeants, the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), and the Community Response Team Sergeant.

Divisional leadership championed the Divisional initiatives through their specific action plans that proactively address identified strategic initiatives such as: Roadway Safety, Community Engagement, Assisting Victims of Crime, Youth Support, Durham Connect, and Improved Management of Crime Trends. Community policing initiatives and events are promoted using our website, Instagram and 'X' (Twitter),

Main Account - @DRPS  
Equity and Inclusion Unit - @DRPSDiversity  
North Division - @DRPSNorthDiv  
East Division - @DRPSEastDiv  
Central East Division - @DRPSCEDiv  
Central West Division - @DRPSCWDiv  
West Division - @DRPSWestDiv

Reporting structures were established to address evolving trends within this framework through enforcement, community engagement, or project-oriented response. This report contains some of the results for 2024.

## NORTH DIVISION

### **Community Engagement**

North Division conducts quarterly meetings with the members of the Community Safety Advisory Council. These community members collaborate with North Division to find community-based solutions for community concerns. In addition, officers in Community Resource Unit in North Division participated in a number of community-based events in 2024. Some examples include North Division Community Safety Day, Coffee with a Cop, Cram a Cruiser, Senior Fraud Presentations, ProAction Cops and Kids Events, Drive Safe Youth Initiative and we also collaborated with Beaverton Heights Transitional Housing.

### **Foot and ATV/Snowmobile Patrol**

In 2024, North Division focused on increasing officer visibility and opportunities to engage with citizens utilizing foot as well as ATV and snowmobile patrols. There were over 80 hours (167 events) of foot patrols and 26 hours (12 events) of ATV/snowmobile patrols in the downtowns, skate parks, trails, and other open areas.

### **Collaborative Relationships with Four Different Communities**

The Divisional leadership team has quarterly meetings with the mayors and maintains open communication with Chief LaRocca of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) community. North Division has dedicated Community Liaison Officers that maintain frequent informal meetings with the MSIFN. Monthly crime analysis statistical reports are shared with the MSIFN, Mayors, and Councils. Officers spent over 186 hours within the MSIFN community in 2024.

### **Roadway Safety**

North Division has made a conscious effort to conduct enforcement on the snowmobile trails during the winter months and ATV trails during the spring and summer months. Our presence on the trails afforded officers the opportunity to interact with many members of community, who use the trails for recreation, with 26 hours spent in 2024. North Division set a goal of reducing the rate of motor vehicle collisions throughout the Division over the 5-year average in identified high collision locations; the divisional 2023-2024 change and 5-year average statistics are captured below.

NORTH DIVISION - MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS (Primary Offence Code)					
	2023	2024	% change 2023-2024	5yr Ave	% change 2024 Comp to 5yr Ave
FATAL	4	4	0%	4	0%
INJURY	114	93	-18%	97.4	-5%
PROPERTY DAMAGE	505	563	11%	482.8	17%
MEMBER-INVOLVED	7	10	43%	6.8	47%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>13%</b>

NORTH DIVISION - ROADWAY SAFETY MEASURES (North Division Officers)			
	2023	2024	% change 2023-2024
TICKETS ISSUED	3232	4054	25%
TRAFFIC STOPS	4751	6405	35%
TRAFFIC CAUTIONS	453	1072	137%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8436</b>	<b>11531</b>	<b>37%</b>

Despite the 13% increase in motor vehicle collisions, North Division noted a 37% increase in roadway safety measures, including tickets issued, traffic stops and traffic cautions.

### Community Safety

North Division officers take a proactive approach to community safety by conducting compliance checks on members of the community who are on judicial release conditions as a result of criminal charges. In 2024, North Division officers conducted 146 compliance checks. This is a 46% increase in the number of compliance checks that were completed in 2023.

In addition, responding to an increase in drug activity, overdoses and violent crime in North Division, members of the Community Resource Unit and Criminal Investigation Bureau continued to conduct proactive investigative projects to address the rising problem. The overall goal is to ensure a safe environment for the members of the community, to reduce the drug activity and affiliated violent crimes, and to educate the community on harm reduction and preventative measures surrounding dangerous substances. In 2024 the North Division CIB and CRT office led a number of investigations and projects that addressed both gun violence and the usage and sale of controlled substances;

Project Ruger was an investigation into a Scarborough resident who was involved in high end auto thefts and large-scale cocaine trafficking in the North Durham area. The investigation led to arrests and several criminal charges. Additionally, police seized cocaine, fraudulent federal cheques, and appx \$250,000.00 in proceeds of crime.

Project Astoria was an investigation into a shooting incident in Caesarea where 3 suspects fired appx 40 rounds of various caliber ammunition into an Air BnB which was rented for a birthday party. One male party goer suffered a gunshot wound and as a result was hospitalized for 2 months and lost a leg from complications from his injuries. Investigators identified the suspects who were all known to police and confirmed to be involved in several other shooting incidents across the GTA and Hamilton area. Three suspects were arrested in the fall of 2024 and are still in custody, 2 firearms used in the incident have been recovered by police.

## EAST DIVISION

### Community Safety Advisory Council

The Community Safety Advisory Council (CSAC) was established in 2021 and continued to operate throughout 2024. Currently we have representatives from all four wards as well as the Clarington Diversity Advisory Committee. The CSAC meets quarterly and was established to promote information sharing, positive relations, and awareness of police-related issues between DRPS and the various East Division

communities. The purpose of this initiative is to create a sustainable way to improve service delivery and promote effective divisional planning, divisional policy, and decision-making that meets the needs of the community.

### **Community Engagement**

Community engagement continues to be a divisional priority for East Division. Throughout 2024, East Division members attended multiple community events and initiatives. East Division Central Response Unit (CRU) members also collaborated with ProAction Cops & Kids Durham Chapter to participate in programs benefiting local youth. In 2024, CRU organized and executed the second annual Shop with Cop event at the Oshawa Centre. The program was expanded from 21 to 30 youth, pairing them with officers for a well-deserved shopping spree. The event was successful, and plans are in place to continued it in 2025.

### **Roadway Safety**

The Region of Durham in cooperation with DRPS has developed a Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (SRSAP), which incorporates VISION ZERO, to reduce the number and severity of collisions in the Region. In 2024, East Division implemented various monthly roadway safety initiatives and recorded the following results: -19% decrease in traffic cautions, -9% decrease in tickets, and a -5% decrease in traffic stops in comparison to the divisional enforcement results achieved in 2023. When looking at the 5-year average, roadway safety initiatives have recorded the following results: 29% increase in traffic cautions, 42% increase in tickets and 42% increase in traffic stops. The total number of motor vehicle collisions in East Division saw a -3% decrease from 2023 and a 49% increase when compared to the 5-year average.

### **Targeting Retail Thefts**

In 2023, East Division collaborated with external partners at the top four (4) retail complainants (Walmart, Home Depot, Real Canadian Superstore, and LCBO) in an effort to address ongoing theft and fraud occurrences. Corporate risk management policies dictate a hands-off approach by Loss Prevention Officers (LPOs), who engage police services to respond on their behalf with a delayed reactive approach. This has led to continual criminal activity as offenders have become confidently undeterred. The SMART (Support and Manage Anti-Retail Theft) program was developed, focusing on significant numbers of criminal offences occurring at the commercial Smart Centre located at Harmony Road North and Taunton Road, Oshawa. The SMART program utilized general and specific deterrence of commercial crime through collaboration between police and LPO enforcement, using Criminal Code and Provincial Offence charges, as well as trespass and diversion options. Plainclothes and uniform officers were deployed to the area for roughly 8 hours each shift, with time reserved for investigation completion and follow-up, for 6 days throughout April and May. From these efforts, the following results were noted:

<b>Enforcement Days</b>	6
<b>Arrests</b>	22
<b>Bail Hearings</b>	2
<b>Criminal Charges</b>	27
<b>TPA Charges</b>	12
<b>HTA Charges</b>	6
<b>Youth-Related Diversions</b>	2

In 2024, we expanded the program to have the initiative utilized at other big box stores within the region including Bowmanville, Whitby and Ajax. With an increase in corporate stakeholders, the development of a full enforcement team will be explored.

### **Compliance Checks**

In an effort to properly manage high-risk offenders in our community, compliance checks of individuals on interim release are regularly conducted to ensure court-imposed conditions are being abided by. In 2024, compliance checks increased by 71% and breach charges have increased by 33%, when compared with 2023.

### **Foot Patrol**

In 2024, East Division uniform members routinely engaged in proactive foot patrol in downtown Bowmanville, Newcastle, and Orono, along with multiple plazas and community locations; with 537 instances and over 364 hours spent. The purpose was to enhance police visibility and public trust, and reduce the fear of crime. Hundreds of hours have been spent on foot patrol, and residents, members of council, and the local Business Improvement Associations have commented on the positive impact of this program.

## **CENTRAL EAST DIVISION**

### **Youth Engagement**

In 2024, Central East Division officers, including members from platoons, our Community Response Unit (CRU), School Liaison Officer (SLO) and Administrative Staff, worked closely with our young residents, completing 1,389 general occurrence reports involving youth.

Our SLOs work closely with the 31 schools within our division, completing 151 general occurrence reports and 160 follow-ups in relation to school incidents. They also completed 64 lockdown drills and delivered 72 presentations with a continued focus on social media and on-line safety, with discussions about “sexting” and “sextortion” with grade 7 & 8 students.

