

# Chief's Report

## Amherst Board of Police Commissioners

### October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This report covers the month of September 2024

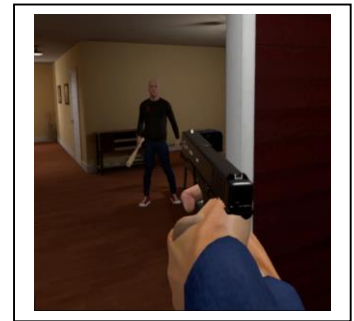


#### PERSONNEL

**New Employees:** Shannon King was recently hired by APD to fill in for dispatch/admin shortages. During a competition held in August 2024, 7 people were interviewed for this position. The interview team all recommended that Shannon be hired on a part-time basis and as a result, she started working in dispatch in late August and throughout September with dispatch coach officers. She was scheduled to attend PROS end-user training from September 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>, returning the following weeks to work with a dispatch coach. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, she started working dispatch shifts alone.

#### TRAINING

**SSVR (Street Smarts Virtual Reality) Training:** Cpl Derek Hebert, Cpl Jeff Walsh and D/Chief Tim Hunter participated in SSVR training on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This virtual reality training system was funded by the Department of Justice and provided to the Amherst Police Department for use and training, not only for our staff, but for our policing partners in Truro, New Glasgow, Stellarton and Westville. As a result, members representing those departments were also present. The SSVR provides members with realistic virtual reality scenarios that respond to officer decisions and actions, and focuses on decision-making, de-escalation and use of force. There is still more training to be conducted for instructors before we can schedule regular training with our members.



**PROS End-User Course:** Constable Lauren Millard and our new dispatch/admin employee Shannon King both attended the PROS end-user course from September 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff are required to successfully complete this course in order to access the PROS file maintenance system. The course was held at RCMP Headquarters in Dartmouth.

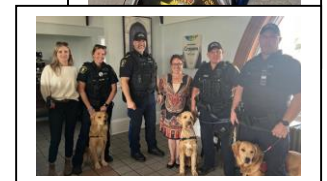
**CIT – Train the Trainer:** Cst Michelle Harrison has been selected to attend the Crisis Intervention Team 'train the trainer' course in Halifax. She is attending from October 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> (4 days). This course will enable her to be a part of the training team that provides CIT training for police officers. The majority of APD members are CIT trained and certified, which provides them with extra tools, skills and resources for dealing with people in a mental health crisis. Sergeant Graham had also been selected to attend, however cancelled due to staffing shortages.

#### GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Police and Peace Officer's Memorial Service:** On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Inspector Gairns attended the 47th annual Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service. This annual service is held to honor police and peace officers who lost their lives while serving their communities. Inspector Gairns marched with hundreds of other police and peace officers from agencies across Canada.



**Canine Therapy for First Responders – Rotary:** On Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tracy Ryan of CTFRR spoke to the Amherst Rotary Club about the CTFRR program and how it benefits not only our department, but also our community. Also in attendance was Chief Pike, D/Chief Hunter, Sgt Aaron Graham, Cst Michelle Harrison, Crime Prevention Coordinator Melanie Siddal, and of course, Rocky, Lola and Walter.

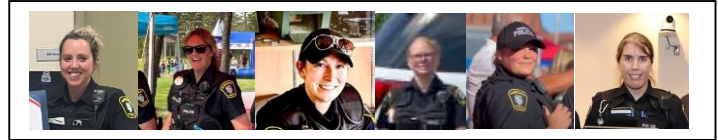


**True Patriot Love:** On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Chief Pike and several members/staff attended and participated in the 'True Patriot Love - Canadian Walk for Veterans', walking around the 'big block' three times to raise money and awareness for our veterans.

