

THE ACTION

Addressing Crime Trends In Our Neighbourhoods

UPDATE

February 25, 2011

Auxiliary Officers take Action on ACTION Evaluation



Hamilton Police Service Auxiliary Officers have been distributing and retrieving surveys to and from members of our Business community since the beginning of 2011. Under the coordination of Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Ken Blake, Auxiliary Officers Justin Woods, Ian Penn, Kevin Walton, Andrew Rossini, Juanita Flokstra, Jay Berberick, Ross Villalobos, Christian Vulcu, and Mike Parker took to the streets in the downtown ACTION Deployment Area. These officers introduced themselves to business owners and employees, explained the purpose of the survey and scheduled a date to pick-up the completed survey.

The Hamilton Police Business Survey was designed to evaluate police performance and make suggestions to improve the quality of police services. To date, over 200 surveys have been completed and the analysis will follow within the next few months.

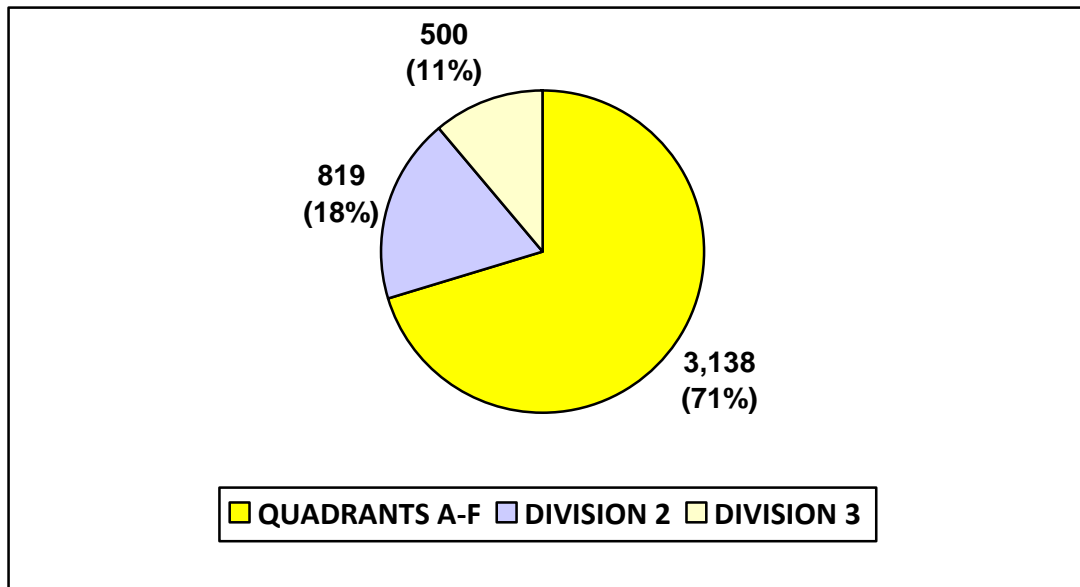
This initiative with our Auxiliary Officers has proved to be so successful that we are planning to continue this endeavour. Watch for our Auxiliary Officers, armed with surveys, in other parts of the City.

Mounted Unit finds Missing Man and makes Impaired Arrest

While on routine patrol Mounted Officers noted a suspicious vehicle at Ferguson and Rebecca Sts on February 12, 2011. The vehicle had multiple occupants and the driver's behaviour was erratic. Officers initially believed the car to be stolen. The driver was observed to park the car in a hazardous manner in a parking lot. When Mounted Officers approached to investigate, the occupants attempted to evade detection by disappearing into a nearby alley. While one Mounted Officer remained to secure the vehicle the other intercepted the occupants as they exited the alley. The driver was clearly under the influence of alcohol and impaired. He was arrested by the Mounted Officer and charged with impaired driving and over 80.

While conducting a nightshift patrol in area of General Hospital on February 12, Mounted Officers noted a disoriented man. The officers proceeded to check on his welfare and engaged him in conversation. Upon learning his identity, it was discovered that he had recently been reported as missing from a local lodging home. The man suffered from Alzheimers and as a result had lost his way. A media release had already been issued in order to appeal to the public for assistance in locating him. The man was medically checked and escorted safely home by police.

Breaking it Down: Downtown and Around Town



In January, 2011, 71% of ACTION deployment was in Downtown Hamilton, 18% in Division Two and 11% in Division Three. In Division Two, 75% of their time was spent in the Melvin Avenue area and in Division Three, all of the deployment time was spent on Concession St.