Central East Division organized and led several youth events throughout the year including; “Cram a Cruiser, this saw 32 schools from across the region cram 11,400lbs of food or the equivalent to 9,500 meals into our cruisers to support Feed the Need Durham. Chief for a Day, saw 300 grade 5 students from across the region submit essays on what they would do if they were Chief. We also supported ProAction Cops & Kids having 340 kids participate in our various events over seven days. This is the most amount of youth to participate in our Divisional Pro-Act program. One successful event was our “Cram a Backpack from a cruiser” event, which we partnered with Durham Community Health Centre. This event connected our officers with approximately 250 youths from JK to grade 12. We supported other youth programs included Circle-K’s Operation Freeze and Heat, which saw us issue over 200 positive tickets to recognize and motivate positive behavior in our youth., and Oshawa Library’s TD Summer Reading Club

### **Community Engagement**

In 2024 our members participated in 91 community, cultural and faith-based events. Some of these events included joining our Baha’i Community for Naw-Rúz celebrations, our Islamic Community during Eid

celebrations and supporting our Jewish Community during Rosh Hashanah. We continued to support Oshawa Fiesta Week, celebrating Oshawa's very diverse cultural communities at both the annual Street Festival and at each of the cultural community pavilions.

This year saw a milestone as our SLOs led our 15th Annual Seniors Christmas. During this event, officers and youth from across the region visited senior care residents, leading Christmas carols, creating and delivering cards, and distributing 500 gifts to residents. This had a regional impact, as the program reached twenty of Durham's retirement and long-term care homes.

Our members also supported additional community events, including John Howard Society Community with Brooms, Durham District School Board's "Girls Night In", Canadian Blood Services' "Sirens for Life Drive", and the Durham Rape Crisis Centre's "Take Back the Night" walk.

Central East Division deploys officers on foot and bike patrol throughout the most of the year. These officers continue to engage with the many social service centres, businesses in the downtown core and countless members of our community, including our most vulnerable and unhoused population.

In an effort to address ongoing crime trends and employ evidence-based policing strategies, weekly meetings are held with Divisional Leadership, our Criminal Investigation Branch, Platoon Leadership, and our Crime Analyst. During these discussions, crime "hot spots" are identified for directed data-led patrols. Our Divisional leadership regularly meets with City of Oshawa officials, the Mayor, and Council members, ensuring effective collaboration to address the challenges our community faces. Divisional leadership met with local business community members, listening to their concerns and working with them to resolve problems. Our division continues to engage with the community over social media, namely our Divisional "X" handle (@DRPSCEDiv) and through media releases.

### **Roadway Safety**

As the collisions on our roadways continue to trend up with a 10.6% increase compared to 2023, roadway safety remained a strategic priority for the Central East Division. We led ten coordinated traffic safety initiatives, issuing a total of 10,759 provincial offence notices and cautioned an additional 1,453 drivers on issues directly related to roadway safety. At the beginning of the year, we identified our top 5 high collision intersections and concentrated enforcement efforts that these locations, leading to 32% decrease in accidents within those intersections. Impaired related collisions experienced a 68% increase from 19 the previous year to 32 in 2024. However, reports of impaired driving decreased by 22%, with our members conducted 139 investigations compared to 179 in 2023.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Central East Division responded to over 31,762 citizen-generated calls for service in 2024, with 57% of those calls related to crime and disorder in the downtown core. We remained committed to our residents and businesses through a collaborative effort between front-line members and our Community Response Team (CRT), focusing on sustained high-visibility foot and bike patrols and staffing redeployments between March and November. Our objective was to reduce violence, decrease lawless behavior, and increase public safety to ensure the enjoyment of our downtown for all members of our community.

These redeployed officers engaged with businesses, residents, social service centres, and our ever-growing unhoused community. They accounted for over 8,046 hours of bike/foot patrols, 995 arrests, and responded to calls for service in the downtown core. The majority of the calls were for unwanted persons, check on the well-being, overdoses, assistance with ambulances, suspicious persons, and disturbances.

In May of 2024, Project Martini was led out of Central East Division in response to concerns from residents and the business community about crime and disorder in the downtown core. Divisional CRT teams from

across the region were assembled and supported by our Human Trafficking and Drug Enforcement Units. This project resulted in 92 people being arrested, 113 criminal charges laid, 11 search warrants and seizures of more than \$600,000 dollars of illicit drugs and \$30,000 in currency. Recognizing that enforcement efforts alone can't solve these complex issues, the team referred 62 people to public health support and 38 to support programs for sex-trade workers.

In early 2024, Central East Criminal Investigative Bureau led Project Washmill in response to an increase in organized crime groups committing distraction thefts. A total of 35 people were identified and arrested, 206 criminal charges were laid, 5 search warrants executed and \$107,000 worth of stolen property recovered. The Division also completed a bail compliance initiative conducting 719 checks on offenders in our community.

## **CENTRAL WEST DIVISION**

### **Roadway Safety**

A major component of the Central West Division's Strategic Operational Plan is Roadway Safety. For 2024, 9495 provincial offence notices were issued, an increase of 1.4% over 2023. Central West Division continually focused on enforcing the “Big Four Killers” on our roadways to enhance roadway safety. The four are individually referred to as: Aggressive Driving, Distracted Driving, Seatbelt Use, and Impaired Operation. For those offences, 3599 provincial offence notices were issued in 2024, an increase of 10% over 2023. The number of reported collisions for the top four intersections in Central West decreased by 36% last year.

Central West also focused on impaired driving enforcement in 2024. These efforts resulted in the number of impaired driving arrests made by Central West officers in 2024 to be 235, an increase of 9%.

### **Central West Community Safety Advisory Team**

Several meetings were conducted in 2024, and information sharing has resulted in better awareness of issues and a more positive relationship with the community. Topics discussed include racism, poverty, bettering our community engagement, and crime trends. Through this partnership, the Community Advisory Team was instrumental in the planning and delivery of the DRPS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Day held in June 2024.

In addition, we assisted with the DRPS Food & Toy Drive for Christmas 2024 with volunteers from the Community Safety Advisory Team and Durham College. This was a great success, with food donations provided to the Salvation Army, exceeding our target. The 2024 “Cram a Cruiser” event was also a huge success donating over 4000 lbs. of food to the St. Andrews Food Bank.

### **Crime and Disorder Calls**

Central West Division also focused on mitigating reported incidents of crime and disorder in the area of the downtown core (a decrease of 4%), motels situated along the 401 corridor (a reduction of 22%), and the Simcoe & Britannia corridor of North Oshawa (an increase of 6%) compared to the previous year. Central West Division has a member who serves on the Business Improvement Association, and this partnership results in timely two-way information sharing regarding trends and issues.

## **Property Crime**

In 2024, residential break-and-enter incidents decreased by 8% from 2023. Proactive patrols were conducted in response to crime analysis. Theft from Motor Vehicle occurrences decreased by 21% in 2024 compared to last year. In 2024, Theft from Motor Vehicle occurrences decreased by 13% compared to last year, a trend experienced in the majority of GTA communities.

## **Compliance Checks**

To properly manage offenders in the community, a strategy was implemented to conduct compliance checks on those individuals on interim release, ensuring that they were abiding by court-imposed conditions. Several initiatives were conducted throughout the year by the Community Response Team and front-line members. Central West Division focused upon subjects before the courts, those released on Parole for Firearms and Violent Offences, and those bound by the Provincial and National Sex Offender Registry (SOR).

For the entire year in 2024, 1072 checks were conducted, an increase of 33% over 2023.

## **Community Engagement**

In 2024, Central West added an emphasis on using “X,” formerly known as Twitter (@DRPSCWDiv), to engage with our community. X was utilized to highlight school visits by our School Liaison Officers and community concerns regarding traffic-related issues. We have increased the number of officers trained in using X and expect our impressions to grow in 2025. In total, Central West has 4404 followers. We believe X is a valuable tool in engaging with our community and notifying them of issues promptly, when feasible and/or appropriate.

## **LCBO / Sobeys / Metro / Home Depot Initiative**

Community engagement is a priority for Central West, where members are engaged in multiple community events and initiatives. Stemming from numerous complaints about an increase in the number of thefts at these locations, Central West Officers partnered with LPO's. They completed a 3-day initiative to combat the theft problem at each location. Officers set up a direct line of communication to police for the LPO's and remained in the area awaiting notification of any thefts.

## **1635 Dundas Street East – Shelter Initiative**

Due to increased calls for well-being checks and unwanted people surrounding the area, CW has established a dedicated email account for receiving complaints, feedback, and concerns from local business owners and community members around this area. Officers have also scheduled foot patrols during peak hours of concern to deter criminal activity.

## **Faith-Based Proactive Patrols**

The conflict in the Middle East is causing a growing concern among communities in Durham Region. Oct 7, 2024, marked the anniversary of the Hamas attack on Israel. CW Officers enhanced patrols at Faith-based Institutions to provide safety and security, to reduce violent crimes, property crimes and disturbances.

## **Proactive Liquor License Initiative**

In response to growing complaints within the Town of Whitby, the Community Response Team collaborated with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to conduct liquor compliance checks.

## **Violent Crime**

Noteworthy crime trends in 2024 included a rise in violent incidents, which increased by 22% compared to 2023. Youth-related incidents also saw a concerning uptick, with a 13% increase from the previous year. These incidents often involved violence, armed confrontations, or thefts of high-end clothing, potentially linked to gang activity or retaliatory street-level robberies. A troubling 30% increase in incidents involving the unsheltered community was recorded, though part of this rise can be attributed to more consistent application of the unsheltered flag by officers.

Additionally, arsons and firearm discharges, particularly those involving organized crime, were a persistent concern. Rivalries within the towing industry were a source of sustained and significant violence, including shootings. West Division remained focused on this emerging criminal trend and undertook meaningful steps to address the threat. Project **Adrianna** was a comprehensive tow truck-related operation led by the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) through the spring and summer of 2024. This project successfully resulted in numerous arrests and the laying of multiple criminal charges, demonstrating our commitment to addressing organized crime in the region. Within this was interwoven a joint inspection and enforcement effort alongside the Ontario Provincial Police, leading to 119 tow truck inspections and 100 Provincial Offence Notices (PONs) being issued in the fall period.

