

MEMORANDUM



To: Kingston Police Services Board (through Chief of Police)
From: Matthew Funnell, Inspector
Date: April 6, 2021
Re: Deployment for St. Patrick's Day 2021

Since 2016 there has been a considerable increase in the number of people congregating to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Queen's University District area and, to a lesser degree, the St. Lawrence College student housing area. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Patrick's Day celebrations had been growing and increasingly exhibiting the unruly behaviour often associated with unsanctioned activities during the Queen's Homecoming weekend. This trend made it necessary for us to plan for St. Patrick's Day in a manner similar to Homecoming. Planning for the 2020 St. Patrick's Day had presented unique challenges due to the newly declared pandemic; with the ongoing state of the pandemic, planning for 2021 was equally challenging.

St. Patrick's Day fell on a Wednesday this year. At the time, our health unit was in the Standard Measures (green) Zone, with commensurate legislated restrictions under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020* (ROA). Queen's University and St. Lawrence College were operating in a hybrid mode, with some students physically attending classes in Kingston while others studied online. Trying to plan for potential large-scale parties and street gatherings was precarious, because there was no reliable way to gauge what might occur. Information on open-source social media was relatively sparse, but, unofficially through basic word-of-mouth channels, it was learned that people from various locations around the province (regardless of their overall local community status) were planning to attend Kingston for unspecified periods to take part in various celebrations because of its green status.

To bolster enforcement options, the City of Kingston implemented the University District Safety Initiative. Augmenting the restrictions in force under the ROA, the KFL&A Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, issued an order under section 22(5.01) of Ontario's *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990*, from March 13 to March 21, 2021. This order put in place measures to severely restrict the potential for gatherings in excess of five people and limited the usual business operations of bars and restaurants; it was subsequently extended to April 30, 2021.

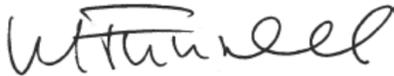
The Kingston Police worked closely with partners at the City of Kingston, including By-Law and the City Prosecutor's Office; Queen's University Administration, Security, and Student Conduct Office; and KFLA Public Health officials, with the goal of safely managing the situation.

On the day in question, 55 sworn officers and 6 civilian members were deployed under the Incident Command Model. The deployment of these members was sporadic and spanned from 7:00 a.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. Very little overtime was required, for many members assigned to this detail were already scheduled that day and shifts and assignments were modified to accommodate the operational plan.

Likely due to the stringent regulations under the ROA and the additional restrictions under the Section 22 Order, the day turned out to be relatively quiet and uneventful. Groups did not gather in large numbers in residences or on the street. The Kingston Police responded to 13 calls for service and laid five charges under the *Liquor Licence Act* and one under the *Highway Traffic Act*. There were no arrests associated with St. Patrick's Day.

As noted above, most of the sworn and civilian staff assigned to the deployment were already assigned to work that day and many modified their shift. A total of 41.25 hours of overtime was accumulated in relation to seven sworn members and one civilian member, mainly attributed to regular shift lengths being extended to accommodate the overall operational coverage.

Food and refreshments for the deployment totalled \$1,560.66. With an overtime cost of \$2,045.49, the overall cost for this special deployment, beyond regular salary, was \$3,606.15.



Matthew Funnell
Inspector
Operational Support Division