



**CITY OF CHESTERMERE**

**CHESTERMERE MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT**

**Annual Report to the Director of Law Enforcement**

**2020**

**CHESTERMERE MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT YEAR-END 2020**

## **CITY OF CHESTERMERE**

Chestermere is located along the Trans-Canada Highway and shares a jurisdictional border with the City of Calgary to the west. Chestermere is one of the fastest growing municipality's in Canada.

The City started as small village, built around a lake owned by the Western Irrigation District. In 1993, Chestermere became a town of 17000 residents and swiftly grew to become a City in 2015, with a population over 23000 residents.

Policing Chestermere is the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is maintained through a municipal policing contract.

In addition, the City of Chestermere has been granted authorization through the Alberta Solicitor General to employ Community Peace Officers to assist with policing and enforcement duties within the City.

The City of Chestermere currently employs five (5) operational Community Peace Officers (level I) and two (2) administrative Peace Officers (Level II):

1. Trever BOWMAN, #14668 Community Peace Officer 1- Sergeant
2. Chris WINTER, #15199 Community Peace Officer 1
3. Kirk MEERS #16801, Community Peace Officer 1
4. Shawn PRESS #16946, Community Peace Officer 1
5. Dan BEAUSOLEIL #17950, Community Peace Officer 1
6. Tara ZAWYRUCHA #16617, Community Peace Officer II (administrative)
7. Karie SCHULTZ #17684, Community Peace Officer II (administrative)

Municipal Enforcement is based out of the Chestermere Shared Service Building that houses the Chestermere Fire Service, Alberta Health Services (EMS) and the Chestermere RCMP. Municipal Enforcement reports directly to the Director of Community Safety.

Chestermere Peace Officers enforce several specific federal and provincial statutes and sections of those Acts, within the City which include:

1. Traffic Safety Act
2. Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act/Regulations
3. Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
4. Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act
5. Animal Protection Act
6. Petty Trespass Act
7. Provincial Offences Procedure Act
8. Dangerous Dogs Act
9. Canadian Shipping Act (Federal)

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In addition to Provincial Enforcement duties, Chestermere Peace Officers also enforce several Municipal Bylaws, which include the following:

1. The Alarm Services Bylaw #008-11
2. The Animal Control Bylaw #018-14
3. The Boat Launch Bylaw #009-11
4. The Community Standards Bylaw #024-19
5. The Land Use Bylaw #022-10
6. The Smoking Bylaw #009-15
7. The Snow Removal Bylaw # 018-11
8. The Traffic Safety Bylaw #011-13
9. The Unsightly Premises Bylaw #013-11
10. Cannabis Bylaw #017-18

The City of Chestermere is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada. This rapid growth is evident in the statistics obtained through the departments Electronic Record Management System.

CITATION TYPES	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>PROVINCIAL VIOLATIONS</b>						
SPEEDING INFRACTIONS	120	207	266	567	385	369
MOVING VIOLATIONS (stop signs, U-turns etc.)	36	100	136	257	151	226
UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLES	2	4	10	14	18	16
DOCUMENT VIOLATIONS	8	36	69	215	142	132
LIQUOR/ CANNABIS RELATED	-	2	3	4	9	4
SUSPENDED DRIVERS	2	4	8	8	3	7
OTHER VIOLATIONS (Cellphone, equipment etc.)	17	109	135	293	570	401
WARRANTS	5	9	7	37	17	21
<b>BYLAW VIOLATIONS</b>						
ANIMAL BYLAW	8	12	9	52	22	27
TRAFFIC BYLAW	2	108	101	154	198	104
OTHER BYLAW	26	9	19	29	34	44
<b>TOTALS-(including those not captured above)</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>1593</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1351</b>

\*\*In 2017 the Record management system was completely overhauled, in order to increase file tracking, statistics and officer performance.

Therefore some data prior to 2016 could not be retrieved and is based on approximates.

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### OPERATIONS

Chestermere front line Peace Officers work on a 4-day rotation, with shift scheduling adjusted to meet operational demands of the community. In reviewing the data obtained through our Record Management System, we determined that there was a need to incorporate evening shifts in the summer months, so we may better address traffic concerns and complaints of social disorder.