West Division launched the Bail Enforcement and Response (BEAR) initiative in winter 2024, aimed at monitoring and addressing repeat and known offenders residing within Ajax and Pickering. Officers conducted over 1,700 compliance checks, which was a 58% increase over that in 2023 and constituted approximately 30% of the total across the Service.

The Ajax Strategic Support and Enforcement Team (ASSET) was formed and began operations in the Ajax area in May 2024, with a clear mission to enhance community safety and strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the local community. Team members were actively involved in various community initiatives, attending meetings, and engaging with local organizations. This direct, approachable engagement allowed officers to listen to community concerns and share information about policing strategies. They were also responsible for enforcing municipal, provincial, and federal legislation, ensuring that both local ordinances and broader laws were upheld throughout the Ajax area. Members made 132 arrests in only four (4) months and among their impressive list of accomplishments, cumulatively seized over 90 grams of fentanyl.

## **Property Crime**

Increased prevalence of property crimes was also displayed. Commercial robberies exhibited a striking 100% increase, with 16 reported incidents in 2024 compared to eight (8) in 2023, most notably attributed to jewelry store smash-and-grab crimes. Commercial break-and-enters saw a 15% increase, linked to a series of crimes involving groups operating across the GTA. In response, West Division implemented proactive and dedicated patrols in and around the Shops at Pickering City Centre, beginning in the middle of November and running through the new year. Officers began what would eventually become over 83 days of consistent presence to deter these crimes and no further incidents were reported.

Beginning in late November 2024, a series of break and enters targeted convenience stores throughout Durham Region, attributed to a single organized crime group. This group, responsible for a series of similar crimes across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), was linked to nearly a dozen incidents in Durham alone. Through collaboration with neighboring police services, the group's leader would eventually be

identified and arrested in late January 2025, facing 50 charges in Durham Region, along with nearly 400 charges across the GTA. In December 2024, the Community Response Team (CRT) assisted the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) in clearing 16 long-standing organized or repeat theft cases at their stores, laying 38 criminal charges against numerous individuals.

### **Roadway Safety**

In 2024, West Division launched Project IMPACT, assigning responsibility for two (2) high-risk intersections to each frontline platoon. This resulted in a 10.9% reduction in collisions across the worst eight (8) intersections within both municipalities, and the issuance of 1,303 PONs and an overall decline in collisions compared with 2023. West Division issued 7,920 PONs over the course of the year, which was the highest number of any division or unit within the Service. The division also conducted an educational and enforcement effort in school zones to encourage seatbelt usage and safety immediately before and after school hours. Officers visited 57 elementary and secondary schools, worked alongside school board partners and issued over 220 PONs.

19 Proactive Divisional RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) initiatives were conducted throughout the year, which was a significant increase from the 10 instances within 2023.

### **Community Engagement**

West Division introduced two (2) innovative community engagement programs in 2024: Project Hope and Junior Detective. Project Hope focused on educating newcomers about Canadian laws, building relationships with the police and empowering this vulnerable population. In concert with social development teams from the Region, the division was successful reaching over 500 individuals throughout the year, primarily from Africa, the Middle East, South America and Eastern Europe. Meanwhile, Junior Detective, launched in June 2024, partnered with local schools to offer youths an opportunity to spend a day at the police station, solving a mystery to foster positive relationships between youth and law enforcement. These programs, along with multiple ProAction initiatives, have strengthened ties with our community and youth. Additionally, we visited 216 school classes as part of the latest iteration of the West Division School Engagement Program. Members interacted with a record 6,400 students, promoting safety education, and building positive interactions with the next generation.

In partnership with the Special Victims Unit and the Town of Ajax, West Division led two (2) information and empowerment sessions for summer students and lifeguards for town recreational centres, seeking to reduce instances of unwanted and sexualized behaviour against young people.

Throughout the year West Division facilitated four (4) meetings of the Community Safety Advisory Council, which was formed in 2019 to promote information sharing, positive relations, and awareness of police-related issues between the DRPS and the community. Topics of discussion during the meetings have included body worn cameras, community engagement, human trafficking and crime trends. 2024 also saw the start of the Corporate Safety Advisory Council, which met on two (2) occasions. This brought together the City of Pickering security, bylaw, Shops at Pickering City Centre, Metrolinx and Council to tackle emerging and prevalent issues within the busiest commercial areas of the division.

Members attended more than 100 community events across the division this year. This spanned festivals, gatherings, services and meetings comprising all cultures, faiths and backgrounds. This included the planning, coordination and support for West Division Community Day, Children's Games, CopShop 2024, the West Division Senior's Christmas and implemented six (6) ProAction events.

West Division launched and maintained the only divisional Instagram account in the Service, with approximately 1,300 followers at the end of 2024.

### **Social Development**

Members of West Division continue to work with the Town of Ajax, Doors of Compassion, the Ajax Hub, and the Ajax Task Force to provide support to unsheltered community members. To continue developing relationships to support the unsheltered community, the division is part of a program with various municipal and regional agencies, where frontline members regularly attend breakfast at the Ajax Hub to interact and build trust with the unsheltered community, and the CRT has invested a significant amount of time liaising with local business owners.

2024 was another busy year for West Division's response to public disorder. West Division staffed multiple protests, disruptions, and demonstrations in Ajax and Pickering, most often associated with the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, Canadian federal issues, and tensions relating to municipal politics. These required meticulous planning and redirection of resources to address the concerns. Over a dozen separate individualized Operation Plans were drafted and approved for police response.

## **PATROL SUPPORT KEEPING OUR ROADWAYS AND WATERWAYS SAFE**

### **Public Safety Unit (PSU)**

2024 was another busy year for the Public Safety Unit, as there were four deployments for the unit in a Public Order capacity. These deployments included ongoing protests regarding the conflict in Israel and Palestine, both in the Region of Durham as well as to assist the City of Toronto. In addition, the Public Safety Unit was called out on 30 occasions in 2024 to conduct evidence and missing person searches for vulnerable people (elderly, very young, suicidal, dementia, etc.). On 117 other occasions, a search manager and/or on-duty PSU members were consulted or deployed by the Patrol Sergeant or Duty Inspector for guidance related to missing persons calls. This represents an increase of 25% and 277%, respectively.

In 2024, the Public Safety Unit was authorized to expand. The unit hired and trained an additional 35 officers, bringing the team complement to 83 part-time members. In late 2024, the service authorized two full-time EMO/PSU positions who will be responsible for training, equipment, deployment preparations, and tracking of all PSU-related events/incidents.

The Public Safety Unit has been active in training for 2024. This has included teaching the Incident Command 200 and 300 Courses, the Criminal Investigative Techniques Course, and the Basic Search and Rescue Course. 2024 was the first year that DRPS hosted and trained our members in the basic POU course previously conducted by the Toronto Police Service.

### **Roadway Safety**

A leading concern that has been expressed from our communities is roadway safety. Each Division has dedicated Traffic Safety Officers who develop strategies to address the specific needs or concerns of the community. These strategies differ amongst Divisions: North & East Divisions focus on the increasing commercial motor vehicle traffic that exists in their communities. Central East, Central West, and West

Divisions employ strategies that mainly focus on high collision intersections. We continue to work closely with partners such as the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Municipal by-law, Planning Departments, the Region of Durham, Road Watch, and our many community volunteer organizations. We share the goal of a safer Region through development of lasting solutions beyond enforcement; continuing to support the Region of Durham Vision Zero strategy.

**Traffic Services Branch (TSB) – Traffic Enforcement Unit**

In an effort to focus on collision reduction, the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) continued to embrace the strategy of intelligence-led enforcement, focusing on measurable outcomes. The focus of enforcement efforts, in support of Durham Region’s Vision Zero, continue to be the “Big-Four Killers; Impaired Operation, Distracted and Aggressive Driving, and Not Wearing Seat Belts. Traffic Services issued 7156 provincial offence notices which is decrease of 1.4% from 7257 written in 2023. This decrease is attributed to the fact that TEU was operating with less members due to long term illness, injury, and assisting elsewhere. Of note, in 2024, TEU Officers issued 61 offence notices for stunt driving, 654 handheld device infractions, 2497 speeding infractions, 262 careless driving charges, and issued 28 seatbelt tickets.

In 2024, charges were laid in 716 Impaired related driving investigations, this was an 9% increase over impaired driving cases in 2023 (656 incidents).

The Festive RIDE team in 2024 was comprised of 12 dedicated officers working nights with a primary focus on roadway safety. The 2024 Festive RIDE team conducted nightly static RIDE lines; 7 of which involved volunteers with the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Durham Chapter. The team also worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Transportation Training and Education Branch, Enforcement Branch as well as the OPP Highway Safety Division and Detachment Enforcement Teams. The Festive RIDE Team was involved in 76% of all impaired arrests regionally from November 16, 2024 to January 1, 2025.

The number of vehicles stopped by the Festive RIDE Team increased by 28%.

<b>Festive RIDE Statistics</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>Total Vehicles stopped</b>	12682	16227	28% increase
<b>Roadside Breath Tests</b>	533	1145	115% increase
<b>Provincial Offence Notices Issued</b>	972	1214	25% increase
<b>Licence Suspension 3/7/30 Day</b>	40	102	155% increase
<b>Novice Driver-3 Day Licence Suspension</b>	19	16	16% decrease
<b>Impaired Driving Arrests</b>	87	114	31% increase
<b>Impaired/Exceed/Refuse Charges</b>	130	154	18% increase
<b>Other Criminal Code Offences</b>	64	47	27% decrease
<b>Drug Offence Charges</b>	3	17	466% increase
<b>Provincial Cannabis act Charges</b>	11	15	36% increase

In addition to Festive RIDE, conducted over the holiday season, the Traffic Services Branch focused RIDE efforts targeting Super Bowl Sunday, St Patrick’s Day and the May long weekend, July 26-28, and Civic Long weekend.

