



Kingston Police

Public Agenda Information Report

To: Kingston Police Service Board
From: Scott Fraser, Chief of Police
Subject: Queen's Homecoming & Faux-Homecoming 2024
Date: November 8, 2024

Recommendation:

That the Queen's Homecoming 2024, Report Number 24-41 is for information only.

Background

Queen's University Homecoming celebrations began nearly 100 years ago as an opportunity for alumni to reconnect and support the school's football team. Over the years, this event has evolved into a large party for enrolled students and their out-of-town friends. In recent years, this student party has swelled to large numbers and poured into the streets surrounding the campus. The taking over of local streets, damage to property, and concern for the safety of the public has brought about the need for an organized response on the part of the Kingston Police. The parties and related events are, according to Queen's University, no longer entirely composed of events sanctioned by Queen's University.

Based on the success of the 2023 event, Kingston Police felt it appropriate to maintain the same mission statement:

"Using an integrated response, the Kingston Police along with policing and City partners will keep the peace, enforce legislation and maintain public safety for the duration of the 2024 Queen's Homecoming Event with the utmost respect to the individuals Charter of Rights and Freedoms with priority on community and emergency services personnel safety and wellbeing."

It was recognized that for this mission to be accomplished, pre-emptive measures were required at the onset of the Queen's move-in weekend and subsequent weekends leading up to Queen's Homecoming. Six (6) Deployment Pre-emptive Strategies were identified and employed:

1. Corporate Communication and Media Messaging Strategy

Messaging was broadcasted via social media prior to and during the Homecoming event in support of the mission statement to discourage illegal behaviour and unsanctioned gatherings; and to educate on the negative impacts these behaviours have on the Kingston Community.

2. Police Liaison Team Outreach Strategy

Police Liaison Teams (PLT) are a key part of police planning and response to major events. The teams are focused on proactive relationship building to assist in resolving issues to help facilitate peaceful events. PLT members work to establish and maintain open and transparent lines of communication with all stakeholders who might be affected, directly or indirectly, by major events. By using effective negotiation and mediation techniques, PLT intervention is a useful way to communicate and avoid conflict.

Members of PLT, (which was comprised of the Ontario Provincial Police and Kingston Police Community Oriented Response and Engagement Unit), engaged with community members in the University District in cooperation with Queen's University to provide consistent education and messaging as per the corporate communication and media messaging strategy.

3. Intelligence and Open-Source Strategy

Kingston Police monitored online activity before and during the event to assist with intelligence gathering and evidence collection.

4. Collective Proactive Presence Strategy

A unified proactive presence through the area of operation was provided by utilizing PLT, traffic officers, uniformed police officers, Rapid Response Teams (Tactical), Queen's University Security, specialized response and engagement by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, and other City/Municipal Services such as Bylaw officers.

5. Enforcement Strategy

Early and continuous alcohol interdiction, and firm enforcement of municipal, provincial, and federal statutes by police and City partners were utilized to manage illegal activities and suppress public disorder.

Kingston Police utilized a dedicated Enforcement Team for firm enforcement of *Liquor License and Control Act* violations.

6. De-escalation / Interdiction Strategy

Police presence, PLT, and enforcement measures were utilized to maintain safety. Given the potential of high-risk situations that can evolve within crowds, De-escalation and non-confrontational tactics recognize that regular police presence may need to be replaced with a specialized crowd management/public order element to effect an appropriate intervention for the safety and wellbeing of all involved. Public Order Unit Sections were involved in crowd management.

Previous Events

An examination of previous Homecoming and St. Patrick’s Day events, and gathered intelligence assisted in the development of our operational plans for Queen’s Move-In weekend, orientation week and subsequent weekends leading up to and including Queen’s Homecoming.

