St. Albert Policing Committee

Annual Report to Council and Community 2023/24 (Q2)

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Recommendation

That the St. Albert Policing Committee's 2023/24 Annual Report be accepted as information.

Membership (January 1 - December 31, 2023)

Policing Committee Members 2023

Todd Walsh	Chair
Ian Sanderson	Vice-Chair
Kristen Kalmbach	Public Complaints Director
Jim Raso	Citizen Member
Paul Specht	Citizen Member
Krimsen Sumners	Citizen Member

Council Representation

Councillor Ken MacKay is appointed as the primary Council Representative on the Committee. Mayor Heron serves as an ex-officio member and Alternate Council Representative

City Administration Representation

The following individuals provide representation on behalf of the City Administration:

Everett Cook, Director Emergency Services / Fire Chief

Grace Magar, Legal, Legislative & Record Services

Kairee Droogers, Legal, Legislative & Record Services

RCMP Representation

Inspector Ryan Comaniuk, Officer in Charge of St. Albert Detachment provides representation on behalf of the RCMP.

Membership (January 1 – December 31, 2024)

Policing Committee Members 2024

Ian Sanderson	Chair
Paul Specht	Vice-Chair
Kristen Kalmbach	Public Complaints Director
Krimsen Sumners	Citizen Member
Monica Shuttleworth	Citizen Member
Bill Turnham	Citizen Member

Council Representation

Councillor Ken MacKay is appointed as the primary Council Representative on the Committee.

Mayor Heron serves as an ex-officio member and Alternate Council Representative

City Administration Representation

The following individuals provide representation on behalf of the City Administration:

Everett Cook, Director Emergency Services / Fire Chief

Kairee Droogers, Legal, Legislative & Record Services

RCMP Representation

Inspector Ryan Comaniuk, Officer in Charge of St. Albert Detachment provides representation on Behalf of the RCMP.

Introduction

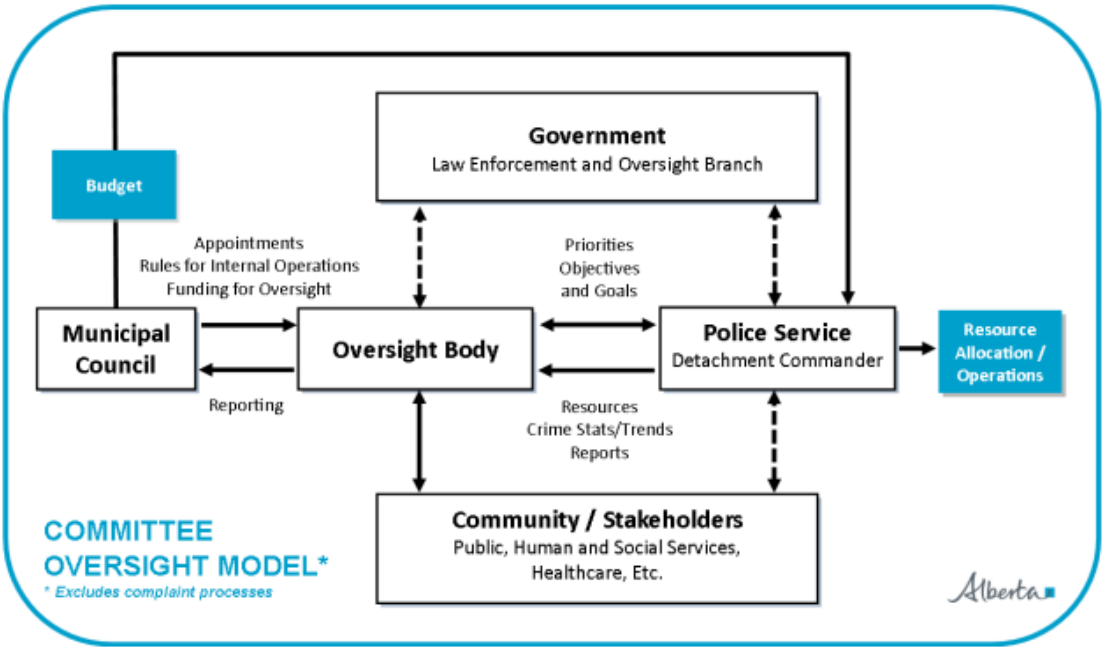
The St. Albert Policing Committee, was founded by City Council in 2017 and officially operational since January 2018, continues to play its vital role. The committee's purpose Is to strike a delicate balance between the independence of the RCMP and its accountability to the community. This is achieved through increased transparency, community input, and the removal of political interference perceptions. Our overarching mission remains the creation of a secure and responsible community, acting as a bridge between City Council, the RCMP Detachment, and St. Albert residents.