Traffic Services reached 552,000 impressions on social media through the X account handle “DRPS Traffic Services @DRPSRoadSafety.”

### **Air Support Unit (ASU)**

In 2024, the Air Support Unit (ASU) worked 260 shifts over a combined 856.8 flight hours, a 21% increase over 2023 (707.8 hours). Air1 supported 1240 calls for service in 2024, an increase of 44% over 2023 (860). Air1 was first-on-scene to dispatched calls approximately 509 times, a 69% increase over 2023 (302).

The ASU successfully located 216 subjects during calls for service in 2024, representing a 47% increase compared to the 147 subjects located in the previous year. 2024 also saw a decrease in lost shifts due to maintenance and weather (37 in 2023 to just 11 shifts in 2024).

### **Marine Unit**

The 2024 marine season spanned from May 1st to November 28th, providing 25 weeks of marine support on Lake Ontario, Scugog, and Simcoe. The Marine Unit is staffed by a part-time contingent of members within the Traffic Services Branch comprised of 1 Master licensed Captain and 6 part-time cross-trained Coxswain licensed operators.

In 2024 the Marine Unit experienced an 11% increase in calls for service with a response rate of 38.5%. 393 hours were spent providing policing services on the waterways in 2024. In this time 359 vessel checks were conducted which amounted to a 21% decrease from the 457 checks that were reported in 2023. The unit issued 74 provincial offence notices and marine-related enforcement infractions included safety violations, liquor and drug offences as well as violations under the Highway Traffic Act. 340 cautions were issued, an increase of 78% over 2023 (191). 91 calls for service and/or callouts equated to an 11% increase over 2023. In 2024 there was one arrest for Impaired Operation, and two arrests relating sex offences. One a registered sex offence was using Lake Ontario to watch small children on land in Oshawa, violating his court ordered conditions. In the other event, a male was arrested after he lured teenage international students on to his boat for a party. The boat “malfunctioned” and they were stranded on Lake Ontario with the male on the vessel who then engaged in unwanted sexual advances and touching. Reports of this male are on file with Toronto Police for similar behavior.

The Marine Unit continued to engage with our partner enforcement and marine community stakeholders:

- Ontario Power Generation
- HOPA-Hamilton Port Authority
- Transport Canada
- Coast Guard
- JRCC-Joint Rescue Coordination Centre
- Ministry of Environment
- Parks Canada
- Department of Fisheries
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Oshawa Parks

### **Collision Reporting Centre (CRC)**

The Police Service continues to collaborate with Accident Support Services International (ASSIL) to provide an alternative process for reporting collisions. Community members involved in minor motor

vehicle collisions within the Region of Durham can report incidents at one centralized location, instead of waiting for roadside police response, which could involve substantial wait times depending on call volume.

The statistical analysis of incidents reported to the Collision Reporting Centre has been summarized and presented to the Board in the 2024 Collision Reporting Centre Board Review.

### **Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement**

Durham Region has a large variety of Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) traffic, from light duty pick-up trucks to dual 53-foot tractor-trailer combinations. The aggregate hauling network in Durham has greatly increased due to the expansion of the 407 in recent years. With growing infrastructure and development within the area, commercial motor vehicle activity has increased substantially and many serious and fatal motor vehicle collisions have involved CMV's.

The DRPS' primary CMV Inspector ended his tenure in Traffic Services in 2022. As such, an additional 3 Traffic Services Enforcement Officers were trained and qualified as CMV Inspectors in 2023 with the assistance of the Ministry of Transportation. The 3 trained CMV Inspectors continue to support divisional and regional traffic safety initiatives.

In 2024, the Service's designated CMV Inspectors participated in 13 CMV blitzes. 124 Level 2 and 3 CMV inspections were completed in 2024; an increase of 81% over 2023 (53). Said inspections resulted in 143 Provincial Offence Notices and 4 Cautions. 96 mandatory CMV Level 1 inspections (CMV's over 4501kg Registered Weight) were completed regionally in conjunction with Divisional Traffic Safety Coordinators and the Ministry of Transportation. Twenty vehicles were put out-of-service as a result of these efforts.

## **MAJOR CRIME UNIT SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

### **Special Victims Unit (SVU)**

Previously called the Sexual Assault Unit, the Unit was re-named the Special Victims Unit to better represent the services and support provided by their members to the community. The SVU investigates all sexual assaults and historic sexual assaults where the victim was under the age of 18 at the time of the offence, where the suspect has not been identified, and or the sexual assaults are serial in nature. The SVU also investigates allegations of child abuse where the victim is under 16 years of age and the suspect is in a position of trust, authority or caregiver to the victim.

The SVU works alongside the Durham Children's Aid Society and Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services who assist with all child abuse investigations. SVU investigators also work closely with Lakeridge Health – Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Care Centre (DVSACC) and Sick Kid's Hospital. The SVU facilitates the Sexual Assault Advocate Review Committee, which is a civilian group made up of community partners who review all threshold sexual assault reports where charges are not laid. The Unit has community partnerships with Durham Rape Crisis Centre, The Denise House, Bethesda House, and Luke's Place. The Unit has also committed to being a part of the forthcoming Child and Youth Advocacy Centre – a one-stop support location for young victims of sexual offences. We expect this centre to go live mid-2025.

In 2024, the SVU managed 1089 sexual offenses, which included indecent acts. Within that figure, 684 investigations had the primary offence as sexual assault. In 2024, 112 arrests were made, resulting in 367 charges.

**Polygraph**

The Polygraph Unit, consisted of one investigator: D/C Colin Rose, who was involved in 53 investigations while supporting the various investigative units across the region. Polygraph was incorporated into 11 of those investigations. The unit was called upon and completed 8 post arrest interviews involving incidents of sexual assault and homicide, often extensive investigations by nature, which require significant time in order to prepare and develop a plan for the interview.

The Polygraph Unit also provided interview training to officers on an individual basis providing them with a frame work and platform to develop their interviewing skills. In addition, the unit also assisted officers in developing their interview plan for an upcoming interview, or reviewing an interview that they have already conducted, providing feedback on strategies and techniques to incorporate into their future interviews. The Polygraph Unit is responsible for the development of the content and delivery of the one-week Investigative Interviewing Skills courses and Advanced Investigative Interviewing Skills courses, which were both run twice for 2024. Also, interview training was provided to new recruits four times through the course of the year as well as part of the OPC Criminal Investigative Techniques courses. The Polygraph Unit also presented to the Youth In Policing, conducting a polygraph examination demonstration which, was well received.

In December, the Polygraph officer attended the “*Train the Trainer for the OPC Investigative Interview and Interrogation Techniques Course*”, which is mandatory for all senior investigators as per the new CSPA. Once accredited, the polygraph officer will be instructing on the courses for 2025.

The polygraph officer attended the annual Canadian Association of Police Polygraphists Training Seminar where he received additional training in order to maintain his standing as a Certified Polygraph Examiner.

**ViCLAS Coordinator (Violent Crimes Linkage & Analysis System)**

The ViCLAS coordinator reports directly to the Detective-Sergeant of Special Victims Unit. This position is responsible for collecting, reviewing, validating, and submitting the ViCLAS booklets completed by officers to the OPP Violent Crimes Reporting Centre. ViCLAS assists investigators identify serial crimes and offenders by focusing on the linkages that exist among crimes committed by the same offender.

<b>2024 ViCLAS Submissions</b>	
<b>Offence</b>	<b>Number of ViCLAS Submissions</b>
Homicide or attempts, solved or unsolved	11
Sexual Assaults, solved or unsolved	603
Non-parental abductions and attempts	10
Missing person occurrences where circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play and the person remains missing **Updated to any mispe over 30days as per the CSPA**	11
Found human remains / unidentified body that are known or suspected to be homicide	0

Luring of a child or attempted luring of a child, solved or unsolved	11
All non-criteria ViCLAS submissions	88
Total	734

Due to the increase in workload and demand, a budget case submission was submitted in the spring of 2024 for the addition of one (1) full-time ViCLAS coordinator position, which was approved. The new member began in March of 2025.

### **Bail Compliance Dashboard Initiative**

In July of 2022, in collaboration with the Toronto Police Service, the Durham Regional Police Service launched its own Firearms Bail Dashboard which gave both services the ability to share and display firearm and bail compliance information in real time. This innovative approach, the first of its kind in Canada, helped break down geographic barriers and ultimately led to increased officer and community safety.

When the Firearm Bail Dashboard first launched in Durham, it focused solely on subjects who were on bail with charges related to firearms, murder and participation in a criminal organization. The Firearm Bail Dashboard provided frontline officers in Durham with access to real-time situational awareness and enabled them to make better, data-driven decisions.

In March of 2023, Durham’s Firearms Bail Dashboard was renamed the Bail Compliance Dashboard. At that time, the DRPS dashboard threshold expanded to include a further nine criminal offences. The Bail Compliance Dashboard has now grown to include offenders on releases for 27 separate offences. As of January, 2025 there are currently 9 offenders with murder related charges currently on the dashboard (Murder – 4, Attempt Murder - 4, Manslaughter 1).

As Durham’s dashboard continues to develop and evolve, the number of dashboard subjects that are identified and monitored through bail compliance checks steadily increases.

