




HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
BOARD MEETING DATE:	April 25, 2024
SUBJECT:	2023 Year End Report – McMaster University Special Constables
REPORT NUMBER:	24-028
SUBMITTED BY:	Frank Bergen, Chief of Police
SIGNATURE:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

McMaster University is a vibrant and diverse community, and ensuring the safety, well-being and belonging of students, faculty, and staff is the foremost priority for Campus Safety Services (formerly known as Security Services).

Over the past year, McMaster has undergone significant transformation, including new leadership, an increased emphasis on community-oriented safety practices, and a rebranding of the department to better align with its mission and responsibilities.

In June 2023, Ivan L'Ortye joined McMaster University as Director of Campus Safety Services, leading a team of Special Constables to focus on a proactive, community and partnership-based approach to safety.

Comprising of 34 staff, Campus Safety Services operates year-round, providing 24/7 support. The Special Constables, who are appointed as Peace Officers by the Board under the Authority of the Police Services Act, manage safety for the main campus and all off-campus sites.

Training and development remain a priority, with staff maintaining a high level of virtual and in-person training, including regular Block Training facilitated by Hamilton Police Service's Training Branch. The team also conducted numerous outreach presentations on campus safety for faculty and student groups, fostering a strong connection with the community.

INFORMATION

The McMaster campus is composed of 300 acres of property and almost 60 buildings. The McMaster community includes 37,370 students, and 18,000 faculty, research, staff, student and interim employees.

Vision: To be a trusted partner in delivering public safety.

Mission: To serve and protect in partnership with our communities.

Our Values: Compassionate, Dedicated, Inclusive, Integrity, Innovative, Professional, Teamwork

Building on a rich history, McMaster University is an innovative education and research community committed to discovery and improving the world around us.

Powered by impactful research, teaching and industry partnerships, McMaster continues to be ranked among the world's top 100 universities in a key international ranking, Times Higher Education (THE) in 2023. Overall, McMaster ranked 37th in the world in this year's THE's Impact Rankings, which recognizes the contributions of universities worldwide as they work to make the world a safer, more sustainable place.

McMaster University's primary campus is situated in the west end of Hamilton, surrounded by inviting green spaces, residential living and is part of a vibrant community.

McMaster also includes buildings off-campus in Hamilton that are supported by Campus Safety Services Special Constables including One James North, 10 Bay Graduate Residence and David Braley Health Sciences Centre.

McMaster University Campus Safety Services

The primary responsibility of Campus Safety Services is the overall safety and protection of persons and property within the McMaster community. While this requires great diligence and a commitment to excellence, it also requires a pro-active approach which helps to ensure that students, faculty, and staff feel safe, welcomed, valued and respected as individuals.

The team manages community safety for the main campus, all off-campus sites and is supplemented by private contract security services for several off-campus locations. The department's office is located on the 2nd floor of the E.T. Clarke Centre on McMaster University's campus. Campus Safety Services Special Constables travel in marked vehicles, bicycles and on foot on campus.

McMaster campus communities extend to:

- David Braley Health Sciences Centre – downtown Hamilton
- 10 Bay Graduate Residence – downtown Hamilton
- McMaster Continuing Education and university offices – One James North
- McMaster Innovation Park – Longwood Road
- The Ron Joyce Centre – Burlington
- Stonechurch Family Health Centre – Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton
- Kitchener/Waterloo and St. Catharines Health Sciences facilities and programs

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Community Partners

Special Constables interact on a regular basis with internal and external partners including student groups, faculty representatives, Student Wellness, Hamilton and Halton Police, Hamilton Fire Department and Paramedic Services.

McMaster University Board Of Governors

McMaster Special Constables are sworn Peace Officers, appointed by the Hamilton Police Services Board under the authority of the Police Services Act.

Their appointments endow them with the responsibilities and duties of a Special Constable and enable them to enforce the Criminal Code of Canada, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Federal and Provincial statutes and Municipal By-Laws on the University Campus including off-campus university properties in Hamilton. The Special Constables also administer the McMaster Board of Governor's bylaws and regulations.

Protocol With The Hamilton Police Service

The Hamilton Police Service works closely with McMaster Campus Safety Services to investigate serious criminal incidents. McMaster also continued to invest in the "Mac 91/92" program working closely with the Hamilton Police Service to hire officers to support community safety.

McMaster has a strong partnership with the Hamilton Police Service that is outlined in a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hamilton Police Services Board (HPSB). McMaster University Campus Safety Services and the Halton Regional Police Service also have an official partnership, allowing the appointment of Special Constables in the Ron Joyce Centre in Burlington.

McMaster Campus Safety Services consists of 34 staff which include 30 sworn Peace Officers, providing 24/7 support to the university, an Administrative Support member, and a Technology Group responsible for local IT infrastructure and access control.

In 2023, Campus Safety Services continued to advance inclusive excellence with a focus on employment equity by fostering equitable hiring processes and training focus. The service has a diverse staff compliment reflective of the campus community, which follows leading practices outlined in section 14 in the Ontario Human Rights Code. The team works collaboratively with the Equity and Inclusion Office (EIO) on human-rights based approaches to campus safety, which aligns with the recommendations from the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC).

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Training And Professional Development

The unique position of Special Constables requires consistent training and development. Beyond the formal education process, a considerable amount of learning takes place on-the-job.

