

MEMORANDUM



To: Kingston Police Services Board
From: Chris Scott, Deputy Chief
Date: April 9, 2020
Re: Deployment for 2020 St Patrick's Day and Preceding Weekend

This year proved to be unique in many aspects due to the emerging COVID-19 virus and also because St. Patrick's Day fell on a Tuesday and all the intelligence leading up to the event pointed to large-scale parties planned on Saturday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 17. To ensure that sufficient resources were available to safely manage potential events, officers were redeployed from units outside Uniformed Patrol on Friday, March 13, Saturday, March 14, and Tuesday, March 17. This special deployment of Kingston Police sworn and the civilian staff was activated under an Incident Command model and assigned specifically to the Queen's University campus and student housing area. This deployment was in addition to the usual resources dedicated to city-wide police operations.

This year, the Kingston Police observed fewer parties in attendance, largely due to the safety issues surrounding the emerging COVID-19 health issue. We also again had the University District Safety Initiative, with individuals found in contravention of *Liquor Licence Act* and by-law offences issued a summons to appear in court. In total, the Kingston Police, along with Kingston By-Law enforcement officers, laid 21 Part I Summonses. Having to appear in court before a justice of the peace to be held accountable for violations instead of just being able to pay for a ticket online appears to have helped to curb the overall numbers observed over the weekend.

Friday, March 13, 2020

A total of 21 Kingston Police officers and additional By-Law officers were deployed to the area, including a staff sergeant and three sergeants. Officers were dismissed from duty depending on an ongoing assessment of the activities in the focus area. The call load remained manageable, and officers were utilized to assist front-line patrol when not required for duties related to this year's St. Patrick's Day deployment.

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Organized in shifts starting at 07:00, 08:00, and 12:00 hours, 24 officers were deployed, including 2 staff sergeants and 3 sergeants. While there were pockets of large-scale parties, the streets did not become impassable as in past years. As it turned out, Saturday night was quiet and uneventful, with a little more pedestrian traffic and volume in the "hub" area than for a typical Saturday night. Twenty-one Part I Summonses were given out for open liquor and for amplification of sound at a prohibited time in a residential area.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

A total of 46 Kingston Police officers were deployed, along with 8 special constables assigned to prisoner transportation, extra Communications staff, and additional By-Law officers. By the time the St. Patrick's Day event had begun, many post-secondary institutions had suspended operations. This, coupled with warnings from leaders in health care and education, no doubt impacted the substantially lower numbers.

Costs

Most officers were deployed through a shift change or a change to their scheduled work hours during these two days. We did incur \$5,294.13 in overtime to cover the scheduled three-day deployment and \$1,232.96 in operating supplies, for a total of \$6,527.09.

In comparison, during the 2019 St. Patrick's Day weekend, 79 *Provincial Offences Act* charges were laid, mostly for *Liquor Licence Act* violations but also for various other provincial offences, including *Highway Traffic Act* infractions. The total overtime cost was \$39,564.00.

In addition to the contributions of numerous community stakeholders in initiatives to discourage undesirable and unsafe behaviour, both the University District Safety Initiative and the Nuisance Party By-Law are viewed as long-term strategies in an increased attempt to lessen the overall impact of unsanctioned celebrations in the University District. The Kingston Police and their community partners understand the community's frustration with such events and will continue to work progressively towards lessening the impact on the community.



Chris Scott
Deputy Chief