- 227 – Subjects on the Firearm Bail Dashboard (November 2022)
- 440 – Subjects on the Bail Compliance Dashboard (July 2023)
- 555 – Subjects on the Bail Compliance Dashboard (March 2024)
- 701 – Subjects on the Bail Compliance Dashboard (March 2025)

Of the 701 subjects currently on Durham’s Bail Compliance Dashboard, 147 are living in the Durham Region with firearm-related charges. There are also 130 identified subjects in Durham with ankle monitors and 39 subjects on bail with DRPS-laid firearm charges who live in other jurisdictions. All of those individuals are tracked by Durham’s Bail Compliance Dashboard.

As the Bail Compliance Dashboard grows and awareness of it spreads, more and more officers continue the new application to help support and guide bail compliance check efforts. As a result, overall DRPS bail compliance check numbers have dramatically increased.

- 1,127 – Bail compliance checks in 2021
- 1,688 – Bail compliance checks in 2022 (DRPS Bail Compliance Dashboard launched in July of 2022)
- 3,396 – Bail compliance checks in 2023
- 5,600 – Bail compliance checks in 2024

In 2024, the Bail Compliance Dashboard moved under the Offender Management Unit’s umbrella.

In 2025 The Durham Regional Police will be adding the data from the OPP Provincial Firearm Bail Compliance Dashboard into the DRPS Bail Compliance Dashboard.

## INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

### Investigative Services

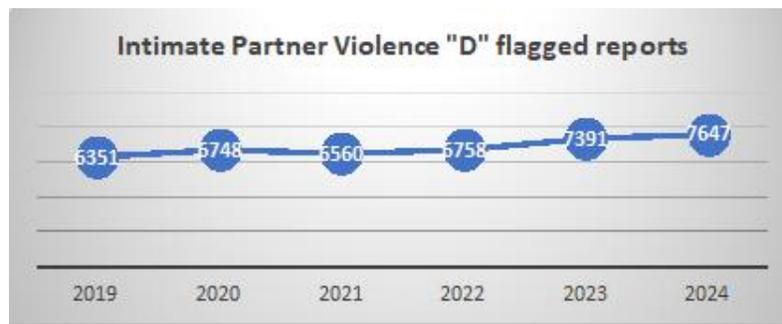
Investigative Services is comprised of our Financial Crimes Unit (FCU), Robbery Unit, Auto Theft Unit (Project Attire), Intimate Partner Violence Unit and Human Trafficking Unit (HTU).

### Intimate Partner Violence Unit

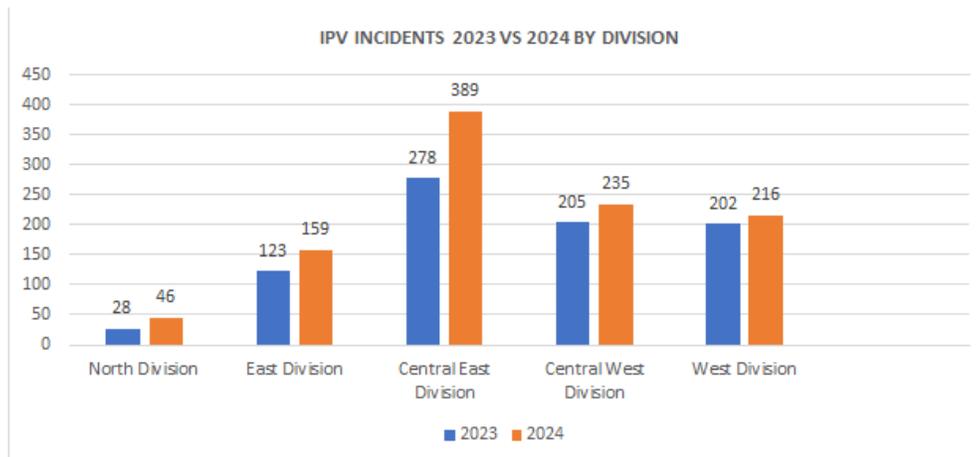
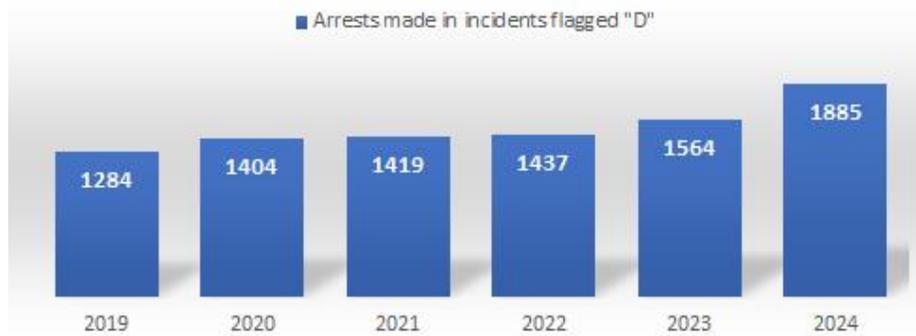
The Intimate Partner Violence Unit (IPVU) is responsible for the investigation of intimate partner violence incidents, not including sexual assault, where reasonable grounds exist to believe that an assault, current or historical, has occurred, or threats of death or bodily harm have been made resulting in the arrest of an accused or the need for a warrant application. The IPVU is responsible for assigning a member of the unit to perform the role of case managing for:

- a. Intimate Partner Criminal Harassments.
- b. Intimate Partner Breaches.
- c. Any incidents deemed high risk.
- d. Incidents deemed relevant for review by IPVU supervisors.

In 2024, the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) experienced a 3.46% increase in domestic-flagged reports. This increase equates to, DRPS entering (on average) approximately 21 domestic-flagged reports each day. Over the past five years, these reports have risen by approximately 20.4%.



Over the past five years, police data shows a 20.4% increase in domestic-related incident reports and a 20.5% rise in arrests for domestic-related offenses. The most notable increase in arrest rates occurred between 2023 and 2024, with a 20% jump during that time. These figures clearly demonstrate that arrests alone are not enough to address the issue of intimate partner violence. A more comprehensive approach is needed to address the underlying causes. In an effort to increase awareness of IPV, members of the unit increased their community engagement in 2024 by over 46%. Members actively attended various community events through partnerships with local community shelters, as well as police-initiated events.



**Domestic Violence Bail Unit**

The Domestic Violence Bail Unit is a provincially funded team consisting of three officers dedicated to supporting Crown Attorneys in achieving four key objectives:

1. Enhancing the quality of information available to the Crown for bail hearings.
2. Increasing victim safety following the arrest of an accused.
3. Differentiating between high-risk and low-risk situations.
4. Providing victims with timely support and information early in the court process.

*Performance Metrics*

- In 2024, the Bail Safety Unit managed bail hearings for 521 offenders, reflecting a 21% increase compared to 428 offenders in 2023.
- A total of 278 victim interviews were conducted in 2024. These interviews are critical for gathering information to strengthen the case for holding the accused in custody and assessing the potential threat to the victim if released.

**CIB - Auto thefts (Project Attire)**

In January 2025, Project Attire was re-aligned by moving the project from Central East Division responsibilities to Investigative Services. Like other police services across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Durham Regional Police (DRPS) has experienced a substantial rise in stolen vehicles. Auto theft occurrences have steadily increased in Durham Region, with a 112% increase noted from 2020 to 2025 (current).

Over the past four years, the Durham Region has experienced a significant increase in auto thefts. This rise has led to the recovery of numerous stolen vehicles within the area, and our team has been providing expert witness testimony and supporting frontline officers during initial investigations. In 2022, the clearance rate was 16%, with a charge rate of 10%. In 2023, the clearance rate dropped to 12%, alongside a charge rate of 7%. In 2024, the clearance rate slightly improved to 15%, but the charge rate remained at 7%. These figures reflect the workforce currently assigned to Project Attire, which has remained consistent.

### Community Awareness

Project Attire connected with approximately 4,000 residents in communities throughout the Durham Region. The auto theft prevention awareness bus campaign began in December 2024 with Durham Region Transit.

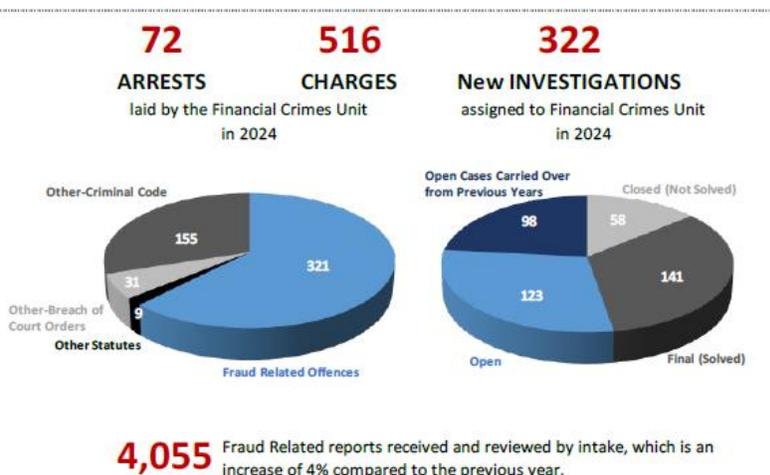
### Unit Highlights

Project RUGER focused on addressing stolen vehicles in north Durham connected to the illicit drug trade. Charges of Possession of Property Obtained By Crime, Possess Cocaine for Trafficking and Possession of Other Drugs for Trafficking were laid.

Four individuals were identified concerning the theft of three vehicles and several other criminal offences across the Durham Region. Through a fulsome investigation, it was determined that, in addition to vehicle thefts, the contents of the stolen vehicles were used to commit other fraud-related crimes. Officers laid over 30 charges in total.

