



Kingston Police

Public Agenda Information Report

To: Kingston Police Services Board
From: Scott Fraser, Acting Chief of Police
Subject: St. Patrick's Day 2023
Date: March 21, 2023

Recommendation:

That the St. Patrick's Day 2023, Report Number 23-14 is for information only.

2022 in Review

In 2022 St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) fell on a Thursday, however students also planned a second event for the following Saturday (March 19th). Both dates were posted on numerous social media accounts and online votes were taken as to which date this event would be celebrated.

Thursday March 17, 2022

A contingent of Kingston Police members was deployed in the Queen's University District. Neighbouring police services were also utilized to up-staff police resources. Incident Command took a different approach to this day's events that was well received. As parties began to arrive in the Queen's area, police response was appropriate to the crowd size. The streets ultimately remained open and the event did not last overly long. There were 50 *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* charges and two nuisance declarations, one being at the north end of Aberdeen Street.

Saturday March 19 2022

A contingent of Kingston Police members were deployed in Queen's University District based on open source intelligence indicating this would be the date that most students would be celebrating St. Patrick's Day. These members were scheduled on staggered times to again capture the event and ensure the peak times were covered sufficiently.

On this day, it is estimated that 4,000 students took over Aberdeen Street. There were 24 *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* charges laid and 6 declared nuisance parties.

It is noted that Saturday's crowd was more disruptive and disorderly. Sadly a Kingston Police officer sustained injuries to their head after being struck by a projectile thrown from the crowd.

2023

In 2023 St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) fell on a Friday. Based on last year's events, it was foreseen that the students would take advantage of it being on a Friday and plan for a consecutive day of revelry on Saturday as well. Based on this Kingston Police were left with no option but to, once again, plan for two days of unrest in the University District. As in years past, Kingston Police developed a comprehensive operational plan with the mission of:

"Using an integrated response, the Kingston Police along with policing and city partners will keep the peace, enforce legislation and maintain public safety for the duration of the St. Patrick's Day event with the utmost respect to the individuals Charter of Rights and Freedoms with priority on community and emergency services personnel safety and wellbeing."

The main objectives of operation were to:

- Protect lives and property of our citizens
- Protect citizen's right of lawful assembly
- Prevent a breach of the peace
- Perform tasks using reasonable force
- Ensuring public safety with professionalism
- Enforce all levels of law

The planning and execution of the operation involved many components:

Corporate Communication and Media Messaging Strategy

Messaging was broadcast via social media prior to and continuously during the St. Patrick's Day events in support of the mission statement to discourage illegal behavior, unsanctioned gatherings, and educate people on the negative impact these have on the Kingston Community.

Police Liaison Team (PLT) Outreach Strategy

Police Liaison Teams are a key part of police planning and response to major events. The teams are focused on proactive relationship building as a means to assist in resolving issues. From the last week of February through the two days of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, PLT members worked to establish and maintain open and transparent lines of communication with all stakeholders who might be affected, directly or indirectly, by this event.

Enforcement

The enforcement approach involved early and continuous alcohol interdiction, and firm enforcement of municipal, provincial, and federal statutes by Police and City partners, related to noise, fire safety, *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019*, *Trespass to Property Act* and criminal offences. The strategy involved using discretion sparingly when encountering liquor and other offences, and lay charges where applicable. A dedicated 10 member Enforcement Team was deployed for firm enforcement of *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* violations.

Resources/Activities/Outcomes/Charges

On both days the operation was carried out under the Incident Command Model utilizing a significant number of Kingston Police sworn and civilian personnel, supported by members of Gananoque, Brockville, Belleville, and Smith's Falls police services, as well as a full 52 member Public Order Unit from the Ontario Provincial Police. Twelve members the OPP Police Liaison Team were utilized, (along with members of the Kingston Police CORE Unit), in the days leading up to the event, as well as on the Friday and Saturday.

