

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

TO: Darlene Brander, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Clive Weighill
Chief of Police

DATE: 2016 October 22

SUBJECT: Missing Persons Reporting
April 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016

FILE NO: 2,012-1

ISSUE:

On December 10, 2015, the Board of Police Commissioners requested the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) provide statistics on missing persons in Saskatoon including the number of missing persons, the location of where they were reported missing, the number of habitual runaways and proactive steps to prevent people from going missing. The first quarter report was forwarded on April 12, 2016. Direction was later provided that the Board has requested two reports per year. This report includes statistical information from April 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information.

DISCUSSION:

Throughout the course of this reporting period the Missing Person Detail has continued to identify a pattern in the types, frequencies and issues regarding who, where and when missing person files are reported to the SPS. The following report breaks down those statistics categorically, presenting them in a clear and concise manner, illustrating the discoveries made by the unit.

Overall:

In total, the SPS received 1389 missing person reports from April 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016. In expanding the number, this pace would result in a year-end total of 2778 reports generated. That number would rank missing person calls/reports as the third highest amongst the SPS calls for service.

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Female Youth:

In this reporting period, there have been 601 instances of female youth (under 18) reported missing. Among this category, 377 of these reports involved a habitual missing person (reported missing two times or more), accounting for 63 percent of that type of call for service.

Among these 377 habitual runaway cases, 10 females (who all reside in group/foster care homes) account for 134 of the occurrences (36 percent).

Of those 10 females all have generated 9 or more missing person reports. One female generated 39 missing person reports.

Male Youth:

In this reporting period, there have been 406 instances of male youth (under 18) being reported missing. Among this category, 227 of these reports involved a habitual missing person (two times or more), accounting for 56 percent of that type of call for service.

Among these 227 habitual runaway cases, 10 males (8 of which all reside in group/foster care homes) account for 123 of those calls for service (54 percent).

Of those 10 males, 7 of them have each generated 10 or more missing person reports in this reporting period.

Adults:

By comparison, adult missing cases very rarely fall under the definition of habitual. In fact, with the exception of eloped certified mental patients, out of 293 instances 3 adults had a repeat missing person report generated about them this reporting period.

In total, year-to-date, adults have accounted for 21 percent of total missing person reports. The breakdown is 176 adult males compared to 117 adult females, a 60/40 split. Of those 293 adult males and females year-to-date, 72 of those are associated to mental health facilities (25 percent of the overall adult number).

City hospitals where many of the adult mental health missing person calls originate have seen 82 total calls for service in this reporting period (27 percent).

Addresses:

In this reporting period, the SPS attended to 588 addresses for missing person reports.

Of those calls, police attended to 168 addresses multiple times (29 percent). On those occasions where SPS attended to an address multiple times, 30 of those addresses were to a group home/foster care facility or a hospital/care home facility.

Among those 168 repeat calls, the SPS attended to 11 of these multiple call addresses 549 times, including over 38 times each to 8 of the residences all group home/foster care homes.

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Long Term Cases

The SPS currently has 15 long term missing person files (2 months or longer). The investigation of these missing persons is shared amongst the Missing Person Detail, the Historical Case Unit and the Major Crime Unit. The assignment of the investigation is based on the circumstances associated with the disappearance. All of these files are open investigations; however, due to their age and circumstance some are inactive.

Historic Missing Persons		
Name	Age When Missing	Missing Since
Kathleen Johnston	26	October 20, 1953
William Gill	23	December 21, 1981
Peter McKay	5	December 31, 1986
Marc April	26	January 31, 1987
Andrew Wiebe	40	January 11, 1988
Shirley Lonethunder	25	December 20, 1991
William Krowchuk	52	July 9, 1998
Antoine Medzech	67	December 13, 2002
Darlene Anderson	44	November 6, 2006
Ricky Riopel	48	December 25, 2008
Hamza Al-Sharief	23	December 14, 2011
Kenneth Fehr	51	November 27, 2012
Kandice Singbiel	33	July 28, 2015
Jordan Walker	21	December 2, 2015
Justin Kishayinew	22	February 13, 2016

Proactive Approaches

The SPS continues to work with community organizations such as Bethany Home, Egadz and Eagle’s Nest concerning missing person cases.

The Missing Person Detail continues to have a strong and open relationship with the Ministry of Social Services liaising regularly with workers and supervisors in an open exchange of information and ideas.

The media in Saskatoon continues to be very supportive. They receive multiple requests from our Service to broadcast the names and pictures of missing persons.

Saskatoon Victim Services has a full time Missing Person Liaison. This position has been instrumental in forging relationships with the families of missing persons, particularly those of Indigenous decent.

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As part of Missing Persons month in May 2016, the SPS teamed up with Saskatoon Crime Stoppers to highlight a number of long term missing person cases in Saskatoon. This was done through the use of a large billboard on Idylwyld Drive and it profiled eight outstanding missing person cases in our city. The Missing Person Detail and the Missing Person Liaison also hosted a community presentation to allow the community to develop an understanding how missing person files are handled.

Internally, the Missing Person Detail also frequently refers cases to the Saskatoon HUB in order to provide the subject increased attention from the required specialty community organizations they would otherwise be unable to provide as a two-person unit.

As noted in the first quarter report the SPS changed the missing person procedure several years ago. There is no longer a 24 hour waiting period for reporting missing persons, as well two additional police officers have been added to concentrate on missing persons along with our Victims Services Missing Person Liaison. Each missing person report received is reviewed by the Watch Commander and assessed for the type of response required.

The first quarter report noted that funding was approved for the Saskatchewan Police Predictive Analytics Lab (SPPAL) housed at SPS; an added resource that the Missing Person Detail will benefit from. Work is currently being done on the inaugural SPPAL project on missing persons and both police officers and their community safety partners have been engaged. Ethics approval for this project has now been obtained and although in the early stages, the ultimate goal of the project is the development of applied tools for police and community safety partners.


CONCLUSION:

The Saskatoon Police Service has made positive strides in regards to missing person investigations and the relationships forged out of those successes. We work closely with the group homes, Ministry of Social Services, Saskatoon Tribal Council, and Victim Services.

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Operations

Submitted by:



Clive Weighill
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Dated:



Nov. 8 / 16