### Financial Crimes Unit

In 2024, there were 4,055 reported occurrences of fraud, which is a 4% increase compared to 2023. The Financial Crimes Unit was assigned 322 new cases to investigate during the year, leading to 72 arrests and 516 charges being filed. Victims of fraud reported total losses exceeding \$58.6 million in 2024, with approximately 3% of that amount recovered to date. Additionally, the fraud queue has decreased by about 33% on Mondays since the official implementation of the Intake position. Notably, cryptocurrency-related cases increased by 37% from 2023 to 2024, resulting in a total loss of \$18.6 million in 2024.

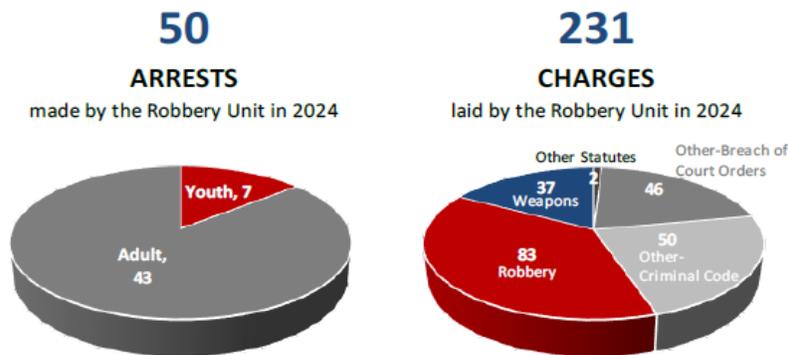


### *Community Involvement*

FCU has partnered with TD Bank to raise awareness of the 211 Campaign by implementing digital messaging in all their Durham branches. This message was displayed every 10-15 minutes from January 17 to March 17, 2024. Additionally, March is recognized as Fraud Prevention Month. Throughout this month, FCU shared daily tweets containing valuable tips and alerts to help keep the public informed and protected.

### **Robbery Unit**

The DRPS Robbery Unit investigated 65 Robbery occurrences in 2024, up 10% compared to 2023. Weapons were used in 44 of the robberies (68%), specifically 16 involved firearms, 13 involved knives, and 15 involved other weapons. Stolen vehicles were used in 16 of the cases, and 23 were linked to multi-jurisdictional crime series. Robbery Unit assigned cases resulted in 50 arrests and 231 charges being laid in 2024.



### *Robbery Unit Community Engagements*

In 2023, Members of the Robbery Unit developed a presentation to be delivered to financial institution employees. Building off the success from the previous year, members reached out to additional financial institutions to reach more community partners delivering the presentation to multiple credit unions. The presentation was designed to educate bank employees on what to do in the event of a robbery. The presentation focused on methods to ensure the safety of all employees and clients, as well as ways to assist investigators with the investigation. Presentation and interaction with unit members were well received, leading to requests from other financial institutions to receive the presentation.

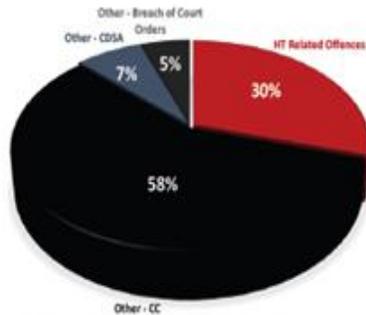
### **Human Trafficking Unit / CARE**

In 2024, the Human Trafficking Unit investigated 249 incidents that involved elements of human trafficking. Of these incidents, 211 individuals (87 under 18 years of age) were assisted/provided services, either due to their involvement in human trafficking or their risk of becoming involved in human trafficking-related activity. As a result of these investigations, 111 charges were laid, and 73 accused/people of interest were identified. Compared to 2023, this represents a 14% decrease in investigations and a 10% decrease in victims.

111

**CHARGES**

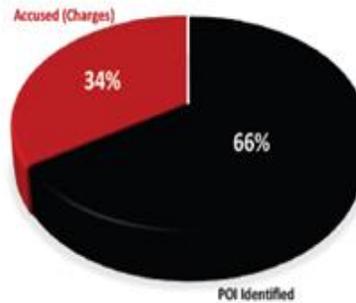
laid by the Human Trafficking Unit in 2024.



73

**ACCUSED/POI**

identified by Human Trafficking investigators.



3,223

Missing Persons reports reviewed by members of the HTU

*HT Community Involvement*

On February 22 and 23, 2024, for Human Trafficking Awareness Day, the HTU hosted a pop-up information booth. Members from CAS, DBCFS, Victim Services, Durham HT Coalition, and Lavender Hill were in attendance. A newly wrapped Durham Region Transit bus was unveiled at the event. In April 2024, the StopHT-wrapped tractor-trailer was revealed to the press. These vehicles will help to raise awareness of human trafficking throughout the Durham Region, as well as direct people to a website that provides helpful information for those involved in human trafficking or those who people may suspect are involved (Stopht.com).

*Human Trafficking E-Learning*

The Human Trafficking Unit released a survivor-led human trafficking e-learning course in conjunction with Victim Services of Durham Region and Niagara Police Service. The training is mandatory for officers but is available for all members to participate in.

*Monday Night Project*

The Monday Night Project is a safe space drop-in group held biweekly for street sex workers (victims of sex trafficking and/or women at risk). The HTU works collaboratively with agencies such as the Region of Durham, CAREA, Ontario Works, and Victim Services of Durham Region to provide the attendees with access to reporting ‘bad dates’ and other offenses, information sharing, housing access, clothing, food, and harm reduction. Created by the HTU in March 2023, the MNP has held 49 meetings in total, providing essential support via community resources to 245 vulnerable women.

## OASIS – Older Adult Support Investigative Services

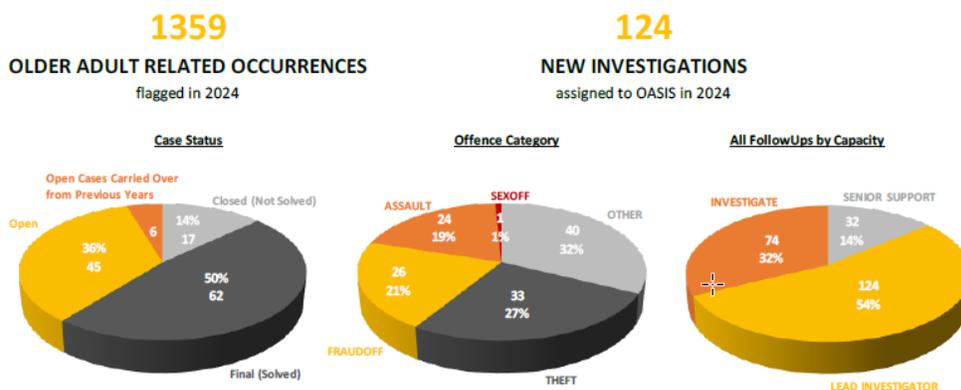
Statistics Canada projections indicate that the Region of Durham is undergoing a significant shift in the age demographic of its residents, particularly those aged 65 and older. In 2016, 13.7% of residents fell into this category, which is projected to rise to 19.9% by 2028, representing 1 in 5 residents. Long-term estimates suggest that by 2040, the ratio could be as high as 1 in 4 residents.

In response to this demographic change, the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) established the Older Adult Support and Investigative Services (OASIS) Unit as part of the 2023/2024 budget. The OASIS unit began ramping up in July 2023 with one detective, who was later joined in January by a Detective-Constable (D/Cst). By June 2024, a second D/Cst joined the unit.

Both D/Csts arrived with extensive experience in policing. Since their arrival, the officers have worked to enhance their understanding of the complex issues facing vulnerable individuals, particularly older adults. These issues often involve aspects of civil law, the criminal code, and collaboration with community partners.

Unit personnel collaborate closely with the Region of Durham's Older Adults' Safety Support Team (OASST), provincial regulatory authorities (such as the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Retirement Home Regulatory Authority), and agencies like the MAG Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, among many other community partners. Building strong relationships with these partners is crucial to ensuring that victims receive the necessary support, which allows the police to concentrate on allegations of abuse and criminal activity.

In November 2024, the Unit's mandate was approved, leading to revisions in Directive VA-01-004, which addresses Vulnerable Persons, including Older Persons. In early 2025, the unit will commence an awareness program, visiting all frontline and specialty units to promote understanding and introduce support mechanisms.



### *OASIS Community Engagements*

The OASIS Unit participates in various community engagement activities, such as presentations, events, and educational seminars, to enhance public awareness and understanding of topics like fraud, Powers of Attorney, Last Will and Testament, and the abuse of vulnerable persons. These efforts also aim to raise awareness of the DRPS's initiatives and foster collaboration between the DRPS and community partners, with the ultimate goal of reducing victimization.

In 2024, members of the OASIS Unit took part in 94 community engagements, reaching over 2,234 attendees aged 14 and older.

In collaboration with the Police Leadership Council (PLC), the unit conducted a 5-day course titled "Abuse of Older Adults" for Front-Line Officers in September 2024. Participants included DRPS uniformed officers, five members from two other services, and one representative from the Region of Durham. The DRPS is working to have this course accredited by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) as a provincial Level 1 course under the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

## **CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH**

The Criminal Intelligence Branch is an integral part of the Serious and Organized Crime Section and underpins many investigations across the organization. Managed within the Intelligence Branch are support units which include surveillance teams, warrant liaison, Lawful Access and Information Management Units; these units are assigned on a priority basis and focused on prioritizing responses to the most serious threats to public safety. Additionally, the Criminal Intelligence Branch manages information that is collected, assessed, and disseminated to effectively embrace intelligence-led policing. Members of enforcement teams utilize focused intelligence-led enforcement initiatives based on Threat Assessment/Evidence.

