Response to Mayor Sohi's Letter – 6 questions

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?**

   Downtown

   For the purposes of this response, Downtown will include Queen Mary Park, Central McDougall, McCauley, Oliver, Downtown, and Boyle Street.

   Figure 1 - Disorder Calls for Service in Downtown Edmonton: 2018 – April 30, 2022

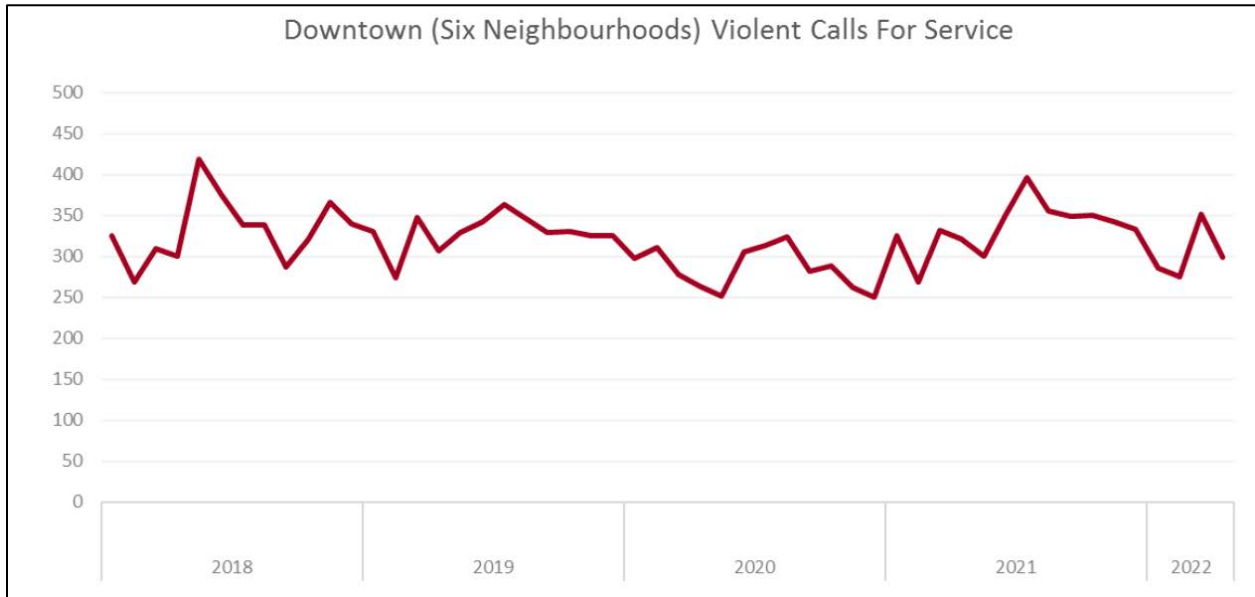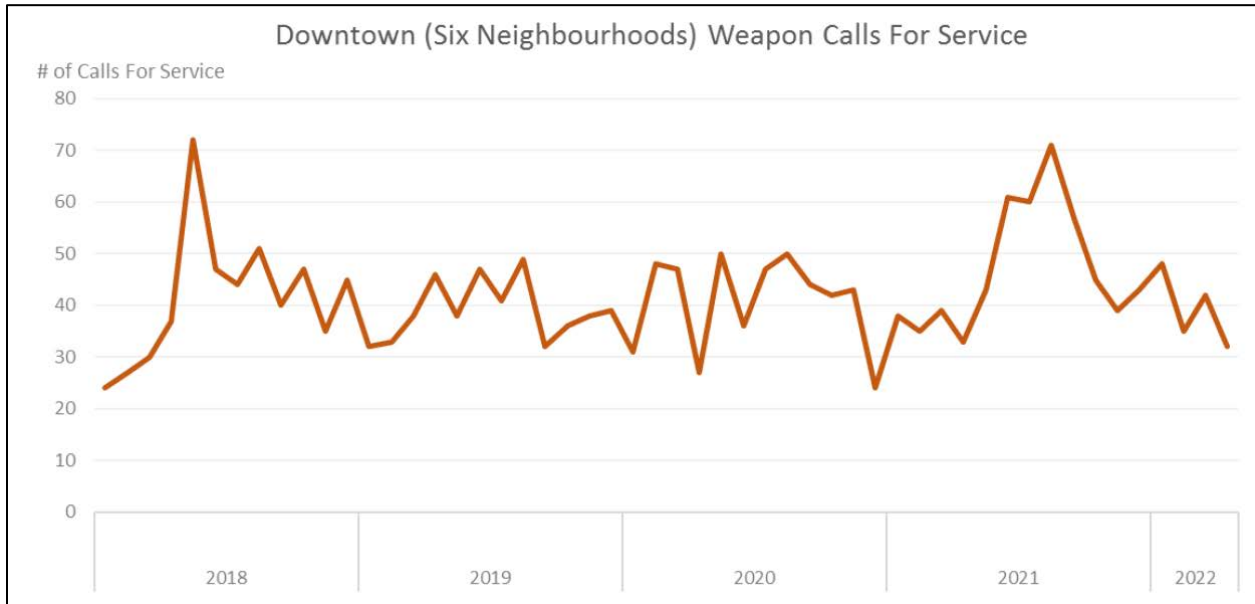*Figure 2 - Violent Calls for Service in Downtown Edmonton: 2018 – April 30, 2022*