2023 Homecoming Charge Summary (includes weekend of October 16 and October 21):

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	241
Public Intoxication contrary to <i>LLCA</i>	3
Person under 19 consuming alcohol	15
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	3
Total	262

Criminal Code of Canada Charges

Obstructing a Peace Officer	2
Total	2

Arrests

Warrant in the 1 st instance executed	1
Total	1

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Failure to Comply with an Order to Leave Premises	61
Total	61

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Hosting a Nuisance Party	2
Failure to Comply with an Order to Leave Premises	90
Amplified Sound	16
Failure to Comply with Signs	27
Total	135

The 2024 move-in weekend and orientation week charges for Kingston Police were as follows:

Provincial Offences	
Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	148
Public Intoxication contrary to <i>LLCA</i>	2
Person under 19 consuming alcohol	10
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	2
Total	162
Criminal Code of Canada Charges	
Obstructing a Peace Officer	1
Total	1

The move-in weekend and orientation week charges for Bylaw Enforcement were as follows:

Administrative Monetary Penalties	
Failure to abide by signage (pier)	57
Yelling & shouting	42
Amplified sound	8
Parking Tickets	54
Total	161

Homecoming and Fake Homecoming 2024

This year's Homecoming was scheduled for October 18 and 19, 2024, the end of "Reading Week." Police Liaison teams indicated there were fewer students to speak with, and information received through various sources indicated there would be some partying but to no significant degree. There was information that students were planning a Fake Homecoming, also known as "Fauxcoming," for the following weekend (October 26, 2024).

Police prepared for Homecoming through our integrated response involving our community partners and neighbouring agencies. October 18 and 19 saw no significant events. There were some small house parties but, this Homecoming weekend looked like what a Homecoming weekend should. A number of alumni were observed

throughout the city, as one would expect. The football game was sold out and very well attended with no police related issues.

Over the course of the weekend, most students in attendance were respectful to the police. Officers did not observe any projectiles being thrown and Kingston Police were not made aware of any serious injuries, nor were there any injuries to police.

Charges for the weekend of October 18 were as follows:

Kingston Police

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	50
Public Intoxication contrary to <i>LLCA</i>	2
<i>Highway Traffic Act</i> charges	7
Total	67

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Amplified Sound	23
Yelling & shouting	1
Total	24

Police once again prepared for the Fake Homecoming using the same integrated approach. Fake Homecoming occurred on October 26, 2024, and the day saw much more pedestrian traffic in the University District. There were several house/backyard parties, however it is noted that students and attendees were polite and cooperative. Most backyard parties were not an issue for the community, and streets remained open to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The event was limited to the daytime, and police operations ended at 8:00 p.m.

Charges for the weekend of October 25 were as follows:

Kingston Police

Provincial Offences

Open Liquor contrary to <i>Liquor Licence Control Act (LLCA)</i>	6
Total	6

Bylaw Enforcement

Administrative Monetary Penalties

Hosting	10
Amplified Sound	14
Yelling & shouting	1
Total	25

The initiation of our Police Liaison Teams, which were deployed weeks in advance of the Homecoming event, coupled with a strong enforcement initiative, led to an overall positive weekend in the University District. It should be noted that most students/attendees encountered were polite, cooperative, and respectful.

Providing a necessary measured police response since student move-in throughout October put considerable strain on all of our members. Our sworn personnel worked many long hours, often on overtime. All of our members – both sworn and civilian – should be commended for their hard work and professionalism.

We are very fortunate to have strong community partners including Queen’s University, Frontenac Paramedics, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, Kingston Fire & Rescue, Neighbouring Police Services and City of Kingston Bylaw and other City services who worked with us in the preceding weeks and over the weekend to ensure safety for the entire community. The Kingston Police will continue collaborating with Queen’s University administration and student representatives throughout the year, in anticipation of future events.

Financial Summary 2024

Total costs for policing both Homecoming and Fake Homecoming were \$253K, a 29% reduction from last year’s total of \$359K. Although there were two events requiring policing support this year, compared to only one last year, total costs decreased by a total of \$106K. Several cost-management measures were implemented, including shift changes to minimize overtime expenses, limiting hours worked, and the reduction of additional staffing support from other police agencies. This outcome reflects a careful balance between maintaining public safety and effectively controlling costs.

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