### **Innovation and Modernization**

The Technical Services Section (TSS) of the DRPS continues to strive to be at the forefront of the modernization of Policing. TSS focused on three main components over the year, including; the creation of the Covert Access Interception Team (CAIT), Increasing capabilities of the Lawful Access Unit (LA) and acquiring new and innovative technology.

In 2024, the CAIT unit has been fully engaged in Cell Site Simulator (CSS) deployments for investigations and exigent circumstances. CSS deployments have been directly responsible for several lifesaving deployments. At the beginning of 2024, TSS cooperated with Fleet Services to establish a Drop Vehicle Program for Video Installations. TSS obtained two vehicles in 2024, which have been deployed regularly. Moving forward, there may be a need for additional Drop Vehicles as the requests for these deployments continue to increase. Furthermore, as demonstrated in the statistics for Operational Deployments, TSS required a Bucket Truck. In 2025, the DRPS will obtain one through cooperation with E-Crimes and the Regional Overt Camera initiative.

TSS and Lawful Access Supervisor worked diligently this year on two main priorities: a JSI Refresh and creating Full-Time LA Monitor positions. The JSI refresh required numerous reports and a presentation to the Police Services Board to obtain funding. These efforts proved successful, and the JSI systems for the DRPS will be refreshed/updated in early 2025. The Budget Case submission for the Full-Time LA Monitors was also successful, and two members will be added in 2025 as full-time employees.

TSS and Lawful Access have agreed to make Kingston PS their primary support for JSI deployments for investigations. An MOU has been initiated with Kingston PS. Once this is completed, similar MOUs will be generated for other supported agencies, including Port Hope, Cobourg, Peterborough, and Kawartha Lakes.

### **Intelligence Operations Section (IOS)**

The Intelligence Operations Section (IOS) is a member of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (CISO), a partnership between the Ontario Government and the law enforcement community. IOS is

responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal intelligence, working collaboratively with Provincial and Federal partners to enhance public safety.

In 2024, IOS continued to leverage technology and social media monitoring to support intelligence-led policing and community safety initiatives. Significant efforts have been made to enhance intelligence-gathering capabilities through specialized training for Divisional members. The deployment of secure computers, combined with an Intelligence-led OSINT training course, safeguards investigative tactics and DRPS infrastructure.

OSINT training has proven to be an essential tool for monitoring open-source information related to upcoming protests and gatherings within the region. It allows for early detection and real-time intelligence gathering, ensuring investigators remain informed about locations, routes, and changes in plans. Additionally, it aids in identifying organizers, key figures, and estimating crowd sizes—critical for public and officer safety through strategic resource deployment. The continued expansion of OSINT training and technology will further strengthen intelligence-led policing efforts.

#### Commitment to Hate Crime Investigations

IOS remains at the forefront of investigating hate-motivated incidents. As part of the Hate Crime Extremism and Incident Team (HCEIT), a dedicated D/Cst. collaborates closely with 18 police services across Ontario, facilitating seamless information exchange and providing investigative support.

To modernize investigative processes, IOS has developed a Versadex template to assist frontline officers in capturing crucial information at the outset of investigations. Accurate initial reporting enhances case development, assisting Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB) offices and IOS in achieving higher charge clearance rates. These improvements contribute to greater community trust and confidence in law enforcement. Additionally, a Hate Crime Dashboard has been implemented to track hate-related statistics and incident locations. This data-driven approach allows for the identification of emerging crime trends, the direct direction of frontline patrols to areas of concern, and improved response strategies.

#### Expansion of Hate Crime Investigative Resources

A budget submission was successfully approved for the creation of a dedicated Hate Crime Investigative Team, consisting of:

- Three (3) Detective Constables
- One (1) Dedicated Analyst

These additional members will provide specialized support in tracking, investigating, and addressing hate-motivated incidents, further strengthening IOS's mandate.

IOS also plays a key role in officer education by participating in divisional parades and delivering training on hate crime investigations and tracking. Additionally, the team contributes to the CISO outreach training program, hosting specialized training courses to further develop investigative expertise. With these advancements, IOS continues to innovate and enhance investigative efficiency, reinforcing its commitment to community safety and intelligence-led policing.

## **Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU)**

The Criminal Intelligence Branch continued to focus on traffickers and criminal networks responsible for the distribution and importation of controlled substances primarily fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine. The networks identified are often embedded in communities across the province, and through the use of intelligence and open communication, the team ensures a collaborative global response. In 2024 the DEU received considerable financial support from Provincial partners running project Venture. As a result of this project investigators seized firearms and a significant amount of controlled substances. The project is on-going and is expected to be concluded in late spring. This project would not be possible without the funding provided by CISO and our external partner agencies. DEU members routinely provide presentations to police and non-police audiences across the province. This includes regular presentations on best practices during opioid investigations to aspiring drug officers at the Ontario Police College, and educating Durham Region EMS employees on street level opioid trends.

The Intelligence Branch has been tracking the overdose/sudden death rates relating to opioid abuse (including illicit fentanyl and heroin) since 2014. Partners in this practice include the Drug Enforcement Unit, Investigative Services, and Forensic Investigative Services. These statistics have been used in a number of educational and awareness presentations to inform our health care officials, emergency services personnel, the judiciary, and the general public on the status of the opioid health crisis and the dangers of Fentanyl. These statistics also proved important, and guided investigations to areas most effected by overdoses in the region during project Martini. This was a street level project supported by DEU in combination with members of the Community Resource Teams (CRT). During this project, a significant number of arrests and seizures occurred (mainly fentanyl) and had a significant impact on the areas of the region most effected by fentanyl trafficking and overdose.

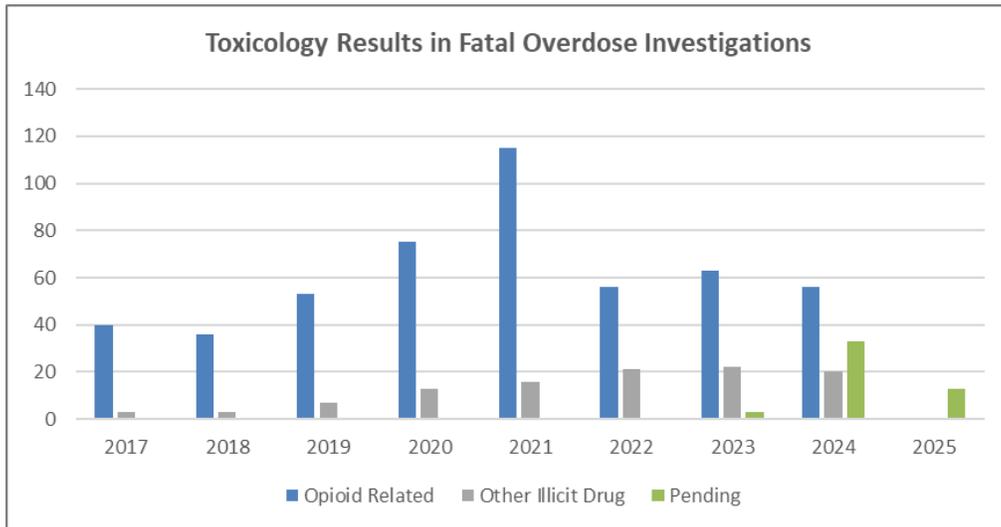
According to the Durham Region Opioid Information System (DROIS), Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) responded to an increasing number of suspected opioid overdose calls for service every year from 2017 until reaching a peak in 2021. Annual call volume dropped in 2022, which continued through the first quarter of 2023. However, by mid-May in 2023 weekly call volume began steadily increasing and hit a monthly high in December. Overall, annual call volume was 25% higher in 2023 than in 2022. This trend continued into 2024; from January to September, RDPS calls for service were 32% higher than the same time last year. Monthly call volume began decreasing in October, but the year-end count was still 6% higher than in 2023. Call volume in the first two months of 2025 is 48% lower than in 2024.

The number of confirmed fatal opioid overdoses peaked in in 2021 and more than doubled the five-year average; 115 fatalities were attributed to opioid overdose, 108 of which were Fentanyl related.

In 2022, similar to overdose calls for service, fatal opioid overdoses trended lower. Toxicology report returns show there were 56 confirmed fatal opioid overdoses, 50 of which were due to Fentanyl toxicity.

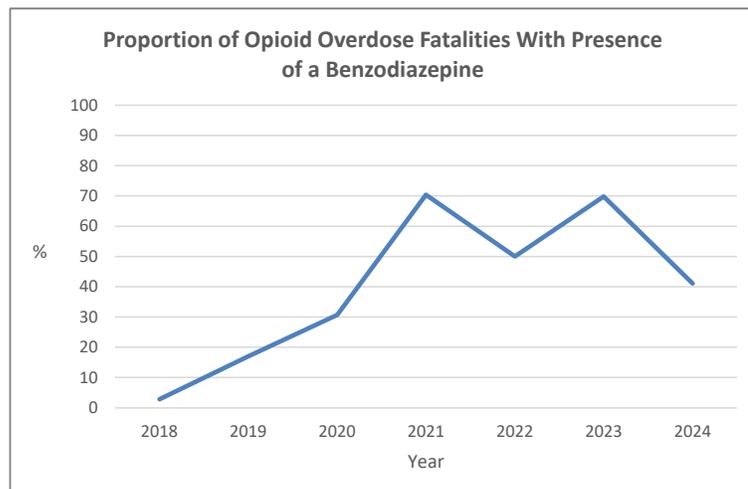
In 2023 there were 63 confirmed fatal opioid overdoses, 53 of which involved Fentanyl. The 2023 counts for fatalities surpassed the 2022 totals, and there are still 3 reports pending toxicological results.