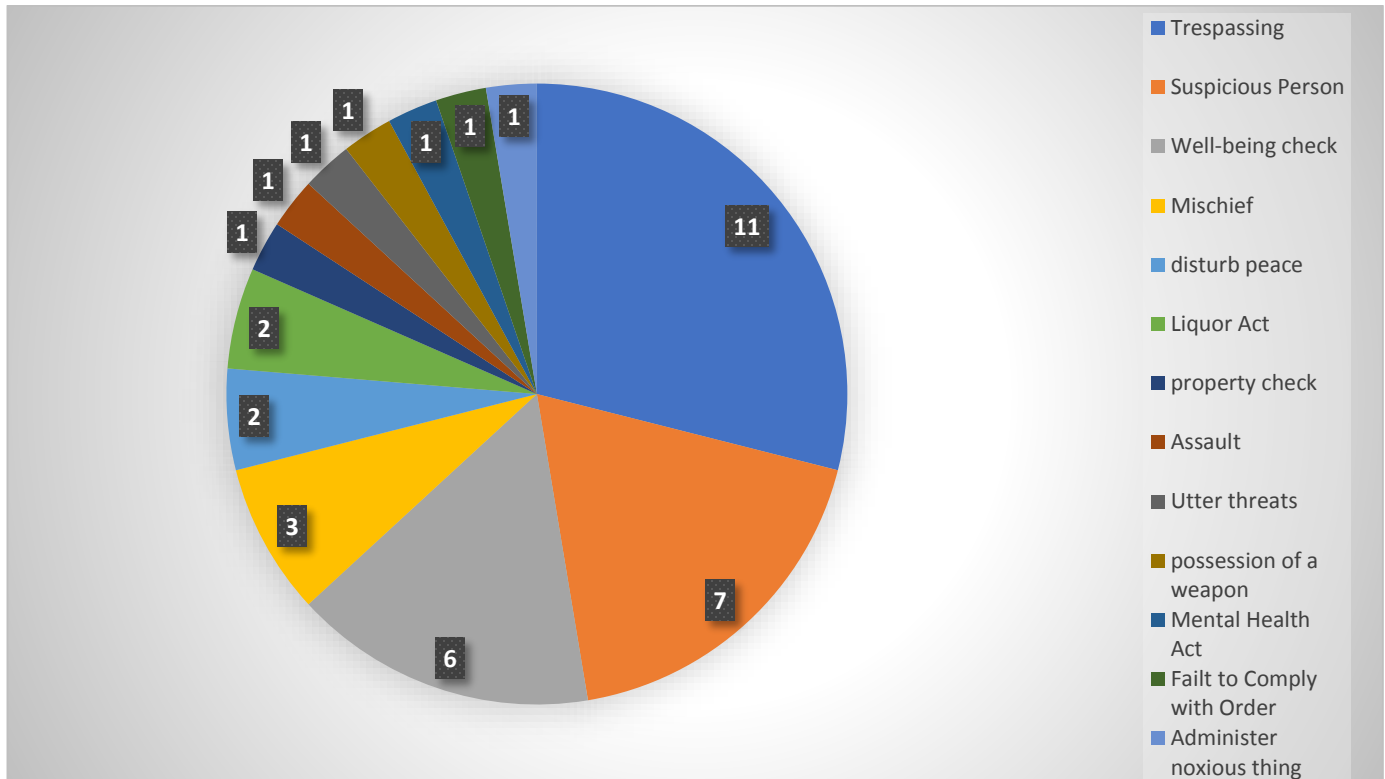


**Special Olympics Truck Convoy:** D/Chief Tim Hunter and Sergeant Aaron Graham attended the 'Truck Convoy' in Halifax on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This initiative raises money and awareness for the Nova Scotia Special Olympics and this year 270 trucks were involved, the largest number of trucks in the convoy.

**National Police Women’s Day:** On September 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrated National Police Women’s Day. We are very lucky to have such excellent Police officers working at the Amherst Police Department. Their expertise and dedication to keeping our community safe is greatly appreciated!



**Homelessness:** Continuing with the lower numbers as observed in August (30), September had 38 complaints that had a nexus to homelessness. This is a stark contrast when compared to 110 complaints in July, 76 in June and 73 in May. Of these, 11 of them occurred at or within close proximity of the shelter. Many of the complaints are surrounding 3-4 of the same people. In the case of the low numbers for both August and September, these can be attributed to people that were not in the Amherst area for the majority of this time.



**Shoplifting Complaints:** Overall, our shoplifting complaints remain fairly consistent. In August 2024, we had 10 complaints of shoplifting in total. This increased slightly to 11 in September. This reflects recent drops, likely as a result of arrests/incarceration or even ‘relocation’ of specific individuals. We are also confident that the reported stats likely do not reflect the actual as such activities are often under reported or go unnoticed. Many stores cite employee safety as a reason for not taking proactive actions to stop shoplifting when it occurs. Aside from shoplifting, APD also received 23 complaints relating to thefts, especially in relation to gas drive-offs (9 reported complaints).

**OPERATIONAL STATS – SEPTEMBER**

<b>Occurrences:</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>Criminal Code Charges:</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Impaired by Alcohol:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>CDSA:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Impaired by Drug:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>CBCA:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tobacco Act:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Traffic Tickets:</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PPA:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Traffic Written Warnings:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Vehicle Checks:</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>LCA:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Foot Patrol Hours:</b>	<b>52hrs, 13 min</b>	<b>Bike Patrol Hours:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Parking Tickets:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Parking Warnings:</b>	<b>0</b>