Figure 3 - Weapon Calls for Service in Downtown Edmonton: 2018 – April 30, 2022

Figure 4 – Disorder Calls for Service in Edmonton LRT Stations: 2018 – April 30, 2022
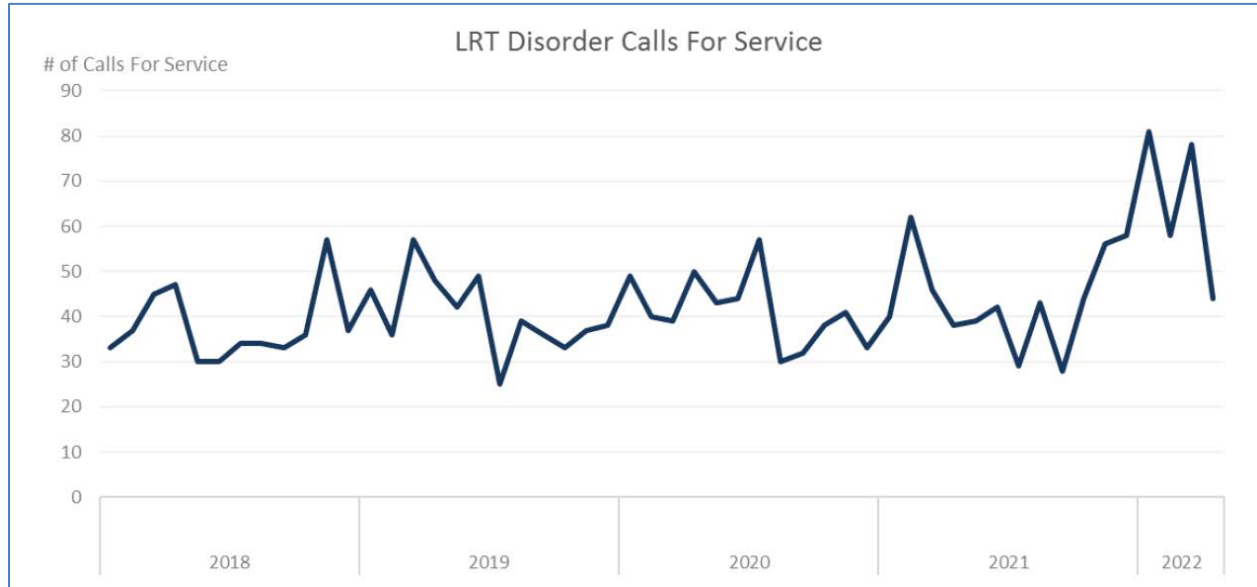

