



# SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE

“PUBLIC AGENDA”

**TO:** Shirley Greyeyes, Chairperson  
Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Dave Hays  
Office of the Chief

**DATE:** 2024 May 03

**SUBJECT:** Quarterly Crime Activity and Trends – January 1 to March 31, 2024

**FILE #:** 9,016

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## **ISSUE:**

To inform the Board of Police Commissioners on current crime activity and notable investigations.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That this report be received as information.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

This report supports the strategic themes of Communication and Crime and Safety by enhancing communications with the public and explaining some strategies used to combat the changing facets of crime.

## **DISCUSSION:**

At the January 2024 Board of Police Commissioners meeting the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) informed Commissioners that it would provide a quarterly report describing trends and notable activities regarding crime. The report covers the period January 1 to March 31, 2024.

The attached investigation profile documents provide reference to significant media releases over this time frame.

### **Break and Enter Investigations**

The Break and Enter Unit consists of one Sergeant and seven Constables, two of which are provincially funded positions for the Break and Enter Comprehensive Action Program (BECAP) and one of which is assigned to the Pawn Detail.

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BECAP is established to work collaboratively with Saskatchewan Provincial Prosecutions, the Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety, and Policing, Saskatoon Community Corrections (Probation Services) and Saskatoon Police Service to identify and engage with serious offenders who require intensive supervision while in the community. Investigators in BECAP perform compliance checks and conduct investigations.

Investigative activity conducted by the Break and Enter Unit in the first quarter of 2024 includes:

- In March 2024 investigators identified a male who is alleged to have been involved in break and enters to three senior living facilities between December 2023 and January 2024. The male has been charged with several counts of break and enter, Mischief to Property, and Theft.
- In March 2024 investigators identified two males who are alleged to be involved in several incidents across the city involving break and enters to residences and theft from vehicles. As a result, the males were charged with several counts of Break, Enter and Theft, Mischief by Willful Damage, Theft, Trafficking Stolen Property, and Breach of Court Order.
- On March 25, 2024 the investigator assigned to the Pawn Detail laid charges of Possession of Stolen Property, Breach of Community Sentence Order and Breach of Probation on a male who is alleged to have pawned a stolen bicycle. The bicycle was stolen in a break and enter which occurred in February of 2024.

### **Fairhaven and Confederation Suburban Center**

On April 10, 2024 the SPS and Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) co-presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee of City Council on a joint report *Community Changes and Response to Emergency Shelters*. This report brought to light that crime reported to police as a measure of how safe a community may be and the community residents' opinion of safety in their community are different.

Highlights from the report were:

- In Fairhaven crimes against the person and property crimes fluctuated from month to month however were recorded to be at the same rate in December 2023 as in December 2021.
- In Confederation Suburban Center crimes against the person increased substantially as did crimes against property. An analysis of crimes against the person showed that about 1/3 occurred at a commercial business, specifically assaults against loss prevention staff or other employees. An analysis of crimes against property showed a significant increase in theft by shoplifting with 751 incidents at a single commercial business in 2023.

In an effort to address this crime activity in these neighborhoods the SPS has:

- With support from the City of Saskatoon has encouraged commercial businesses to adopt Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices which can empower local businesses and deter crime.

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- Continues to meet regularly with the Saskatoon Tribal Council which operates the Emergency Wellness Center located in these areas. The SPS dedicates a senior member to work on community safety and well-being initiatives in partnership with community-based organizations and the SFD.
- Dedicated a member within the Community Engagement Division whose sole function is to engage with residents and businesses in these areas on crime or public safety issues.
- Alternative Response Officers are assigned to the two neighborhoods during weekdays as part of a funding agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan to address increased activity around the Emergency Wellness Center.
- Attended a meeting with representatives of the Fairhaven Community Association to hear them describe what is occurring in their community.

### **Homicides**

Saskatoon has experienced six homicides in the first quarter of 2024, nine homicides year to date.

	<b>File</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Factors</b>
1	24-16061	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	600 block Lisgar Ave	Y	Illicit Drugs
2	24-18906	Feb 10	200 block Ave K North	Y	Argument
3	24-21779	Feb 17	200 Block Ave I South	Y	Robbery (home invasion)
4	24-22666	Feb 19	200 Block 20 <sup>th</sup> Street West	Y	Random Event
5	24-22540	Feb 19	1000 Block Matheson Drive	Y	Not intentional
6	24-31357	March 9th	100 Block Ave T South	Y	Negligence

SPS places an emphasis in ‘front-end loading’ homicide investigations from the initial response by patrol officers to follow-up investigation by investigators. Patrol officers will establish a security perimeter of the scene, protect evidence, conduct preliminary investigations to locate witnesses, persons of interest and video or other digital evidence. Investigators will follow-up with interviews, crime scene forensics and other investigative avenues.