In 2024 there were 56 confirmed opioid overdose deaths, 48 of which were Fentanyl related. There are still 33 toxicology reports outstanding.



The emergence of substances such as benzodiazepines, sedatives and nitazenes have served to further contaminate the street level fentanyl supply and has contributed to overdose death rates across Canada, as these substances are not counteracted by Naloxone. Two of the fatal drug overdoses in 2024 were attributed to cocaine and protonitazene toxicity. These are the first fatalities in the Region where a nitazene (synthetic opioid) has been noted in the absence of an opioid.

The benzodiazepine trend is mirrored in opioid drug fatalities in Durham Region. The proportion of fatal opioid overdoses where toxicology reports show a presence of benzodiazepine has increased significantly since 2018, when there was only one instance. Since then, benzodiazepines have been present in 31% of deaths in 2020 and 70% of deaths in 2021. In the 56 confirmed opioid overdoses in 2022, 28 contained a benzodiazepine (50%). In 2023, bromazolam was detected in 44 of the 63 confirmed opioid overdose deaths (70%).



In 2024 the rate dropped to 41%.

Members are embedded within the Drug Treatment Court and collaborate with the treatment team to reduce recidivism and promote the recovery of the participant. The police liaison officer performs a vital role which ensures the integrity of the program. By doing background checks on potential referrals police are able to prevent traffickers from entering the program and avoiding accountability while keeping the resources available for those who struggle with addiction. Additionally, by consistently monitoring the participants, the liaison officer identifies high risk situations which could impede their recovery and keeps the accountable to the court. Participating on the Opioid Task Force, officers work with a diverse cross-section of community partners including treatment providers, harm-reduction workers, public health and Ontario Tech University to develop strategies to address the opioid crisis. DRPS members recently undertook

preparing a process map illustrating the variety of arrest circumstances to identify where treatment interventions and referrals could be made. This led to the circulation of information regarding PCOP so officers who release someone on the street or from cells could (on consent) share contact information with PCOP as a gateway to treatment services.

### *Drug Expert Program*

In 2024, DEU members authored in excess of one hundred and ten (110) expert opinions for criminal court. DEU members also drug provide expert testimony in all levels of court in Durham Region and throughout the Central East region. Lastly, DEU expert witnesses take part of in consistent training, and provide training and guidance to DRPS officers and officers throughout the province.

### *Community Involvement*

In addition to the DEU's partnerships with Drug Treatment Court, DEU members have engaged with non-policing community members through conducting presentations and symposiums to the following people and organizations; Durham EMS – conducted in excess of eight (8) presentations to Durham Region paramedics, these presentations focused on current drug trends within the region, and safe handling of fentanyl and opioids. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) – DEU members conducted ten (10) presentations to OPG members about the current drug trends, drug recognition and safe handling of opioids. Youth in Policing (TIP) – DEU members conducted two (2) presentation to YIP members about drug recognition and current drug trends within the region.

### **Gun and Gang Unit**

The Gun and Gang Unit has developed a comprehensive understanding of the evolving Privately Made Firearm (PMF) market. Beyond its involvement in numerous PMF-related cases, the unit has acquired an advanced 3D printer and continues to produce and test firearm components. This rapidly growing and dynamic market enables illicit firearm owners to create highly functional, untraceable weapons. Investigators continue to actively share their expertise on this market with law enforcement agencies across the country, both through their participation in the Provincial Expert Advisory Committee on Organized Crime (PEACOC) and through provincially-led Firearms Verification and Gang Investigator courses at the Ontario Police College. GGU has built several functioning .22 calibre 3D printed firearms. These builds have been shared with the RCMP and added to the firearms reference table. Several firearms parts and overcapacity magazines in a variety of calibres have also been tested.

Education and mentorship remain key priorities for the Criminal Intelligence Branch. The Gun and Gang Unit has continued to deliver training on firearm and street gang trends through various courses for both front-line and investigative personnel. In addition, ongoing support, guidance, and mentorship have been provided to uniformed officers, community resource teams, criminal investigative bureaus, and the homicide unit. Members of the Gun and Gang Unit frequently assist with shooting investigations and the seizure of both legal and illegal firearms, offering resources and sharing valuable insights on best practices and recent legal developments.

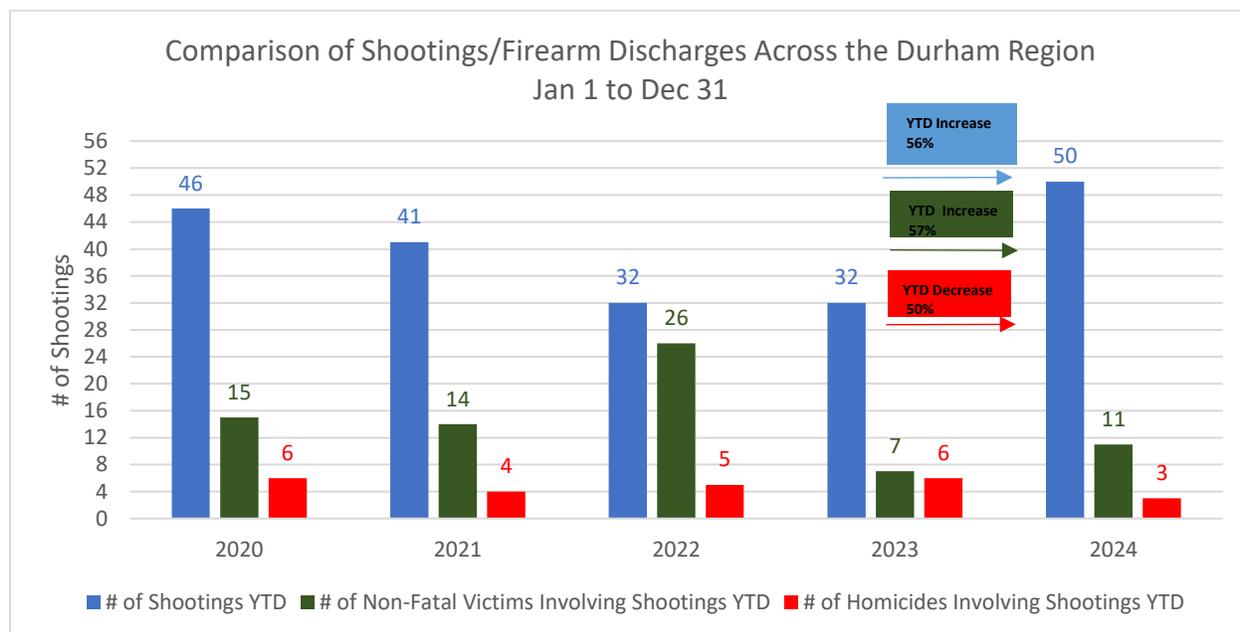
The Gun and Gang Unit has continued to grow and enhance the Gang Liaison Officer program, which is funded by the Community Safety and Policing Grant. This initiative has led to the creation of additional training opportunities, raising awareness about gun and gang-related issues, as well as focusing on gang prevention among youth. Stronger relationships have been fostered between front-line patrol officers, school liaison officers, Crown Attorneys, Probation and Parole Services, and other key stakeholders to ensure effective prosecutions, appropriate sentencing upon conviction, and the management of rehabilitation and prevention efforts. This ongoing support and mentorship reflect a strong commitment to

community safety by boosting knowledge and confidence within the police service, ultimately enhancing the quality of service provided to our communities.

During a significant portion of 2024, the Durham Regional Police Service Gun and Gang Unit investigated a street gang operating in North Oshawa, calling themselves “2230”. Investigators received information about this Gang and had been monitoring social media and police incidents related to this group prior to the investigation. The information referred to the group as a “gang” and claimed members were in possession of illicit firearms while engaging in drug and firearms trafficking as well as other criminal behavior. As a result of “Project Burton,” 35 people were charged with 184 criminal charges and 21 search warrants were executed at residences in the Durham Region and the GTA. The investigative team seized 12 handguns, 1 Carbine Rifle, 7 overcapacity magazines, 1114 grams of cocaine, and 747 grams of Fentanyl.

The Gun and Gang Unit aims to create a firearms workshop designed to teach Frontline officers and investigators best practices when dealing with crime guns. This course will be delivered across the Durham Regional Police Service. The Gun and Gang Unit believes that this workshop will provide officers with the knowledge and understanding to seize, handle safely, and lay charges in cases where crime guns are seized.

Although there was a decrease (41%) in the number of crime guns seized by DRPS in 2024 compared to the previous year, the number of seizures remained high. There were 50 Firearm Discharges/Shootings in 2024, a significant increase (56%) from 2023. Accounting for some of the differences, 15 firearm discharges/shootings occurring in the Durham Region related to the tow-truck conflict compared to only 1 firearm discharge the previous year. 30% of the firearm discharges in 2024 were related to the tow-truck conflict. Victims of shootings slightly increased by 8%, with non-fatal injuries from shootings increasing from 7 victims in 2023 to 11 victims in 2024. The number of homicide victims from shootings decreased from six in 2023 to 3 in 2024.



## CONCLUSION

The activities and lessons learned from our decades of community policing experience are inventoried and maintained to inform future initiatives and develop our newest leaders. Furthermore, the support of our Strategic Services Unit ensures we use evidence-based approaches in our decision-making and in evaluating our results.

Sir Robert Peel wrote, “The police are the public and the public are the police”. We recognize and appreciate that our strength comes from our community and its members. We strive to work with each community to ensure that Durham Region has the safest community in which to live, work and play. The DRPS is exceptionally proud of our community policing results and appreciates the strong engagement of the communities we serve.

### Report Approval Details

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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Peter MOREIRA

## Report Approval Details

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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kim Yeandle



Peter MOREIRA