Figure 5 - Violent Calls for Service in Edmonton LRT Stations: 2018 – April 30, 2022
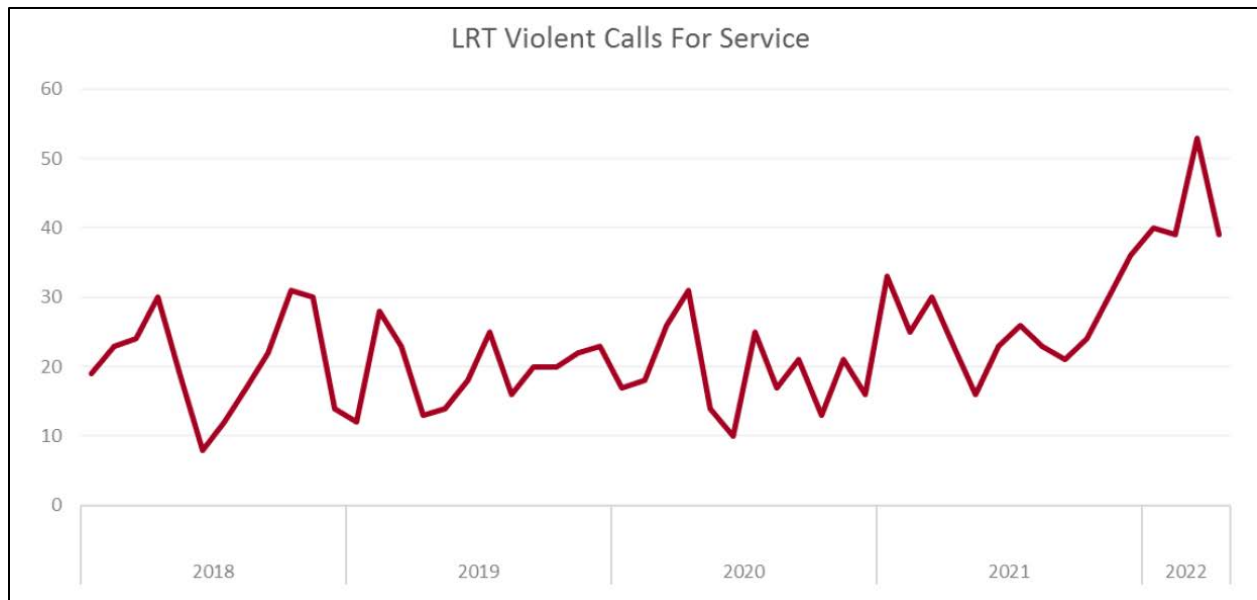
Figure 6 - Weapon Calls for Service in Edmonton LRT Stations: 2018 – April 30, 2022

Table 1 - Violent and weapon calls for service by Edmonton LRT Station

Jan 1 - Apr 30, 2022

LRT Station	Violent	Weapons	Total
BELVEDERE	26	8	34
COLISEUM	20	12	32
SOUTHGATE	19	3	22
CENTRAL	19	3	22
CHURCHILL	14	7	21
CLAREVIEW	10	9	19
CENTURY PARK	14	4	18
CORONA	5	6	11
KINGSWAY	10	0	10
SOUTH CAMPUS / FORT EDMONTON PARK	7	1	8
UNIVERSITY	4	3	7
BAY ENTERPRISE SQUARE	5	2	7
MACEWAN	4	2	6
STADIUM	5	0	5
HEALTH SCIENCES/JUBILEE	2	2	4
NAIT	3	1	4
GRANDIN/GOVERNMENT CENTRE	4	1	5
MCKERNAN / BELGRAVIA	0	0	0
Total	**171**	**64**	**235**

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?**

The Edmonton Police Service deploys resources based on a geographical model throughout six Patrol Branches that have a relatively equal dispersion of call volume. For call response, these areas are overseen by a Duty Officer city-wide to assist in managing the redeployment of officers depending on call volume and emerging situations at the time. The Duty Officer will move resources as required. Patrol is complimented by not only patrol squads, but also Beats (Neighbourhood Foot Patrol), Disruption, Crime Suppression and other units. Downtown Branch currently has 112 patrol members with an additional 21 in Beats.

In 2020, the Edmonton Police Service created Vision 2020 which re-aligned resources to better respond to occurrences of crime - violence, property, and disorder (including social disorder) and created the Crime Suppression and Disruption Teams. Aiming to improve responsiveness in community policing, Edmonton Police Service is changing the city's patrol boundaries, which has been in development since 2020. As a part of EPS' vision to be a forward-thinking police service, the reconfiguration of the patrol boundaries will help build capacity towards EPS' strategic goals. In short, the Patrol Boundary reconfiguration is the first big step in the implementation of the new ten-squad model citywide to improve service and officer wellness city wide.

A comprehensive analysis of the existing workload distribution and boundaries was conducted by a local analytics firm using data collected from several EPS' IT systems. Using a refined analytics tools, the vendor completed a comprehensive review of the data and worked together with the Community Policing Bureau to propose a solution. Going forward, the reconfigured patrol boundaries along with the increased squad model will aid in the efficiency of calls for service, reduce the call wait times, improve dispatcher efficiency, reduce operational risk, and improve EPS' ability to manage resources related to Patrol.