### **Protests**

SPS’ response to protest activity is based on the premises that we police behaviour, not beliefs. Our response will include the protection of an individual’s Fundamental Freedoms and Legal Rights found in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and as defined by case law and common law.

In the first quarter of 2024 the SPS responded to:

- 30 protests or rallies, year to date we have responded to 43.
- At one event three persons were served Notice of Violations for having an unauthorized parade.
- All other events were lawful and peaceful.
- Six additional protest events were planned but nobody from the public attended.
- The causes being advocated for or against included:

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- The war between Hamas and Israel
- The war between Ukraine and Russia
- The Emergency Wellness Center proposed for Sutherland
- Response to Homelessness

SPS’ protest management response can take different forms based on information available to it about the protest organization’s previous behaviour, past protest activity, and counter protest activity. SPS has personnel with specialized training in de-escalation and protest management in its Police Liaison Teams (PLT) and its Public Safety Unit (PSU). These specialty teams work in collaboration with protest organizers to ensure a safe environment for everyone involved. The Protests draw on resources beyond the SPS specialty team responses. Personnel must also be drawn from Patrol Platoons and the Traffic Section. This has a direct impact on the availability of those officers to attend to calls for service or to conduct traffic safety initiatives.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Employees of the SPS are committed to detecting, preventing and investigating crime, with the goal to reduce victimization in our community. Their efforts involve a combination of proactive and reactive measures to provide a safe and secure community for everyone.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Quarterly Statistical Board Report – Quarter 1

Investigation Profile 1 - *Forensic Laboratory Matches Spent Cartridge Cases to Seized Firearm in Separate Investigations*


Investigation Profile 2 - *Family/Grandparent Emergency Scam*

Investigation Profile 3 - *Lisgar Ave Homicide*

**Written, approved and  
Submitted by:**


**Dave Haye, Chief of Police**

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 <b>SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE</b> BE THE DIFFERENCE	Quarterly Statistical Board Report Quarter 1, Jan 1-Mar 31			
	Quarter 1			
	2024	2023	Actual Change	% Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIMES</b>				
Homicides	5	2	3	150%
Attempted Murder	1	-	1	#DIV/0!
Sexual Violations	131	127	4	3.1%
Commodification of Sex Activity	1	2	(1)	-50.0%
Assaults	639	594	45	7.6%
Robbery	107	94	13	13.8%
Criminal Harassment (Stalking)	56	37	19	51.4%
Uttering Threats	105	86	19	22.1%
Kidnapping/Hostage Taking/Abduction	13	14	(1)	-7.1%
Other Violent Crimes	33	39	(6)	-15.4%
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
<b>PROPERTY CRIMES</b>				
Arson	22	59	(37)	-62.7%
Break and Enter - Residential	168	122	46	37.7%
B&E-Residential Detached Building	106	121	(15)	-12.4%
Break and Enter - Non Residential	155	317	(162)	-51.1%
Break and Enter to Steal Firearm	1	2	(1)	-50%
Theft Over \$5,000	61	62	(1)	-1.6%
Theft Under \$5,000	1,768	1,838	(70)	-3.8%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	206	273	(67)	-24.5%
Possession of Stolen Property	65	105	(40)	-38.1%
Fraud	549	559	(10)	-1.8%
Graffiti	39	84	(45)	-53.6%
Mischief/Wilful Damage	585	682	(97)	-14.2%
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES</b>	<b>3,725</b>	<b>4,224</b>	<b>(499)</b>	<b>-11.8%</b>
<b>OTHER CRIMES</b>				
Controlled Drug and Substance Act	96	87	9	10.3%
Weapons Possession	220	202	18	8.9%
Firearm Administration	13	6	7	117%
Other Criminal Code	1,866	2,334	(468)	-20.1%
Criminal Code Traffic	156	139	17	12.2%
<b>TOTAL OTHER CRIMES</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>2,768</b>	<b>(417)</b>	<b>-15.1%</b>

Note: Data was taken from the RMS on April 30, 2024. Crime and other statistics are constantly being updated. As a result, previous data may differ from previously published reports.

