



July 9, 2019

Darlene Brander
Commission Chair
Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners
c/o Saskatoon City Clerk
222 3rd Ave. N
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Commission Chair Brander:

Re: Actions of Community Support Officers Andrusiak and Thiessen

I wanted to ensure that members of the Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners were aware of the good work performed by members of the Community Support Program (CSP) and to highlight the specific efforts of two staff members at a specific incident last month.

On June 19, 2019, Community Support Officers Andrusiak and Thiessen were patrolling in the 1500 block of 20th Street West to conduct a wellness check on a group of 12 individuals. As they entered the area and were about to exit their vehicle, a male displayed what appeared to be a handgun and waved it in the air and started towards their location. Both staff members quickly retreated in their vehicle and immediately contacted the Saskatoon Police Service.

Saskatoon Police responded quickly and the person was apprehended without further incident. The quick-thinking reaction and ability to quickly detect the potential danger for themselves and others in the community speaks to their level of training and good judgement. Their efforts helped avert what may have been a more troublesome situation and they are to be commended for their actions.

The purpose of the Community Support Program is to provide a visible foot patrol program in the Business Improvement Districts of Downtown, Riversdale, and Broadway. Through street outreach the six-officer team connect with vulnerable community members affected by mental health, addictions and homelessness. The CSP works closely with members of the Saskatoon Police Service and often their presence can reduce unnecessary use of other emergency services. In this instance, the presence of the officers assisted in keeping the community safe and helped the Saskatoon Police do their job efficiently.



It is important for the Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners to be aware of the great work the CSP officers do in our community and how they contribute to public safety for those in these three key business districts. I would ask that this letter is circulated to other Commission members and included as an attachment at one of your upcoming meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Penner'.

Brent Penner
Executive Director, Downtown Saskatoon
Chair, Street Activity Subcommittee, City of Saskatoon

cc: Chief Troy Cooper
Supt. Randy Huisman
Insp. Cameron McBride
Rob Garrison, Supervisor, Community Support Program
Randy Pshebylo, Executive Director, Riversdale BID
DeeAnn Mercier, Executive Director, Broadway BID
Elisabeth Miller, Neighbourhood Safety, City of Saskatoon
Officer Andrusiak, Community Support Program
Officer Thiessen, Community Support Program