Committee Responsibilities

The St. Albert Policing Committee, established under the St. Albert Policing Committee Bylaw 28/2017, was reaffirmed in April 2019 by Bylaw 13/2019. The committee's responsibilities were then encompassed the duties outlined in Section 23 of the *Police Act (RSA 2000)* and its *Regulations*. This includes the compliance with the Oversight Standard and delegation of municipal duties per the Municipal Policing Services Agreement (MPSA).

The *Police Amendment Act (RSA 2022)* repealed Section 23 of the *Police Act,* and Policing Committees are now defined in Section 28.03. The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services is currently working on new Regulations for the Police Amendment Act. New regulations are expected in late 2024 or early 2025.

The following graphic provides an overview of the Policing Committee / RCMP Oversight Model as developed by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta.



Policing Committee 2024 Priorities

The St. Albert Policing Committee is committed to supporting the Policing Priorities of the community by providing civilian oversight and community collaboration. How that governance and oversight is provided, was confirmed in 2022 with 6 key principles:

- Supporting Ongoing Committee Operations in Consultation with the Community
- Increasing Awareness of the Public Complaint Director (PCD) Position
- Working with the RCMP Officer in Charge on Policing Priorities
- Supporting Committee Member Development
- Engaging the Public on Policing Matters
- Collaborating with City Council and Community Organizations

During the 2023 Strategic Planning exercise, the Committee agreed that high level or major policing priorities, should long term goals for issues that are deep or complex. These priorities could easily transcend the term of Committee members. Therefore it was felt that a 3 to 5 year plan was important to maintain focus on such long term goals. This process was guided by the Committees commitment to diversity and inclusion of all members of community.

It was also agreed that the Covid 19 pandemic, had a significant and negative impact on the Committee's ability to engage the community and other agencies. As a result, community engagement was felt to be an urgent priority. The re-establishment of community awareness of the Committee and consultation mechanisms was seen as a key priority. The plan that was developed is ambitious and looks to support the long term Policing Priorities of the community. The plan was developed to provide Committee involvement in the development of policies and strategies that support the policing priorities. The plan also contains measurable performance indicators and looks to the development of data streams that will support performance indicators at the community level. It was encouraging to see that the Social Needs Assessment, conducted in 2023 by FCSS, showed the Policing Priorities were aligned with the community need. The 2024/27 Strategic Plan is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

Activities

1) As the current members of Council are aware, the staffing levels at St. Albert Detachment became a major concern as we came out of the pandemic. Although this was not an issue unique to St. Albert, the Committee was concerned by the growing number of soft vacancies in the Detachment establishment that could not be filled. The Committee looked for a local solution to address concerns over service delivery and the impact the shortages were having on the remainder of the staff at the Detachment.

   At the end of Q2 in 2023, the Committee requested Council examine the potential of increasing the budgeted allotment for RCMP staff, by 5 positions. Although the municipality does not pay for vacant positions, the creation of new positions created hard vacancies that could be filled by the RCMP. Council acted on this request and resulted in new positions that are now being staffed. This local action, along with other strategies by the RCMP have resulted in improvement staffing levels as we move into Q3 2024.

2) The Committee has continued to provide representation to the Officer in Charge's Diversity committee.

3) The Committee maintain membership in the Alberta Association of Police Governance AAPG), the Alberta Hate Crime Committee and the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG).

4) The St. Albert Policing Committee has had a representative sit on the Board of Directors of the Alberta Association of Police Governance for over 6 years. The current St. Albert representative is serving as Chair of the AAPG.