Bylaw Enforcement continues to be the primary area of responsibility for our department and includes:

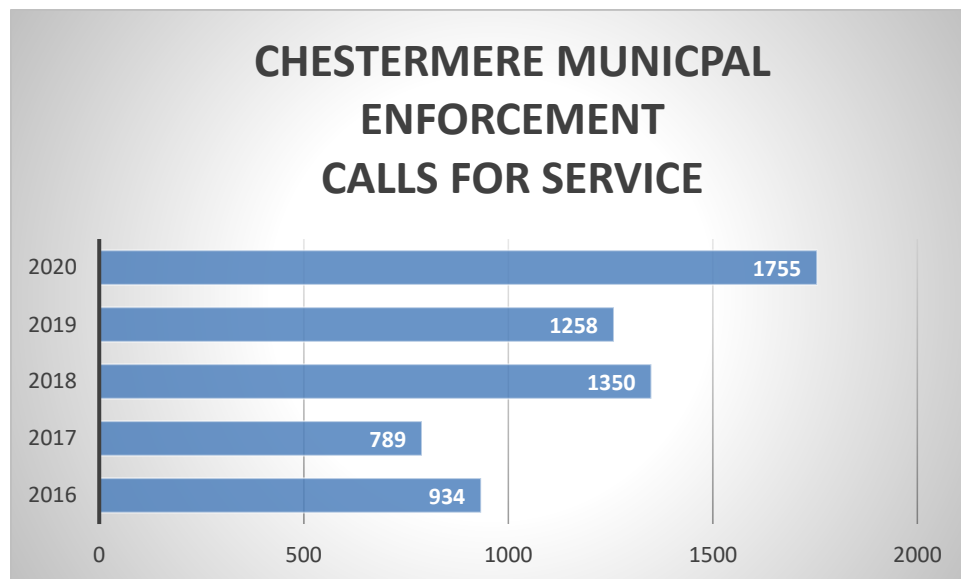
**Animal Control:** This represents all offences that fall under the Animal Control Bylaw, which includes excessive barking, unlicensed animals, animals at large and dog attacks.

**Unsightly Property Bylaw:** This represents offences that include such complaints about unsightly premises (yards/alleys).

**Traffic Bylaw:** This represents all offences under the Traffic Bylaw, and does not include offences under the Traffic Safety Act. Offences under this bylaw include mainly parking, abandoned vehicles, or blocked access to public/private property.

**Community Standards Bylaw:** This bylaw governs behavior and actions within the city's vast park system, and on private residential properties.

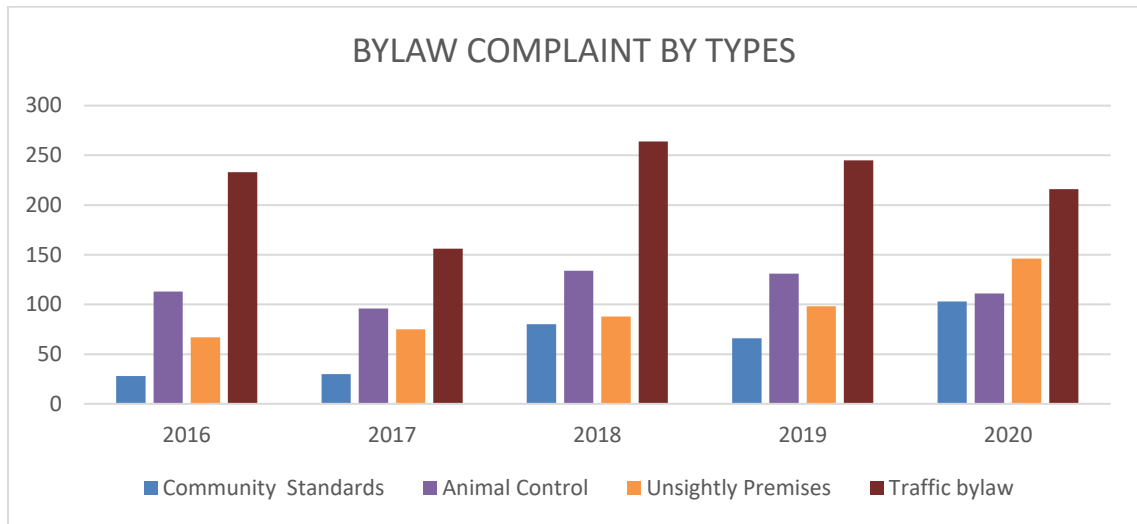
Below is a yearly incident breakdown for Chestermere Municipal Enforcement



This year, our agency experienced almost 30% increase in call volumes over the previous year

