

Sept 14, 2023

Pleasant Hill Community Association
phcaprograms@gmail.com

Pleasant Hill Community Association Input into SPS 2025-2029 Strategic Plan before the plan is finalized

In 2019 consultations took place between core communities, the city and the SPS regarding safety. As the new SPS Strategic Plan is finalized we are reflecting, and once again asking the SPS to consider what Pleasant Hill Community considers 'needs of the community'.

Two sets of statistical analysis were done before this letter was written. Firstly, the number of crimes that took place in Pleasant Hill between 2017 and 2023 were compared with city totals. (Appendix A, data from <https://map.saskatoonpolice.ca/>). Secondly, an estimation of the money (see equation in appendix B) spent by the the Saskatoon Police Service on charging and prosecuting crime that takes place in Pleasant Hill was calculated (Appendix C).

Based on these sets of data the following can be observed:

Positive

1. Although there is an upward trend in the incidents of sexual violation, assault, armed robbery and kidnapping charges in the city of Saskatoon and Pleasant Hill over the last 5 years, the percentage of those crimes committed in Pleasant Hill remains constant.
2. One possible explanation is that the work of the CMU (Community Mobilization Unit) has helped to keep chargeable crimes under control in our area.
3. The number of homicides in the community is trending downwards post the 2020 (Covid year), keeping Saskatoon from being singled out in the 2021 report on homicides in Canada by the Government of Canada.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00015-eng.htm>
4. Some businesses and NGO's on 20th in Pleasant Hill were interviewed and reported they have appreciated the way the police service responds to 911 calls, and the manner they use to deescalate complex and tense situations in and around their places of work.

Negative

1. Arson in Pleasant Hill is trending upward, possibly because of the number of deserted homes in the community and the increase in our homeless population.
2. While Pleasant Hill comprises about 2% of Saskatoon's population (see: City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Profiles), anywhere from 8% to 43% of the violent crimes being charged are taking place in Pleasant Hill (Appendix A). This means 4 to 20 times the amount of crime is taking place in Pleasant Hill than is our 'fair share' as a part of the city of Saskatoon.
3. If we break down the cost of policing per crime (Appendix C) using 2008/2009 Government of Canada statistics, adjusted with a prairie coefficient (Appendix B: the only data publicly available at the time of writing) the police cost of apprehending, charging and prosecuting the crimes that took place in Pleasant Hill in 2022 was approximately \$5,433,000.

Despite this financial investment in Pleasant Hill, residents do not feel safe. They do not appreciate their children being exposed to violence, people under the influence, harassment and dirty needles on a daily basis.

Obviously financial investment in apprehension and prosecution is not the only solution. Investment in prevention is needed. Prevention could be addressed by creating as a 4 year pilot project, a Pleasant Hill Alternative Response Team (ART) composed of 2 officers (hopefully younger and diverse) that spend Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Saturday on the ground in Pleasant Hill. Perhaps a small office in the new urgent care centre that is to be built on 20th Street could be created to support a Pleasant Hill ART.

In creating the job description for this unit one would only need to look as far as the '*Emergency Community Safety Meeting Report*' submitted in 2019. The report lists these requests: 'more visible police presence, more bike/foot patrols, address sexual exploitation, programs to build community trust with the police, foot patrol paired with a community member, better or more training for police to defuse situations more effectively, police in schools for education, police engagement with community groups', NGO's and businesses. Salaries would cost about \$200,000 yearly if they work full time for Pleasant Hill. Common sense tells us it would take 4 to 5 years before the impact of investment in prevention would be seen in the crime rates of Pleasant Hill.

In addition to investing in prevention, we would like to ask the SPS to consider funding an increase in patrols on 20th and 21st street, between Ave P and Ave R during the hours of 11:30 pm to 1:30 am, keeping our community and hospital workers safe on the dark streets of Pleasant Hill.

Thank you for your careful consideration our ideas.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Pollock', written in a cursive style.

Adam Pollock
President, Pleasant Hill Community Association

Prepared by Ruth Reimer

Appendix A

data from <https://map.saskatoonpolice.ca/>

Review of Crime Stats in Pleasant Hill 2017-2023

Pleasant Hill is approximately 2% of the city's population

Crimes listed are the % of the total Saskatoon crime that take place in Pleasant Hill (PH).

Crimes tracked here are those in which more than 10% of the city's crime takes place in PH.