5) As one of the well-established and leading policing committees in Alberta, the St. Albert Policing Committee is regularly consulted by the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services. Over the past year, St. Albert was consulted as the Ministry worked to establish a costing model for the establishment of a new policing committee. This was in advance of the development of the Regulations of *Police Amendment Act.*

   St. Albert was one of the first policing Committees to be consulted as the Ministry was building the plan for the public consultation on the *Police Amendment Act Regulations*. The members of the St. Albert Policing Committee participated in the consultation process and encouraged other groups to participate to ensure community voices were heard in the process. At the end of consultation process, the Province stated that they would not be releasing a "What We Heard" report from the consultation. Although this is disappointing and leads to concerns over transparency in the process, there is no doubt St. Albert contributed to the process. Once the regulations are enacted, the impact of that consultation will be known.

6) During the consultation process for the *Police Amendment Act Regulations,* the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services stated their intent to remove the ability for Police Commissions and Policing Committees to have a Public Complaints Director (PCD). This is a part of the establishment of the Police Review Commission. Although the Alberta RCMP has stated its willingness to be a part of the Provincial complaints process, that has yet to be confirmed. It is felt that the loss of the PCD would be a step backwards for St. Albert and other communities. Although the types of complaints the PCD receives are not serious or numerous, they do tend to come from community members who may be marginalized or not want to make a formal complaint, but rather just be heard. The loss of the PCD position would also remove a mechanism for the Committee to connect with marginalized members of the Community.

   St. Albert identified its concern over the loss of PCD's during the consultation process and was contacted outside of the consultation process by the Ministry to further discuss those concerns. This was valuable discussion and there have been indications from the Ministry that the PCD position will remain in the new regulations. There will most certainly be reporting requirements to support transparency, should they remain, but this is something that would be welcomed.

   The St. Albert Policing Committee also drafted a resolution for the AAPG AGM in May 2024, asking the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services to keep the Public Complaints

Directors for Commissions and Committees. This resolution was co-sponsored by the Camrose Police Commission and passed unanimously at the AAPG AGM.

7) With the completion of the Strategic Plan, The Policing Committee moved to restart community engagement activities. This included the following:
    - Participation in the Lifestyle Expo
    - 1 day at the St. Albert Farmers Market (August 24th)
    - Membership in the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce
    - Featured as the Community Spotlight, at the Chamber Lunch (Pending Fall '24)
    - Refreshing and restocking promotional items for community engagement.
    - Promoting crime prevention and Victim Services at engagement sessions

RCMP Annual Policing Priorities

The St. Albert Policing Committee participated in the process of the establishment of the 2024/2025 Policing Priorities. The Committee approve and express our commitment to support the following RCMP Annual Policing Priorities;

1. Crime Reduction
2. Mental Health and Vulnerable Communities
3. Domestic/Relationship Violence and Assaults

These priorities that have been shared with City Council include objectives, outcomes, initiatives and key performance indicators.

In conclusion, the members of the St. Albert Policing Committee are committed to our mission and mandate to create and support a safe and secure community. As a mechanism of civilian oversight in the governance process. We remain committed to transparency, accountability and community involvement. In 2023 and 2024 the Committee has taken action to put the effects of the pandemic behind us. We are moving forward to meet the demands and expectations of new legislation and increased public demand for accountability and transparency.

All Committee members with to thank Mayor and Council, City Administration, Legal, Legislative & Record Services for their continued and unwavering support. We also would like to thank Inspector Ryan Comaniuk, Officer in Charge, for his candor, support and commitment to the City of St. Albert and this Committee.

Appendix – A

St. Albert Policing Committee

2023 Annual Budget Operating Report

2023 Approved Operating Budget Total	$20,000.00

Actual Expenses

Learning and Development	$0.00
Other Travel & General Expenses	$2,513.39
Corporate Membership	$420.46
Advertising and Promotion	$0.00
Contracted Services	$2,500.00
Total	**$ 5,433.85**

The total annual budget for 2024 remains at $20,000.

Note: In 2023 funding was carried forward from 2022, for the strategic plan workshop. The amount carried forward was $2500.00, which was fully expended.

Appendix B

St. Albert Policing Committee

Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Vision:

Creating safer communities through collaborative efforts, enhanced awareness, and innovative solutions.