Friday March 17th

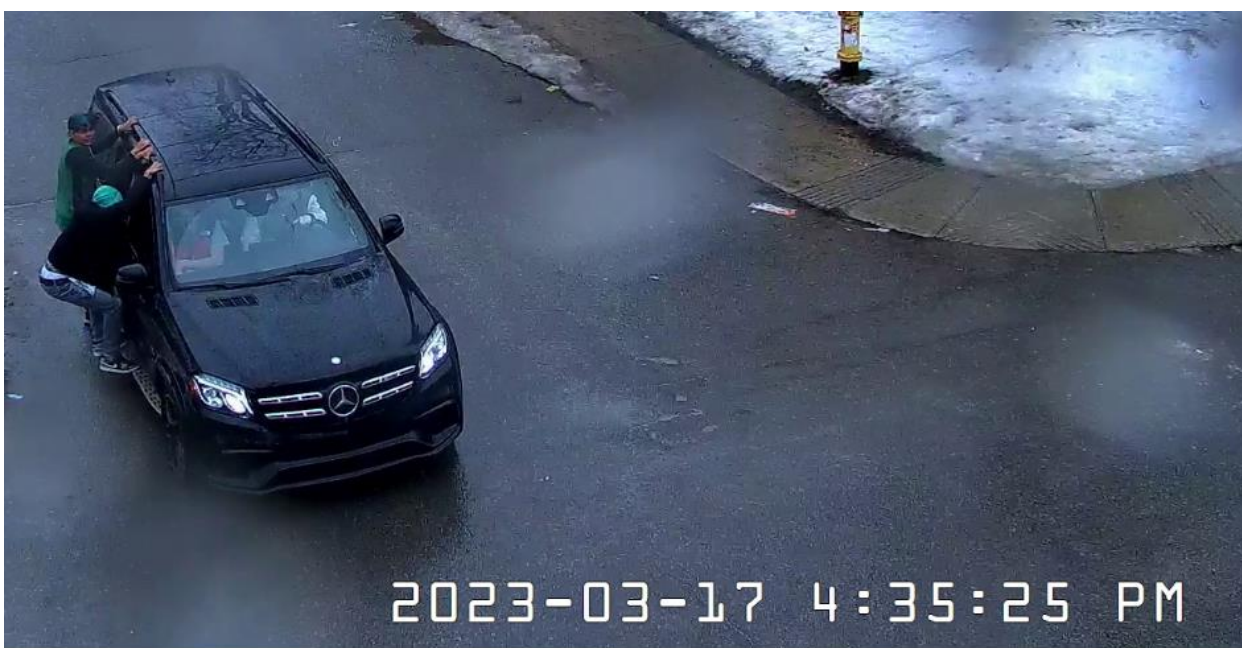
In addition to the PLT contingent, and including Kingston Police Command Staff and neighbouring services, a total of 91 sworn members, 11 Special Constables and 18 civilian staff were deployed during the day and evening.

Rain fell throughout the day and it remained uneventful until about 1:30-1:45 pm when the crowds started to gather. The crowd swelled quickly and in an organized fashion the students lined each side of the full length of Aberdeen Street from Johnston St. to Earl St., creating a path in the middle which facilitated the runway for what was promoted on social media as a "Ginger Run." This was a coordinated effort advertised to occur at 2:00 pm and this movement happened in about three minutes. This event was advertised on the Canada Party Life social media site and was expected to have happened in as many as six university towns across Ontario. See images from Canada Party Life below:



Police Liaison Teams remained engaged with the crowd and the enforcement teams and other officers on the ground were actively enforcing applicable laws. The crowd slowly but steadily dispersed and after about 40 minutes the group had dissipated. For the most part, the crowd remained in a celebratory mood and no major incidents occurred. No injuries were reported or observed. The streets in the University District stayed free of gatherings and no overt police response, other than continued patrols and enforcement, was necessary. The Incident Command structure was deactivated around 7:00 pm with a contingent of officers staying on shift to help with anticipated calls for serviced related to the fall out. The district was quite busy with noise complaints, large house parties and pedestrian movement related to bar crowds/closing.

Four people were arrested related to the event – three for public intoxication and a fourth for dangerous driving. In this incident a student-aged male was driving about the Aberdeen Street / Johnston Street area with two people hanging off the passenger side of the vehicle. This was an alcohol related incident as the driver had initially been arrested for impaired driving but the readings were in the warning range. This driver faces criminal code charges for dangerous driving, stunt driving, failing to comply with the direction of an officer, and being a novice driver with a blood alcohol level over zero. Provincial offences charges were also laid and the vehicle was seized for 7 days. See an image of the vehicle and passengers below:



The total police enforcement statistics for the day, including the charges laid in relation to the dangerous driving event were: 136 *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019*, 1 *Criminal Code*, 2 *Highway Traffic Act*, and 3 other *Provincial Offences Act* violations.