Using evidence-based practices and intelligence, the Crime Suppression Branch identified geographical areas within Edmonton which were subject to increased instances of crime, disorder, and victimization.   This resulted in the identification of 18 Crime Suppression Zones throughout the City of Edmonton which required a focused response from dedicated crime management teams.

The Crime Suppression Section deploys three teams in which a lead constable has geographical ownership within their Crime Suppression Zone. The Crime Suppression Section's function is to identify and resolve problematic events, situations, locations, including individuals who require additional support to increase prosocial behaviour.   The Crime Suppression Teams utilize additional functional teams when needed such as, Crime Disruption, Community Engagement, TRAP and Special Project Teams, Community Social agencies which are accessed to solve problems in a human centered way.

In specific focus to Downtown:

The Crime Suppression Section has divided Downtown into three Crime Suppression Zones which allows for the focused response to identified problematic crime – property, violence, and disorder.

Figure 7- Crime Suppression Zones
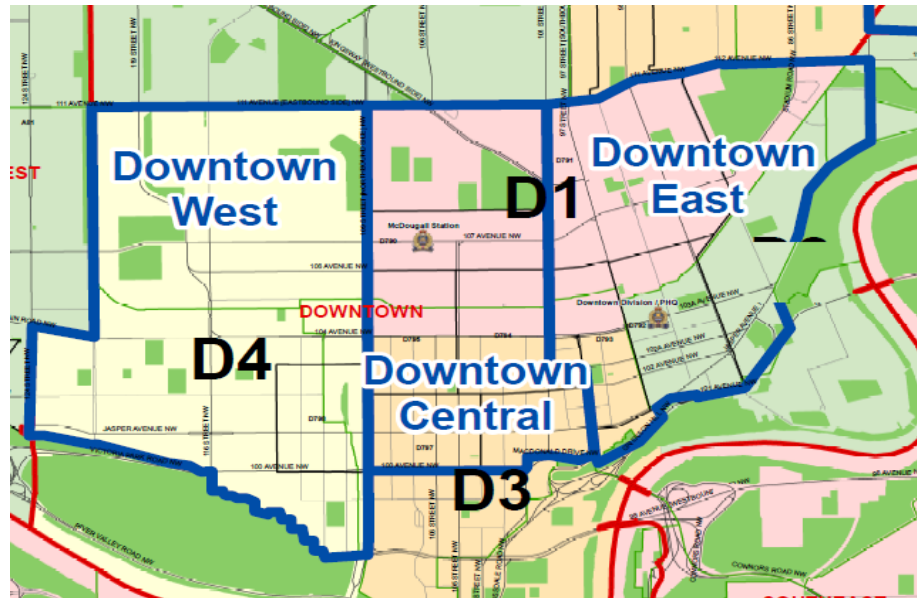
In addition to the Crime Suppression Zones, the Vision 2020 realignment confirmed the need to continue the Neighbourhood Foot Patrol programs where the need for proactive crime management was shown to be the highest.   The Crime Suppression and Disruption Teams are designed to transition into hotspot locations, if the Crime Suppression Zones were to move.

The Crime Suppression Teams and the Downtown Patrol Branch Neighbourhood Foot Patrol utilize crime management initiatives and respond to community safety concerns over and above the staffing for Downtown Patrol Response. The Downtown Patrol Branch Neighbourhood Foot Patrol is resourced by two teams.

Figure 8 - Neighbourhood Foot Patrol
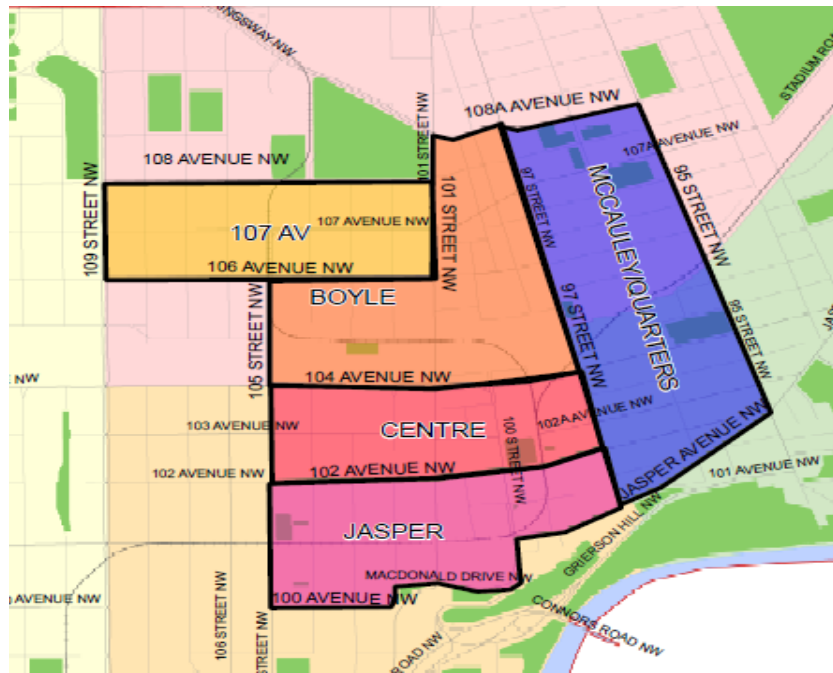
3. **Can you give a breakdown of how you allocate resources to mitigate and respond to gang-related crime in the LRT, particularly instances where marginalized community members are being preyed upon?**