Mission:

The St. Albert Policing Committee aims to address domestic violence and assault, mental health issues, and support vulnerable communities by fostering partnerships, advocating for positive change, and promoting community-oriented policing.

Core Priorities:

1. **Domestic/ Relationship Violence and Assault:**
    a. Create partnerships with NGOs and community organizations to enhance support for victims.
    b. Raise awareness and provide education through workshops, campaigns, and outreach initiatives.
    c. Improve information sharing between stakeholders to increase efficiency in handling cases.
    d. Develop intelligence-led decision-making processes to tackle domestic violence effectively.
    e. Engage with northern communities to advocate for funding and support.

2. **Mental Health and Vulnerable Communities:**
    a. Focus on mental health issues and seek additional funding for programs and services.
    b. Enhance existing programs and fill gaps to meet the needs of vulnerable communities.
    c. Strengthen partnerships with mental health organizations and support services.

d. Invest in knowledge development to better understand and address mental health challenges.
e. Increase community awareness of mental health issues and available resources.

3. **Crime Reduction:**
    a. Raise awareness and educate the community about crime prevention strategies.
    b. Collaborate with RCMP analysts to gain valuable insights for crime reduction efforts.
    c. Foster positive and functional relationships with the RCMP, Council, and NGOs.
    d. Adopt a proactive approach to community policing to prevent crime effectively.
    e. Extend services to northern communities where they lack necessary resources.

By implementing this Strategic plan, the St. Albert Policing Committee aims to create a safer environment, promote mental health support, and ensure the well-being of vulnerable communities through collaborative efforts and proactive strategies.

Objectives and KPI's

Priority	Strategic Objective	KPI	Comments/ Contingencies
Domestic/ Relationship Violence & Assault	Create partnerships with NGOs and community organizations to enhance support for victims.	Increase in meaningful partnerships with NGO's and community Organizations	Set current baseline
	Raise awareness and provide education through workshops, campaigns, and outreach initiatives.	Decrease in domestic violence and assault incidents reported.	Establish baseline and track activity
	Improve information sharing between stakeholders to increase efficiency in handling cases.	Lead or co-sponsor one campaign or outreach initiative per year	Regularly engage with stakeholders to stay aligned with their evolving priorities.
	Develop intelligence-led decision-making processes to tackle domestic violence effectively.	Develop a matrix of indicators with partner agencies	Address the lack of awareness and resources through targeted awareness campaigns and fundraising efforts.
	Engage with northern communities to advocate for funding and support.		Reduction in crime rates in St. Albert and neighboring northern communities.
Mental Health and Vulnerable Communities	Focus on mental health issues and seek additional funding for programs and services.	Increase in mental health support services and resources available to vulnerable communities.	Establish safe havens and transition houses to address the lack of capacity.
	Enhance existing programs and fill gaps to meet the needs of vulnerable communities.	Gap analysis and needs assessment, Identify and quantify need for service providers	Establish safe havens and transition houses to address the lack of capacity.

	Strengthen partnerships with mental health organizations and support services.	Identify and engage local agencies host summit	Regularly engage with stakeholders to stay aligned with their evolving priorities.
	Invest in knowledge development to better understand and address mental health challenges.	In house training for committee members	Combat stigma (not in my back yard) by promoting the benefits of supporting vulnerable communities.
	Increase community awareness of mental health issues and available resources.	Lead or co-sponsor one campaign or outreach initiative per year	Address the lack of awareness and resources through targeted awareness campaigns and fundraising efforts.
Crime Reduction	Raise awareness and educate the community about crime prevention strategies.	Partner with Community Policing to promote Crime Prevention	Article with Gazette on crime Map
	Collaborate with RCMP analysts to gain valuable insights for crime reduction efforts.	Hold quarterly presentation from Crime Analyst	Regularly engage with stakeholders to stay aligned with their evolving priorities.
	Adopt a proactive approach to community policing to prevent crime effectively.	through crime analysis, promote proactive initiatives to prevent crime	Address the lack of awareness and resources through targeted awareness campaigns and fundraising efforts.
	Extend services to northern communities where they lack necessary resources.		Reduction in crime rates in St. Albert and neighboring northern communities.