Saturday March 18th

In addition to the PLT contingent and including Kingston Police Command Staff and neighbouring services, a total of 91 sworn members, 11 Special Constables and 19 civilian staff were deployed during the day and evening.

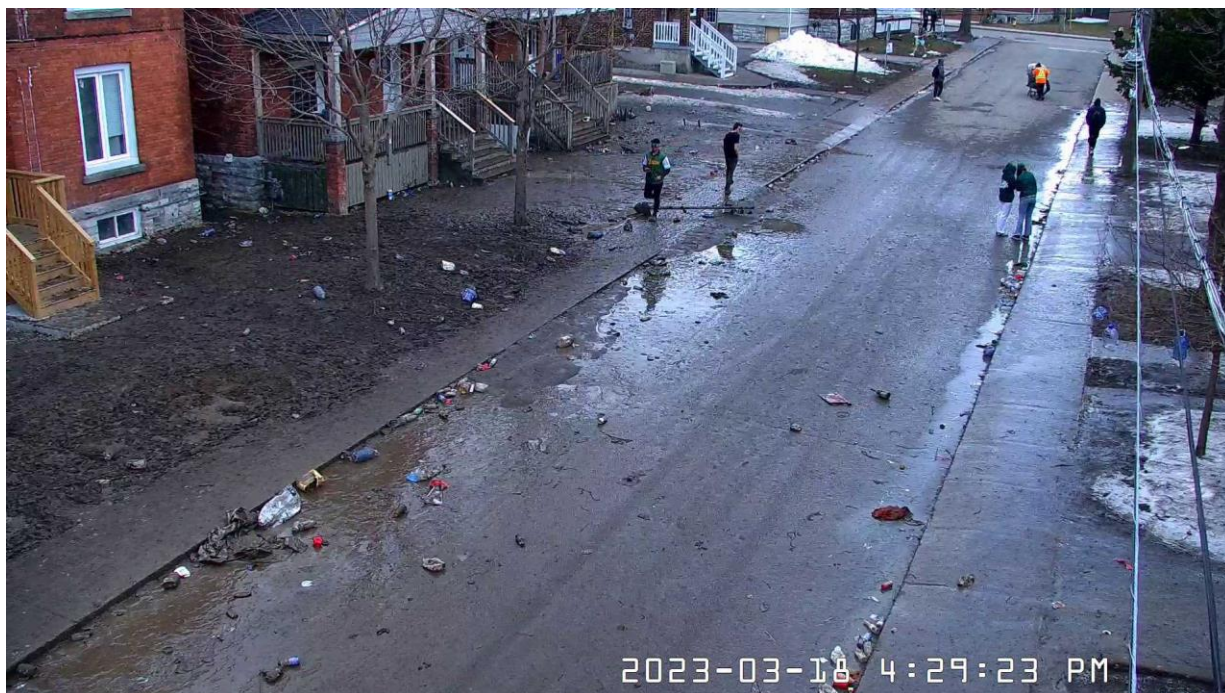
Saturday morning was similar to Friday with some pedestrian traffic and various noise complaints in the district. At approximately 12:45 pm a post was made on the Queen's Party Life site that read: Aberdeen at 1pm!!



The crowd grew steadily and was considerably larger than Friday. A large gathering congregated on Aberdeen Street at William St. spanning in each direction, creeping nearly the full length of Aberdeen Street. It's estimated the crowd was approximately 4,000 strong.



A measured, patient, and strategic police response was implemented, which saw a nuisance party eventually being declared. Once the declaration was made By-Law officers and police continued strict enforcement, as well as PLT messaging, with the crowd quickly dispersing without any major incidents.



There were instances of projectiles being thrown about. One party-goer activated a green smoke bomb and threw it into the crowd. See below:



On each day once the large gatherings were dispersed or otherwise dissipated, a contingent of officers were deployed in vehicles to support the regular patrol shift with call volume and incidents related to the University District.

The total police enforcement statistics for the day were: 231 *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019*, 3 *Highway Traffic Act* and 5 Administrative Monetary Penalties. Five persons were arrested under the *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019* for being intoxicated in a public place. Two of the arrested parties were students enrolled at Queen's University.

Weekend Enforcement Totals

<i>Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019</i>	367
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i>	5
Administrative Monetary Penalty	5
Arrests – Public Intoxication	8
Criminal Code Arrest	1

Costs

All expenses related to this event have not yet been submitted the Finance Department. As such, the full and accurate tabulation of expenses is not yet available.

Scott Fraser
Acting Chief of Police