



# LONDON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

"Deeds Not Words"

Report #: 20-08

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**To:** Chair and Members of the London Police Services Board

**Date:** January 16, 2020

**Subject:** 2019 Problem-Oriented Policing Initiatives

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**Board Action:**

- ☒ Update / Information Purposes Only
- ☐ Seeking Input
- ☐ Seeking Decision
- ☐ Evaluation

**Synopsis:**

In accordance with LPSB Policy 060 and the Adequacy and Effectiveness Standards Regulation, *Policing Standards Manual (2000)*, attached for the Board's information is a summary of the London Police Service's problem-oriented policing initiatives for 2019. Enforcement statistics are reported through separate reports to the Board and/or through the media throughout the year, when appropriate.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board received the 2019 Problem-Oriented Policing Report.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Trish McIntyre, Deputy Chief - Operations

**Attachment:** 2019 Problem-Oriented Policing Report

# **2019 Problem-Oriented Policing Report**

## **Introduction**

As stated in the mandate, the Community Oriented Response Unit (COR Unit) is responsible for,

*“offering an integrated approach to problem solving, and increasing the interaction between the public and the police, by encouraging a shared feeling of responsibility in addressing and dealing with community issues.”*

The COR Unit is a specialized team that deals with identified chronic problems that affect the quality of life within a neighbourhood. COR Unit officers are in continual contact with municipal representatives, school boards, business owners, community stakeholders and other community groups addressing these issues, both proactively and reactively. Systemically, a response to a particular problem is identified, a multi-faceted plan is developed and implemented, subsequently evaluated, and then monitored to ensure there is no recurrence.

The aim of this type of policing is to encourage and foster community involvement and partnership with all stakeholders. This has proven to yield many benefits, not the least of which is a reduction in calls for service, thereby reducing the burden on the Uniformed Division Patrol Sections. This form of problem solving also promotes favourable community-police relations, enhances community "spirit" and improves the "quality of life" for those living and working in the affected area.

COR members continually meet with various community groups and give lectures on a wide range of topics including: crime prevention, youth crime, drug awareness, prostitution, human trafficking, graffiti, liquor enforcement and various public safety concerns.

## **Community Engagement**

The COR Unit is responsible for identifying problems within the City of London and collaborating with the community to resolve these problems, while fostering a feeling of shared responsibility with the community to prevent and address local concerns. During 2019, COR Unit members conducted numerous community meetings, in conjunction with city councillors to address perceived issues within their wards. These meetings took place in neighbourhoods such as Old South, Whitehills, North Talbot Community, Old North, Summerside, White Oaks, Argyle, Westmount and Oakridge.

Some of the issues brought to the officers' attention during these meetings included youth disturbances, drug activity and dealing within city parks, rowdiness and loitering, disruptive student parties, unsanctioned street parties, Liquor Licence Act violations at licenced establishments, property damage, minor property offences and trouble with persons.

These meetings were attended by several hundred citizens living in those communities and the officers received positive feedback regarding their efforts.

## **Collaboration with Other Agencies**

COR Unit members routinely work with outside agencies and community stakeholders to enhance community/police relations and reduce calls for service for uniformed patrol members. Some of the organizations that were partnered with include the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, London Municipal Law Enforcement Services, Middlesex London Health Unit, London Cares, London and Middlesex Community Housing, Western University Student's Council, and Fanshawe Student Union. Many of these collaborations were in relation to vulnerable individuals, students, victims of crime, and people suffering from addiction and mental health challenges.

## **Liquor Enforcement and Education**

In 2019, COR Unit members conducted in excess of 127 Liquor Licence Act inspections of licenced premises in conjunction with members of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. Several investigations were conducted, using an integrated approach by utilizing uniformed members, as well as those in plain clothes and in an undercover capacity within the licenced establishments.

## **Directed Patrols**

COR Unit members continued to perform directed patrols throughout 2019 in response to community complaints by consulting with the LPS Crime Analysis office. Officers conducted high visibility patrols and utilized education, awareness, and fair and consistent enforcement to deal with a variety of quality of life issues in various areas of the city. COR Unit officers were also involved in the foot patrol project in the downtown core, where numerous contacts with vulnerable members of society and referrals were made to social agencies to assist them with their situations.

## **Community Command Vehicle (CCV) Deployments**

Throughout 2019, COR Unit members deployed the Community Command Vehicle on numerous occasions for community events, training scenarios, level 1 missing persons and for high visibility deployments in areas experiencing a high level of police calls for service. The use of the CCV served as a catalyst for enhanced engagement with members of the community and also supported the high visibility strategies employed by COR Unit members. Specific events where the CCV was deployed include the following events:

Take Your Kids To Work Day, IR 200 Course at OPC, Project Crossfire (multi-jurisdictional training), Argyle BIA Community Day, POU Training, EOC Training, Law Enforcement Torch Run fundraiser, Fanshawe College training scenario, Emergency Services Day, Clean and Green, LPS Citizen's Academy

## **Problem Oriented Policing Projects**

During 2019 the LPS has continued efforts to evaluate and modernize our approach to solving problems in the community. The efforts have included ensuring an evidenced-based approach. In 2019 the COR Unit in conjunction with several other units in the Uniformed Division participated in several Problem Oriented Policing initiatives. These projects have focused on solving community problems through research, analysis, and establishing and engaging community partners. In addition to community partnerships, we have employed an ongoing collaboration with Western University to assist in establishing and measuring evidence based efforts and problem oriented policing.

During 2019 the COR Unit participated in Problem Oriented Policing Projects that focused on place-based crime. These places were identified through evidence and analysis as high crime or high problem areas. These included downtown business areas, street segments, and residential areas that experienced a high volume of community problems, many of which were related to quality of life issues and not necessarily criminal behaviour. The strategies to tackle these issues involved collaboration with stakeholders to assist in reducing the concerns exhibited in the locations. Many of these projects involved increased police presence to deter disorder in addition to innovative and tested crime prevention strategies.

The outcomes and evaluations of problem oriented policing projects focused on increased community safety and crime prevention rather than the traditional method of measuring success by the number of provincial offence notices issued or criminal charges laid. When faced with a community problem in 2019 the COR Unit critically evaluated all response options using evidenced-based research and tested strategies used by criminologists and other police services. The results were also researched for impacts beyond traditional police outputs.

## **Future Objectives / Initiatives**

The COR Unit will continue to meet its mandate by using a variety of policing techniques and initiatives and will continue to be at the forefront of the evidence-based approach to the delivery of police services. COR Unit members will work closely with the Uniformed Division and community partners to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of Problem Oriented Policing in the City of London.

Respectfully submitted,

Sergeant Matt Garwood  
Community Oriented Response Unit