Type of Crime	2017 (city total in brackets)	2018 Pre PHR	2020 Covid begins	2022	2023 (pending)
Homicide	29% (7)	30% (10)	43% (14)	20% (10)	13% (8)
Attempted Murder	0 % (0)	17% (6)	50% (6)	33% (6)	0% (3)
Sexual Violation	6% (303)	8% (332)	8% (365)	6% (374)	7% (322)
Assault	12% (1999)	13% (1958)	14%(2305)	13% (2551)	13%(1908)
Armed Robbery	18% (248)	16% (176)	18% (182)	18% (233)	11% (166)
Robbery	14% (123)	24% (141)	17% (122)	24% (127)	10% (112)
Kidnapping/Hostage Taking	16% (51)	13% (48)	15% (79)	15% (67)	13% (46)
Arson	8% (106)	14% (88)	33% (135)	19% (130)	11% (111) (pending winter)
B & E Residential	8% (1525)	7% (1411)	10%(1476)	8% (1374)	5% (913)
Stolen Property	10% (690)	11% (589)	10% (333)	9% (401)	12% (255)
B & E Firearms	0% (15)	0% (13)	0% (8)	0% (12)	9% (11)
Control Drug and Substance Act	11% (1144)	13% (983)	11% (816)	11% (509)	9% (254)
Weapons Possession	19% (785)	19% (740)	17% (951)	19% (807)	18% (639)
Firearms Related	19% (16)	19% (32)	23% (35)	7% (27)	42% (19)

Appendix B

Figures used in Appendix C are based on 2009/2008 data published by the Government of Canada

https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_7/a.html (spousal crime)

https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/crime/rr13_7/p3.html#sec41 (weapons crime)

These are multiplied by a prairie coefficient based on the cost of police solving a homicide in Winnipeg given by the police chief in his December 2022 update

(Winnipeg cost x .735 = national costs taken from the above tables). The estimates were rounded down. Sexual Assault and Assault are prosecuted in Levels 1-4. The average cost of prosecuting Level 4 and Level 1 was used to determine cost of prosecuting assaults. This is inaccurate, but the best with the limited data available.

Homicide: 214,000/ \$291,000 x .735 = 214,000
 Attempted Murder: \$69,000/ \$62,000 69,000 x .735 = 51,000
 Sexual Assault: \$46,000 - \$10,000 x .735 @ average = 20,000
 Assault: \$19,000 - \$1,100 x 7.35 @ average = 7,500
 Robbery: \$25,000 x .735 = 20,000
 Kidnapping/Hostage Taking: \$23,000- \$62,000 x .735 @ average= 31,000

Appendix C

Pleasant Hill Population is 2% of the city population according to the Neighbourhood profiles on the City of Saskatoon web site.

2022 Stats Types of Crime	Police cost per crime (2009 stats x prairie coefficient- .735)	Incidents in Pleasant Hill	% of total incidents in city	Total police cost using average variation
Homicide	\$291,000 x .735 = \$214,000	2 x 214,000	20% (10)	\$428,000
Attempted Murder	62,000 x .735 = \$45,000	2 x 45,000	33% (6)	\$90,000
Sexual Violation level 4/ level 1	\$46,000 x .735 = \$33,000 \$10,000 x .735 = \$7,000 average \$20,000	24 x 20,000	15% (374)	\$480,000
Assault level 4/ level 1	\$19,000 x .735 = \$14,000 \$1,000 x .735 = \$1,000 use average \$7,500	341 x 7,500	13% (2551)	\$2,500,000
Armed Robbery	\$28,000 x .735 = \$20,000	41 x 20,000	18% (233)	\$820,000
Robbery	(?)\$25,000 x .735 = \$18,000	30 x 18,000	24% (127)	\$540,000
Kidnapping/ Hostage Taking	\$62,000 x .735 = \$45,000 \$23,000 x .735 = \$17,000 average \$31,000	10 x 31,000	15% (67)	\$310,000
Arson	\$15,000 x .735 = \$11,000	25 x 11,000	19% (130)	\$275,000
Total				\$5,433,000

Police service spent on arresting and prosecuting crime in Pleasant Hill in 2022 approximately:
 \$5,433,000

Data is should be revised with City of Saskatoon actual costs.
 This does not include crimes investigated, but no charges laid.