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 <b>SASKATOON POLICE SERVICE</b> BE THE DIFFERENCE	Quarterly Statistical Board Report Quarter 1, Jan 1-Mar 31			
	Quarter 1			
	2024	2023	Actual Change	% Change
<b>TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED</b>				
Provincial Traffic Safety Act (except speeding)	2,273	3,001	(728)	-24.3%
Provincial Vehicle Equipment Regulations	485	667	(182)	-27.3%
Other Provincial	102	122	(20)	-16.4%
Other Municipal Traffic Bylaws	122	77	45	58.4%
Speeding (Provincial and Municipal)	935	1,404	(469)	-33.4%
CTSS/SPS (in Saskatoon only)	911	1,236	(325)	-26%
Possess, consume, distribute cannabis in vehicle	13	20	(7)	-35.0%
<b>TOTAL TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>4,841</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>(1,686)</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>
<b>COLLISIONS</b>				
Property Damage	1,231	1,038	193	18.6%
Personal Injury	158	122	36	29.5%
Fatality	1	-	1	N/A
<b>TOTAL COLLISIONS</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>20.4%</b>
<b>CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC</b>				
Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle	74	73	1	1.4%
Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle	51	53	(2)	-3.8%
Other Criminal Code Traffic	31	13	18	138.5%
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>				
<b>Total Incoming Calls</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>27,405</b>	<b>(2,405)</b>	<b>-8.8%</b>
911 Calls	9,738	10,801	(1,063)	-9.8%
911 Calls Abandoned by Caller	1,193	2,212	(1,019)	-46.1%
Non 911 Calls	14,069	14,392	(323)	-2.2%
<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>				
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>34,665</b>	<b>33,295</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>4%</b>
Dispatched	22,382	20,827	1,555	7%
Non Dispatched	12,283	12,468	-185	-1%

Note: Data was taken from the RMS on April 30th, 2024. CTSS numbers provided by the SPS Patrol Support Division. Crime and other statistics are constantly being updated. As a result, previous



## Investigation Profile #1

### Forensic Laboratory Matches Spent Cartridge Cases to Seized Firearm in Separate Investigations

In December 2023, police responded to multiple reports of gunshots in the neighbourhood of King George. Upon arrival, officers found that the suspects had fled the area but located several spent cartridge cases nearby. There were no victims found and no injuries were reported. Members of the Guns and Gangs Unit assumed carriage of the investigation, with assistance from Patrol, and submitted the spent cartridge cases to the RCMP’s National Forensic Laboratory Services (NFLS) for further analysis.

Less than two weeks later, a 36-year-old man and 23-year-old woman were arrested during a separate investigation and found to be in possession of a loaded firearm, which was seized and submitted to the NFLS. In March of 2024, NFLS that positively matched the spent cartridge to the seized firearm allowing the SPS to lay a series of firearm-related charges, including;

- careless use of a firearm (x2),
- unauthorized possession of a firearm (x2),
- unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle (x2),
- unauthorized possession of a restricted firearm with ammunition (x2),
- possession of a firearm/ammunition contrary to an order (x3),
- intentionally discharging a firearm in a reckless manner (x2). Both suspects remain in custody.

In a continued effort to combat gun crime within our community and Province, a temporary ballistics lab operated by the Saskatchewan Firearms Office will soon be operational within the Saskatoon Police Service’s Headquarters. The lab will contain specialized equipment that is expected to expedite forensic results and conclude investigations more efficiently.



## **Investigation Profile #2**

### **Family/Grandparent Emergency Scam**

In September and October of 2023, police received multiple reports of victimization through the Family/Grandparent Emergency Scam; the suspect was attending to the residences of victims and defrauding them each of several thousand dollars.

Investigators from the SPS' Economic Crime Section obtained video evidence of a person of interest and a public advisory was issued. Following investigative leads and tips from the public, the female suspect from Alberta was identified and a warrant was issued for her arrest. On February 13, 2024, the suspect was arrested by members of the Calgary Police Service.

Investigation determined that the suspect had been involved in defrauding victims in Saskatoon of more than \$97,000. As a result, she has been charged with fraud over \$5,000 (x10), impersonating a police officer, and unlawful use of a credit card obtained by the commission of an offence. This follows the arrest of a young man in May and three arrests in January, 2024 with over 70 criminal code charges for a variety of offences including charges related or organized crime.





### Investigation Profile #3

#### Lisgar Ave Homicide

Shortly after 2:30 a.m., February 3, 2024, members of the Tactical Support Unit were assisting in the execution of a search warrant in the 600 block of Lisgar Avenue related to an aggravated assault investigation involving firearms. During the incident, an SPS member discharged their firearm. One suspect, a 34-year-old male, suffered a gunshot wound and was transported to hospital; he is believed to be in stable condition. Two females were also arrested at the scene.

Officers located a deceased person inside the residence. This death was determined to be a homicide and unrelated to police actions. Following an investigation by the SPS Major Crime and Forensic Identification Sections, a 32-year-old woman was charged with First Degree Murder.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Saskatoon Police asked for the public's assistance in locating a 14', 2010, Ford U-Haul truck in connection with the homicide investigation and promptly located the vehicle.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, a second person was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder. Continued investigations allowed officers to add additional charges under Section 182(b) of the Criminal Code for indecently interfering with and offering an indignity to human remains.

In response to the officer involved shooting, and within the criteria set out in *The Police Act, 1990*, the Saskatoon Police Service notified the Saskatchewan Serious Incident Response Team of the incident (SIRT). Following the notification, SIRT's Civilian Executive Director accepted carriage of the officer-involved shooting investigation.