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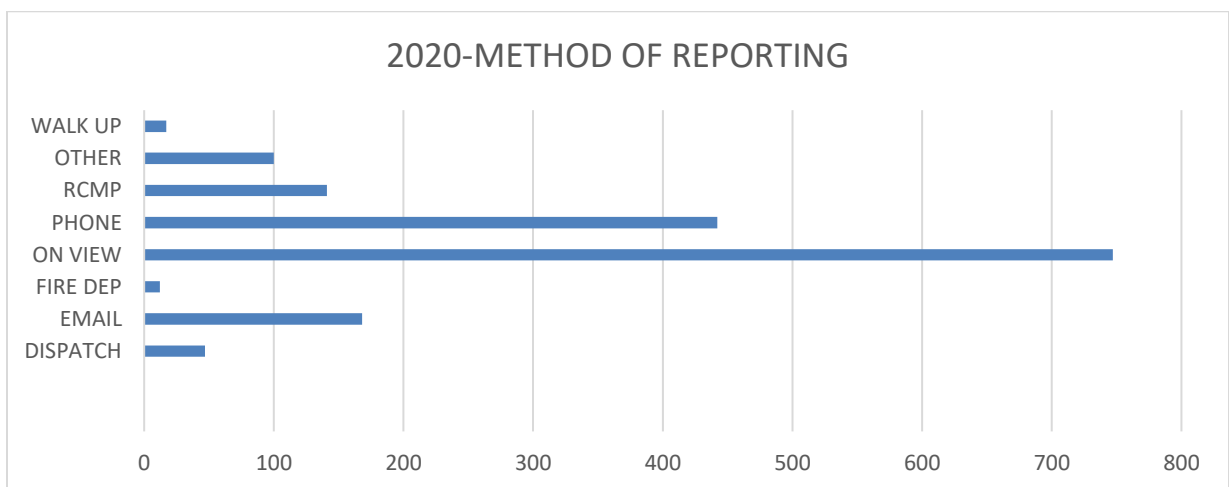
Below is the file breakdown for 2020. This readily identifies the department's most common complainants, and other duties conducted by our Peace Officers.



In 2020, offences under the Traffic Bylaw, continue to be most common bylaw complaints received by our office. It is important to note that as the City continues to grow, issues of social disorder (Community Standard Offences) have increased exponentially, places additional pressures on policing resources.

### METHOD OF REPORTING

As a public service entity, it is crucial that we are able to provide prompt and professional service and that our Peace Officers are readily accessible to our residents. Using our Record Management System, we are able to classify how complaints are received by our office.



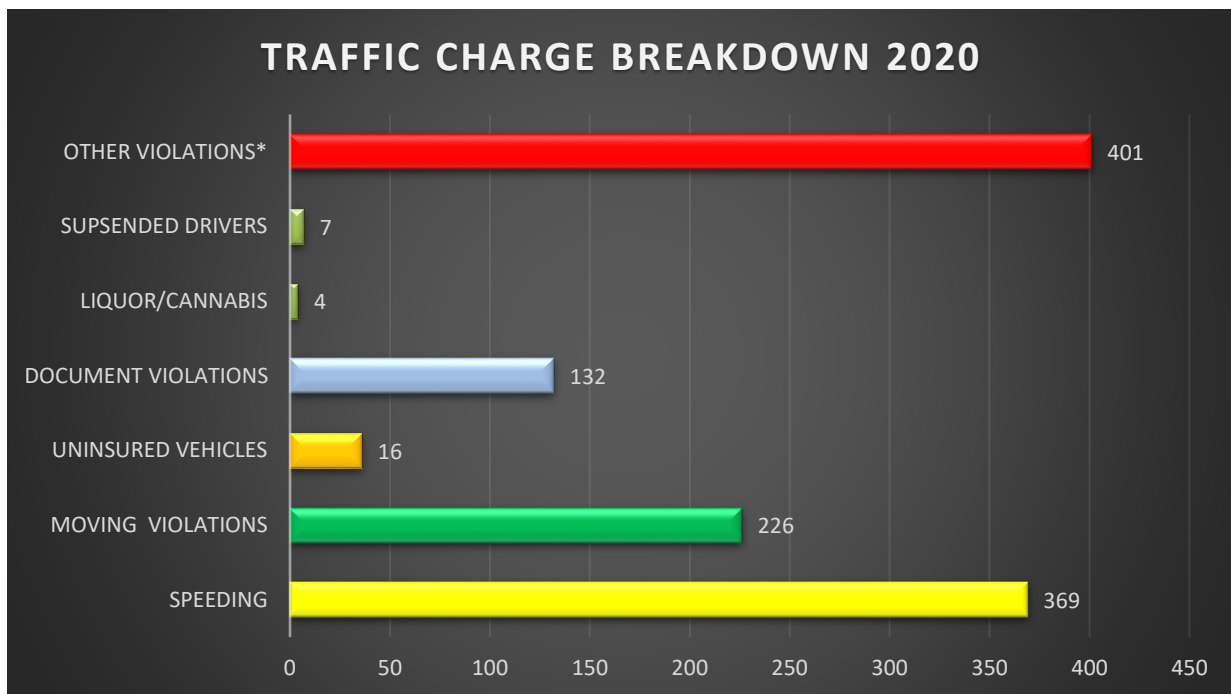
Phone calls from the public continue to be the preferred method of complaint reporting, however as illustrated, our Peace Officers continue to be very proactive in identifying and resolving potential issues, before the public resorts to calling our office to make a complaint.