The concerns within our transit system are complex and involve varying degrees of criminality, social disorder, mental health and addictions related events which result in the increase of community safety concerns. There are individuals who commit predatorial violence within these spaces against citizens of Edmonton regardless of their vulnerability status.

The issue of 'street' gang related crime is a complex and is observed in several major cities in western Canada; it is not only specific to Edmonton or our LRT system. The situation within the LRT where individuals are observed wearing gang associated clothing or using gang symbolism does not necessarily mean these individuals have gang membership.

The Edmonton Police Service is aware that individuals in these LRT locations do wear gang colours which can intimidate transit users and vulnerable individuals but may not confirm gang membership. At times, these individuals use gang colours for intimidation and victimization.

The Edmonton Police Service responds to the rise in criminality on the LRT system by focusing on individuals and geographically identified locations of high harm and disorder.

Currently, there is a city-wide crime management response to the problems on the LRT, each LRT station and Transit bus centre is located within a Crime Suppression Zone or Neighbourhood

Foot Patrol.   This means each LRT Station is geographically owned by a proactive Edmonton Police Service team and each station is subject to a crime management initiative.

The overarching crime management strategy being deployed within and around our transit / LRT consists of both place-based deployment and person-based focus.

Place Based Policing Deployment ensures that policing resources can be focused in the areas that require the greatest attention due to high crime and harm indicators as well as creates a suppression effect, where increased prosocial behaviour is observed because of the presence and positive engagement of police members.

The Place Based Policing Deployment model which the Edmonton Police Service employs on a regular basis with our LRT / Transit system is also augmented by a person-based focus, where intelligence, police or the community assists in identifying individuals who are causing safety concern for themselves or the community.   Once the individual has been identified, police work with community resource agencies, and the individual to create a plan to develop an increase in pro-social behaviour.

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 Downton?**

The Edmonton Police Service currently identifies problems within the City of Edmonton through intelligence and evidence-based methods to understand where crime - violence, property, and disorder (including social disorder) is occurring.   This intelligence is shared with our Crime Suppression Branch where the specific identified problem of violence, property, and disorder (including social disorder) is assigned to a proactive crime management team to develop a crime management strategy.

Many identified areas within Edmonton have both violent and weapon concerns as well as non-violent social disorder. The Edmonton Police Service has found that in areas with a high concentration of non-violent social disorder these same locations do see an increase in both property and violent crime. The victimization occurs to both the community as well as individuals who are experiencing vulnerability.

The Crime Suppression Branch includes proactive crime management teams, they are focused on using covert methods of investigation (Targeted Response to Auto Theft and Special Projects Team) other resources include the geographically based Crime Suppression Team, the Crime Disruption Teams and the Joint City of Edmonton Park Ranger and the EPS High Risk Encampment Team. These activities area also coordinated with the Neighbourhood Foot Patrol teams that already have a relationship with the stakeholders in the area.

As the identification of crime - violence, property, and disorder (including social disorder) is complex and unfortunately social disorder do not occur independently from violence and weapon related occurrences.   All front-line patrol officers deal with both social disorder and violent / weapon related occurrences, dependent upon the situation they find themselves in or the call they are responding too.