About Busking

by Inspector Scott Rastin, Community Mobilization

Police are mandated to uphold the law as set out by the federal, provincial and municipal governments. Even though it is not an offence to busker, buskers sometimes become involved in trespassing, aggressive panhandling and disturbances. Officers receiving complaints will investigate and issue appropriate charges where required. Currently, the City of Hamilton is working on a busking bylaw and the Service has been involved in its development.

Hamilton Police Service continues to be focused on keeping our city safe for all.

January's Day of Action

On January 29, 2011, the United Steel Workers of America Local 1005 and the Hamilton District Labour Council organized a rally and march to draw attention to the lockout at US Steel. The event attendance was approximately 5,000. The crowd was mainly steel workers, family members, and supporting delegates from other labour unions both locally and from around the province.



This was a large scale event and the ACTION Team and Mounted Patrol Unit were on scene to ensure a lawful demonstration and parade, ensuring a safe environment for the community and to maintain Public Safety, all while preventing injury or damage to property.

The march and demonstration were orderly with ACTION and Mounted Patrol interacting with the large crowd to ensure a safe event, free of property damage not only for the attendees, but also for the citizens of Hamilton. Working with organizers and being on site throughout ACTION and Mounted Patrol helped ensure a safe and successful event.

From Concession St. BIA

February 10, 2011

Inspector Scott Rastin
Community Mobilization Division
Hamilton Police Service

Dear Inspector Rastin:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the increased police presence in the Concession Street Neighbourhood. We love the ACTION Team. While I can't quote statistics in this instance, I can tell you what I see.



One night before Christmas I was working alone in my store about 8pm. This was later than usual but I had last minute customers. It was dark and the street was very quiet. I looked up to see two police officers at the window. They smiled and waved, opened the door and asked what time I would be closing and then went on their way. About fifteen minutes later they passed my store again and waved through the window. That night I felt more secure as I walked to my car.

Yesterday I had a visit from two officers during the day. They stopped to say hello and asked if I had any concerns. I noticed that they were observing the floor plan of the store as we talked. (That reminded me to put a notice in the BIA newsletter about in-store safety.)

A visit from the new Mounted Unit as part of the ACTION strategy is always popular with all ages. It's wonderful to watch adults and children stop to talk to the officers.

I've also noticed that traffic is moving a bit slower and my windows rattle less because more police cars are visible in the neighbourhood.

Many of our customers have stopped to tell us that they see extra officers walking at night and they really appreciate the service. They are surprised but pleased that this police presence makes a difference in the way they feel when walking down the street.

Over the last few years many good neighbours have moved away because they didn't feel safe here anymore. It will take time to regain their confidence. The ACTION team is playing an important role in changing that perception both by their presence and by the friendly way that they greet the public.

We hope that their continued presence will help set the tone of behaviour for citizens of all ages.

Sincerely

Betty Toplack and Cynthia Pitts, Co-chairs of Concession Street BIA

Niagara College Students Walk-a-long with ACTION

Two students walked the streets with the ACTION Team one Saturday evening. Mike and Alex are currently enrolled in the Postgraduate Certificate program in Geographic Information Systems – Geospatial Management (GIS-GM) from Niagara College. As part of their learning, they have undertaken a volunteer consultative project for Hamilton Police Service.

The name of their assignment is the, Hamilton Core Community Project. The goal of this project is to develop a spatial inventory of assets and liabilities for the ACTION Deployment Areas located within downtown Hamilton and to analyze these in relation to crime patterns.

Feedback from the students about their walk-a-long was positive as indicated by the following comments:

“Mike and I had a great experience with the ACTION police officers this past Saturday evening. We had the opportunity to discuss our project in detail with Sgt. Stiller and other police officers before we went out to collect data. Mike and I spent approximately three hours collecting data accompanied by two ACTION police officers. We confirmed the data we collected from Google StreetView and the officers also showed us areas that we should consider when developing our assets and liabilities map. Overall this was a great experience for both Mike and I and a great opportunity to hear the ACTION team's perspective on what they consider to be neighborhood assets and liabilities.

Mike and I would like to thank you and the ACTION team for this opportunity and positive experience.”

The ACTION Team is funded through the provincial Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Service's Provincial Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (PAVIS) grant.

To read comments on ACTION or to submit your own, please go to the Hamilton Police Website at www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca or click below.

www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca/HPS/Action/



The ACTION Team (Addressing Crime Trends In Our Neighbourhoods) is a part of the Hamilton Police Neighbourhood Safety Project. ACTION is a Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services provincially funded initiative dedicated to reducing violence and disorder in our neighbourhoods, increasing safety in the community and improving the quality of life for all citizens of Hamilton.