



Office of the Mayor  
City of Edmonton

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Edmonton Police Commission  
Suite 1803 Rice Howard Place, Tower 2  
10060 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3R8

Dear John McDougal,

I am deeply concerned about safety in our LRT system and downtown core, and know that the Edmonton Police Commission shares my concern. While I am immensely grateful for the tireless work and services that the Edmonton Police Service provides, I want to ensure that collaboration is an essential component in all of our integrated safety plans. I appreciated the productive and informative meeting between EPC and Council on April 28th and the commitment EPC made to transparency at that meeting. We have all seen reports in the media that violence and disorder have been ramping up drastically.

According to EPS's Annual Report, Edmonton's total crime rate decreased by 17% between 2018 and 2020. The same report notes that while the crime rate has decreased, people's perception of safety have decreased at the same time. The 2020-2021 report showed that violent crime is also trending down. EPS has observed a concerning increase in victims of violent crime, with a 30% increase in victims of firearms and a large increase in "Use of Force" occurrences by EPS members over the 2021-2022 period. To further understand this issue, I have several questions for the Commission and hope that receiving these answers will help all parties gain insight into how we can forge a path towards a safer Edmonton for all of us, especially in the downtown core area and LRT system.

1. Can you provide longitudinal data from 2018 onwards for occurrences of disorder, violence and weapons in Downtown and the LRT stations where you are observing the highest number of occurrences?
2. Can you explain how you use data to allocate or deploy personnel to locations where occurrences of disorder and violence are more prevalent, particularly Downtown?
3. Can you give a breakdown of how you allocate resources to mitigate and respond to gang-related crime in the LRT, particularly instances where marginalized community members are being preyed upon?
4. Can you share information on the amounts or relative proportions of resources allocated to address non-violent social disorder compared to violent and weapons related occurrences across the City and in Downtown?

5. Can you share information on the response times to violence and weapons related occurrences Downtown and in our LRT stations?
6. From the Edmonton Police Service's Business Plan, I learned that EPS is working on a Social Media policy for staff. Can you share whether there is currently a policy governing sworn members conduct on social media, and when the Social Media policy mentioned in your Business Plan will be completed by?

I am concerned for Edmonton business owners who do not feel safe operating their businesses and are now struggling financially — I recently received an urgent letter regarding downtown safety and echo the concerns of the business owners and members of the Downtown Recovery Task Force who drafted it. I am concerned for Edmontonian families, youth, elderly folks, and other residents who rely on our transit system, but no longer feel safe doing so. I am concerned for marginalized Edmontonians who desperately need access to social services, safe places to belong in, mental health supports and care. I am concerned about Edmonton, and you are too.

I look forward to receiving your responses to the questions I have outlined above, and will be available to discuss these matters in-depth with the Edmonton Police Commission in the coming weeks. We must share the responsibility when implementing integrated safety measures, and holistic approaches that include the Community Outreach Transit Team, the Downtown Recovery Task Force, peace officers, local service providers and all orders of government to find tangible solutions to these pressing issues. I appreciate the work and services of Edmonton Police and the Edmonton Police Commission, but we must take action together, and we must do so with integrity and urgency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Sohi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Amarjeet Sohi  
Mayor of Edmonton