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### TRAFFIC SAFETY/COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Education and enforcement play a significant role in traffic safety and reducing traffic related injuries and deaths. In 2018, Municipal Enforcement and in cooperation with the RCMP developed a Municipal Traffic Safety Plan. This document is specific to the City of Chestermere and identifies traffic safety concerns, outlines our enforcement activities, as well as educational components and patrol strategies in order to decrease traffic related injuries and deaths within the City.

In addition, our Peace Officers work together with our schools and school patrol organizations in promoting traffic safety. Education activities also include working with AMA School patrols, organizing/attending safety talks in our elementary schools, and child restraint clinics.



\*NOTE: Other Violations includes Distracted Driving/Seatbelts/Equipment and Commercial Vehicle offences

### DISTRACTED DRIVING

The Alberta Motor Association states the distracted driving is responsible for more traffic related injuries and deaths in Alberta, than Impaired driving and speeding combined. Despite increased public education and media awareness, incidents of Distracted Driving in Chestermere have remained steady for the past several years. In February 2020, Chestermere Municipal Enforcement, with permission of the Director of Law Enforcement (DLE), to begin a pilot project to address distracted driving in the Province of Alberta.

This 1-year project entails the use of a “subdued” decaled vehicle, specifically utilized for the detection of distracted driving and seatbelt use. This pilot is scheduled to conclude on 2021/02/10. At conclusion of the pilot, a detailed report will compiled to review by the DLE, and the results will be analyzed to determine the overall effectiveness of the program.

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and if any changes or adjustments need to occur that may improve the program. If approved by the DLE, these types of vehicles may be rolled out to other Peace Officer agencies throughout the Province, where distracted driving continues to be significant community concern.

Coupled with strict policy governing vehicle operations, the initial indications suggest the program has been extremely successful. The unit issued more Distracted Driving violations in the first six (6) months, than the entire agency did in the year previous.

### **COVID 19 – PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS**

The City of Chestermere was in a strong position when the pandemic began. Once a State of Local Emergency was declared, our Emergency Command Center (ECC) was very proactive in issuing Municipal Orders, and was in constant communications with our local Health Inspectors and the Provincial Operations Center.

Chestermere Peace Officers played a key role of enforcing our local orders and those issued by the Province. Our Officers worked very closely with our business community and the public, providing education to ensure adherence with all guidelines and Orders to protect public health.

In addition, a robust business continuity plan was implemented to ensure the safety of our members, so we could continue to provide service to our community. In March, our department reduced our traffic enforcement duties, in order to reduce possible public exposure to our members. However, incidents posing a risk to public were still promptly addressed.

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Chestermere Peace Officers issued only one (1) Summons to an individual for violating Public Health Orders. It became necessary, after continued non-compliance by this individual. This matter is now before of the courts.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT/COMMUNITY POLICING**

In 2020, Chestermere Municipal Enforcement was once again heavily involved in community events throughout the year in the City. While Public Orders effected several our planned events and access into our schools, Chestermere Peace Officers participated in the following:

- Seventy-three (73) School Visits/programming
- Thirty (30) Anti Bullying presentations (students/teachers/parents)
- Nearly two-hundred Park/Beach Patrols (foot & UTV)
- Seventy (70) Birthday Party Drive-bys
- Tim Hortons Camp Day
- Synergy positive ticketing program
- Junior Peace Officer program
- Provincial Peace Officer Memorial
- Child Seat Installation clinics

### **MARINE PATROL**

Chestermere Peace Officers are also authorized to enforce the Vessel Operators Restriction Regulations. This was the second year for operating this unit. Unfortunately, due to resources issues and Public Health related duties, we were not able to staff the unit accordingly. Alternatively, our Peace Officers worked closely with the RCMP to assist in supplementing their staff on their boat throughout the summer.

### **DISPATCH SERVICES**

To in order to fulfill the recommendations of the Lazenby Inquiry, Chestermere Municipal Enforcement has contracted all Peace Officer Dispatching to Calgary Police Dispatch (Calgary 911). This agreement not only includes radio dispatching, but also GPS monitoring, Computer Aided Dispatch terminals, and access to CPIC from the vehicles.

Due to our proximity to Calgary, sharing a dispatch has proven to be a significant asset. The Calgary dispatch is able to provide our members with information of ongoing incidents that will either affect the City of Chestermere or pose a significant risk to officer safety.

### **PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**

In 2020, the City of Chestermere did not receive any complaints related to the conduct or actions of our Peace Officers. Taking into consideration of the environment in which they operate, this speaks volumes to their professionalism and interpersonal skills. Municipal Enforcement is a strong proponent of accountability and transparency, therefore utilize both Body and Vehicle mounted camera systems. These systems are designed to not only to preserve evidence, they serve as a training tool, and also protect the city from liability and officers from malicious complaints.