



Adam A. Donaldson @adamadonaldson

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At 2:30 pm, it's this month's Guelph Police Service Board meeting. This is what's coming up on the agenda: guelphpolitico.ca/2023/11/14/mee...

Chair McSherry has called the meeting to order.

Declarations of Conflict or Pecuniary Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act? Nope.

First up, a presentation from David Lee, director of the Campus Safety Office about the last year for the auxiliary service on campus, aka: campus police. A 20-person operation.

Lee says it's difficult to compare stats over the COVID years. They've added an emergency manager who looks at all matters of emergency planning incl the operations centre and the admin of the safety app. There will be testing over the next year to see how the position works best

The Safe Gryphon app is made free and available to every student on campus, it's like the button on the polls that you see around campus. 23% of students know about the app and have download and 10% have used it, including the "Where am I?" locator.

They're also trying to increase bicycle patrols. He has 6 ppl trained (there is a course to be a bike cop), and on nice weather they're all out on bikes. Lee says that bike patrols are very effective, it promotes community policing.

Lee explains that the U of G is looking for experiential learning. First Aid squads are part of the first responders on campus, some of them are future medical students getting experience offering medical help like athletes needing aid mid-game.

Also, there's a number of students at U of G in criminal justice program with an eye becoming police officer. Aux selects suitable applicants from that program to volunteers as student co-ordinators in return for help on applications and advise to enter the system.

Lee says there a 24/7 dispatch centre on campus, and students can learn the proper way to dispatch and how to triage calls if something needs to go to the Guelph Police vs. campus police.

On incidents, Lee says that although the report says there's no cases of hate, there were actually 5. Otherwise the rest of the numbers are accurate. He also notes a drop in theft of bikes, almost cut in half. He would like to credit that to service but 🙌

Lee says that they're going to look at the bikes that were stolen, was there something about those bikes specifically that made them desirable to steal? Common denominator seems to be poor bike locks.

Campus police plus CSA have program to exchange locks for stainless steel D-lock, fyi.

On criminal code charges there were 18 against people with nothing to do with campus, but 7 for campus. Lee says that's not as high as it used to be. Some of the 18 had Canada-wide warrants and others caught in the act. Camera improvements have helped.

Lee notes the initiation of IMPACT on campus. They work Thurs-Sun and they go if there's a call with no threat of violence. Worker will go and determine best course of action, and can have better impact than an officer. More tools too.

Lee also notes that there's a faster response if the person needs to go to the hospital because that assessment is already done by the mental health worker in advance.

Lee says U of G is the safest campus in Canada and they have great relations with the Guelph Police Service. They don't need officers on campus often, but when they are needed, they're there immediately.

Chief Cobey thanks Lee and echoes the sentiment about their great relationship.

Next, the consent agenda:

The consent agenda is approved, which brings us to the Chief's verbal report.

Cobey notes a Guelph Today story noting the increase of overtime for officers this year, 40k hours. There's been 90k-plus calls for service this year, which is a record high, plus several events and protests they've needed to patrol, and four homicide investigations.

guelphtoday.com/police/police-...

Cobey thanks all the officers who put in that overtime and helping their community, and he thanks board for supporting the budget that will add more personal.

No new business, so that's a wrap for this meeting!



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