Front line Neighbourhood Foot Patrol officers will typically deal with a greater number of disorder issues in response to community concerns. There are numerous specialized areas within EPS (i.e., Gang Unit, Robbery Section or Sexual Assault Section) which focus on violence and weapon related occurrences, while there are two areas whose primary function is to address non-violent social disorder: Human-centred Engagement & Liaison Partnership and High-Risk Encampment Team. While these two areas' primary focus is social disorder, they will address violent and/or weapon related occurrences dependent upon the situation they are dealing with, but their goal is to positively impact social disorder, particularly within the Downtown core.

- o **High-Risk Encampment Team** (Joint Deployment response – Park Rangers (4) / EPS (3) per team) The Encampment Response is a City of Edmonton initiative the Edmonton Police Service supports, this includes a multidisciplinary approach of police, social agencies, outreach, and City of Edmonton clean up teams.

- o **Human-centred Engagement & Liaison Partnership (HELP)** in the Community Safety & Wellbeing Bureau – police officers and navigators work to address the root causes of vulnerability and increase prosocial behaviour.

Our HELP teams currently work 7 days per week from 0700 – 1800 daily. Our teams also work extra duty when and where needed at specific events wherein we provide supports to the vulnerable, at risk, and/or marginalized community, with a joint focus of preventing and managing social disorder and social criminal behaviour. This simultaneously provides supports and reduces demand for the extra duty members and Patrol, allowing them to focus on the safety of the event, ensuring community safety for all in attendance, and for the extended community in response to the true criminal element and violent occurrences.

We will also be implementing this type of response during festival season in the city, ie. Fringe Festival, Taste of Edmonton and Heritage Days, where members of the vulnerable community are often present along the periphery or directly located within the event. For this purpose our HELP teams will have the option to be out in the community on bikes for the warmer months. In addition, the Diversion and Desistance Branch focuses on identifying, selecting, and managing the offenders in Edmonton. They are responsible for the most harm to communities and the most demand on EPS' frontline officers. We differ from traditional policing in our management of these offenders; along with desistance strategies, we offer diversion supports to those who want our assistance in finding a new, positive path out of the offender's lifestyle. This includes collaboration with external partners to provide comprehensive case planning.

5. **Can you share information on the response times to violence and weapons related occurrences Downtown and in our LRT stations?**

The median response times (in minutes) for Priority 1 (P1) to Priority 3 (P3) calls for service, based on initial call for service priority, for violence and weapon calls for service in the six Downtown neighbourhoods from 2018 – 2022 is **4.05 minutes**. Additionally, the median response time for violent and weapons calls for service from 2018 – 2022 is **4.92 minutes**.

The performance target for response times by the EPS that 80% of the time EPS will respond to a Priority 1 call for service in 7 minutes or less, Priority 2 call for service in 12 minutes or less, and Priority 3 call for service in 17 minutes or less. These times include dispatch and travel time.

The below response table details a Priority 1, 2 or 3 call for service.

Table 2 - Priority of Response

PRIORITY CODE	DEFINITION /EXAMPLE	RESPONSE TIME PERFORMANCE TARGET (80% of the time)
0	Officer in Distress / Officer Needs Assistance	
1	**In Progress Person At Risk** Response will likely prevent or reduce harm to a person e.g., assault with a weapon in progress	Dispatch Time + Travel Time ≤ **7 minutes**
2	**In Progress Property At Risk** Immediate response will likely prevent or reduce the further loss of property e.g., a neighbor observing an auto theft in progress	Dispatch Time + Travel Time ≤ **12 minutes**
3	**Just Occurred** Immediate response will increase the likelihood of locating a suspect e.g., mischief that occurred very recently	Dispatch Time + Travel Time ≤ **17 minutes**

It is important to note that these response times do not take into account contributing factors such as time of day, traffic, other higher priority calls for service, physical or human resourcing, weather, or the current Computer Assisted Dispatch Records Management System, Integration, Modernization & Maximization (CRIMM) Project.

6. **From the Edmonton Police Service's Business Plan, I learned that the 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?**

The 2020-2022 Business Plan references social media on page 4 under the heading "Focus on how EPS members interact with community members to strengthen public trust" stating "Review EPS Social Media Practices" to be completed in 2022 through the Office of the Chief.

This review was begun in 2021 and was completed in early 2022 as part of the Reimagine Corporate Communications project. Part of that exercise was to complete a social media strategy that could be executed in the coming years. Corporate Communications Branch is currently executing that strategy and will continue to update it as the social media landscape evolves.

The social media policy that references staff use of social media was updated in May of 2021. This policy references both official social media accounts and personal accounts of employees. The policy continues to be updated as needed.