In 2023, Campus Safety Services focused training in the areas of dealing with persons with mental health and addiction, health and safety, criminal investigations and anti-racism. Special Constables were also given the instructional material and a revised policy on the new Ontario Model of Enhanced De-escalation and Use of Force. The academic introduction of the new model was followed up with skills-based training completed by the Hamilton Police Service Training Branch.

Campus Safety Services continues to partner with the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN) and the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA). Given the expansion of the Acting Sergeant and Officer in-charge (IC) role, a new Frontline Supervisor Course was obtained via CPKN and is currently in use. CPKN and OPVTA continue to provide courses in the areas of Leadership Development, Coaching and Senior Special Constable Development, and Investigative Skills.

During the fall of 2023, McMaster's Equity and Inclusion Office (EIO), provided each Special Constable with a half day training program covering such topics as: anti-racism, human rights, accessibility, gender-based and sexual violence, Human Rights Tribunal Ontario Cases and best practices, and related policies at McMaster. In 2024, the EIO will provide training on Impact to Action: Final report into anti-Black racism by the Toronto Police Service.

Reporting Incidents At McMaster

The unique position and authority of Special Constables at McMaster Campus Safety Services brings accountability to the Hamilton Police Services Board for all actions taken in relation to law enforcement powers granted under the Police Services Act as prescribed by the Board. As a requirement of that accountability, McMaster provides this Annual Report with statistical and evaluative information including, amongst other requirements, enforcement activity.

The community is encouraged to report any concerns or incidents and information is shared appropriately with internal and external partners to respond accordingly and prevent future incidents from occurring. The service strives for proactive measures to prevent crime and enhance community safety.

In 2023, McMaster Campus Safety Services filed 5,662 incident reports compared to 5,378 incident reports filed during 2022, a slight increase year over year. More persons attending campus is the driving force on the increased calls for service and investigations on campus, and may account for the increase in incidents as well. A number of campus reported

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incidents that occurred in other jurisdictions involved Campus Safety Services investigators liaising with Detectives in several Police jurisdictions to assist in evidence gathering and risk mitigation strategies.

Training and education efforts continue in relation to Harassment and Sexual Harassment and 29 incidents were reported in 2023 which is a decrease from 35 incidents in 2022. McMaster's Sexual Violence and Harassment and Discrimination policies are regularly reviewed and updated after campus-wide consultations and remain important aspects of creating and supporting a safe environment. There were also no reported incidents inciting hate in 2023.

Incidents of theft have increased to 296 in 2023 while Assaults, Break & Enters, and Frauds have decreased in 2023 compared to 2022. The increase in thefts included a surge in bicycle thefts in 2023.

Campus Safety Services maintains accounts with the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA) and the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPN) which is affiliated with the Ontario Police College. This is a critical component as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between McMaster and the Board, which grants powers to Special Constables and enables them to enforce the Criminal Code of Canada, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and Federal and Provincial statutes /Municipal By-Laws on University property.

A short summary of the incidents reported to Campus Safety Services in 2023, classified as Criminal and Provincial Offences, is included below. Statistics are compared to 2019, given the low number of people physically on campus during the pandemic (2020-2022).

- The overall number of criminal investigations decreased by 4.5% from 2019 to 2023. The vast majority of reported criminal incidents where an accused is identified are deemed to have not met the threshold for an actual criminal offence.
- There were two hate reported incidents, a drastic decrease to the 11 reported in 2019. They did not meet the threshold of a hate crime or hate biased/motivated crime as per the Criminal Code in 2023.
- There was a 3% increase in thefts and a 23% increase in mischief offences.
- Harassment and sexual harassment incidents reported to Campus Safety Services decreased by 34%.
- Assaults decreased by 73% in 2023 and break and enters decreased by 40%.

Policy reviews also remained an ongoing focus, resulting in critical updates including the Bomb Threat Response Policy, Active Attacker Policy, and the Use of Force Policy.

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Hamilton Police – McMaster Partnership

The President’s Advisory Committee on Community Relations (PACCR) has brought the university and its neighbours together for close to three decades. Co-chaired by the Chair of the Ainslie Woods/Westdale Community Association (AWWCA) and McMaster’s Chief Executive of Internal and External engagement, the group includes representatives from the neighbourhoods that surround the university, landlords, Westdale BIA, Hamilton Police, City of Hamilton By-law, the Ward One Councillor, students, the McMaster University Faculty Association and other university leaders, including the Dean of Students and the Director of Campus Safety Services.

PACCR meets regularly to share information, discuss concerns, and provide a community perspective when planning for events such as Welcome Week and unauthorized street parties. Throughout 2023, McMaster continued to invest in the “Mac 91/92” Paid-Duty Policing program, working closely with the Hamilton Police Service to hire Hamilton Police officers to proactively patrol the Ainslie Woods/Westdale neighbourhoods.

The number of Paid Duty Officers increases at key times of year including Welcome Week and later in the fall when unauthorized street parties have been held in the community. Campus Safety Services works closely with HPS in its planning for these events. McMaster also works closely with Police and the City of Hamilton to ensure proactive and coordinated communications are available to students. This work compliments the university’s ongoing Good Neighbour program to remind students of the important role they play in building strong and respectful communities around the university.

Please see the annual report attached to this document. The Hamilton Police Service looks forward to continuing our partnership with McMaster University in support of community safety, well-being and belonging.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

- Appendix A – Training
- Appendix B – Criminal Incidents
- Appendix C – McMaster Security 2023 Annual Report

FB/R. Abbott

- c: Ryan Diodati, Deputy Chief – Operations
- Paul Hamilton, Deputy Chief – Support

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