

Saskatoon Police Service

Case Study “Rick”



History:

So far in 2023 Rick has at least 16 interactions with police where he was found to be intoxicated in a public place and unable to care for himself.

Rick is 67 years old and living on the street. It is clear the effects of being homeless have taken a toll on his physical abilities. He walks with a severe limp and consistently has bruises and cuts to his body.

As the weather changes from fall to winter, police are having an increase amount of interactions with him, as he has no where to go.

Outcome

Rick has been known to Saskatoon police officers for years as a vulnerable person living on the streets. He has been criminally charged in the past, but in his senior years his interactions with police have not resulted in any criminal charges.

There have been several calls to police where passersby have observed individuals sleeping in business entrances or alleys to stay warm. It is common for attending officers to locate Rick when they arrive, finding him intoxicated by alcohol.

Rick is cooperative and compliant with police, however has no where to go. And no family or friends that are willing to take him.

Rick is willing to go to the Brief Detox Unit for support. On several occasions, officers have transported Rick to the BDU only to have him turned away. Staff are not able to care for him because he isn't able to stand on his own. Often intoxicated individuals have difficulty standing due to intoxication, however an elderly person with declining physical health most likely requires additional assistance.

Without an available bed at the BDU, police have no other option but to transport Rick to police cells, where he will be placed into a cell with a cement bench to sober up before being released back on to the streets.

Rick shared with officers that in the summer he would find a bush to sleep under, however with the cold approaching, he is worried as he has no where to go.

Demographics:

- * Male
- * 67 years old
- * Indigenous
- * Homeless

Complex needs:

- * Housing
- * Alcohol addiction
- * Physical disability

SPS INVOLVEMENT

- ◇ 16 SOPA arrests
- ◇ 1 Agra ticket