

Newcastle Police District Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 27 March 2019

Venue: Blind Monk, Hamilton

Apologies: As per sign on sheet

Meeting opened: 6.15pm

1. Welcome: Sen Cst Jeff Milton opened the meeting and welcomed members.
2. Superintendent Brett Greentree welcomed everyone and explained the success of the relationship between community and police.
Supt Greentree stressed that the aim of the meeting was to give feedback to the members and have an open discussion.
3. Nathan Errington welcomed everyone on behalf of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Board. He too, was positive about the relationship between businesses, community and the police.
4. SC Milton stated that the aim of the meeting was to talk and to listen.
He noted that the Command was made up of the Waratah and the Newcastle Police Districts.
It is hoped that there would be 3 of these meetings per year.
 1. Hamilton
 2. Wallsend/New Lambton area
 3. City

Police Crime Report. - Intelligence Sen Cst Sven Harper.

1. 155,000 people in the Command area. Over the past 12months there had been more than 60,000 calls for service for Newcastle City police.
2. Newcastle City Command is one of the busiest, in terms of reactive calls for service, in the State. The District does see a range of crime including from very serious to the lower level matters.
3. Proactive policing. Much time is spent conducting proactive inspections, searching people and vehicles, drug detection, AVO breaches.

Discussion Points from Police Crime Report

- Hamilton Railway closure- Dec 2014; reduction in crime -2016,2017,2018.
Crime has moved out of Hamilton or has been displaced to a point because of this
- Wickham Railway Station: the pressure of more people in the area has resulted in more police and resources focused here and these have assisted in containing crime. There has been no significant increase in crime.
- Stolen Vehicles: Unfortunately, the PD features prominently in this area. Much of this linked to break and enter. 25% of thefts are of motorbikes. People do not lock their cars. Cars stolen for joyrides, number plate removal, fraud- fail to pay.
- January 2019 there was a spike in car thefts- Police target action group focused on certain areas, which resulted in lock ups and perpetrators leaving area. Police have been assisted by a quick turnaround of DNA and fingerprint identification.
- Lock Out Laws have resulted 600 less victims. Since 2014 there has been a reduction in assaults. Presently we have NO Declared premises on State List.

- Sexual Assaults – the PD is among the top 5 in state. In 90% of child sexual assault cases the victim knows the perpetrator. Domestic Violence and use of the on-line dating services/websites have contributed to the increase.
- Stealing from dwelling: increase in pushbike theft. Suspects using bikes because they do not have car license and it is easy to get around. Victims do not record the security numbers of the bikes and/or lock up the bikes. Anaconda and Hadley's Cycles now record the bike security number from each sale. It was suggested that information be made available to bike owners alerting them recording their security number.
- Police Facebook Page: has been a worthwhile method of crime prevention and a tool to contact the community. It is getting results. There has been much success in solving vehicle and bike theft and in identifying persons of interest.
- Property Crime Team: investigators have found success with the use of CCTV in identifying thieves. Much Pay Wave fraud, which is underreported. Police Facebook page assisted in identifying many offenders. 147 arrested for 726 offences
- Drug Detection: this has been ramped up. We are now in the top 5 Districts of the state in detection both covert and overt operations. Detection of MDMA in pubs and at concerts.
- **General Business:**
 - King St McDonalds area: since night works have stopped, it was reported that there has been a big increase in anti-social type behavior particularly Thurs, Fri, Sat nights- all hours. Request for some extra police presence. Also, street racing in same area.
 - Police Intelligence relies on reported calls to create events so that action can be taken. In 2014-2015 Hamilton businesses were encouraged to report. There were meetings with police and strategies discussed that resulted in increased police patrols, beat police. This resulted in decrease in crime in the area.
 - Theft and drug use- issues in the Junction and Marketown areas. It was suggested that incidents must be reported so that action can be taken.
 - Education: retailers' rights, knowing what to do. Bag Search- retailer has a right to refuse service but cannot search bags. Retailers can request that bags be left at the door. If offender refuses to leave, then police can be called. There must be a consequence for these offenders. Personal safety is priority.
SC Milton will circulate relevant info re **Rights as Retailers**, and this can then be distributed via email to other shop owners. When possible, SC Milton can visit store to give security advice and a guide for the retailer.
- Aim for Police is crime prevention. There are now programs focused on youth, where police are actively working with troubled youth to guide them to positive behaviors.
- Discussion regarding mental health issues and impacts.
- Discussion re: CCTV. Extremely important but there must be a good clear photo to enhance ability to identify suspects.
- Hamilton Chemists- suspects moving from Priceline and then targeting other chemists.
- Request for contact info for police that can be placed near phones for ease of reporting.

Meeting Closed 7.30 pm