



Municipal Enforcement 2017 - ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by Peace Officer Josh Hughes

INTRODUCTION

Municipal Enforcement has continued to follow a three tiered structure to daily community involvement of Regulatory, Enforcement and Community Engagement which has been the framework since 2012. Strategic proactive education and enforcement has continued to be the goal, in order to have positive interactions within the community.

- **Staffing:** Municipal Enforcement experienced multiple administrative adjustments throughout the year. Peace Officer Brandon Rajewski joined the organization in January with a primary focus directed towards regulatory and community engagement. Peace Officer Tyler Peterson joined the organization in October with a focus evenly distributed among Municipal Enforcement's three tiered structure. Previous supervisor Derek Radatzke moved on from the organization in November.
- **Statistics:** The number of files generated from public reported and officer initiated investigations increased from 789 in 2016 to 1,179 (49% increase) in 2017. As a result of proactive education and warnings, violation tickets issued by Municipal Enforcement members decreased from 1,269 in 2016 to 910 in 2017. Global Traffic photo laser speed and intersection violation tickets decreased from 7,924 in 2016 to 5,445 in 2017.
- **Community Involvement:** Municipal Enforcement was active in the community participating in numerous events hosted throughout Beaumont. Community events including public open house barbeques, Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival, Town and Country Daze, and Canada Day celebrations highlight some of the events Peace Officers participated in. Municipal Enforcement kicked off summer foot patrols in high traffic areas including Centre-Ville, and Four Seasons Park among other green spaces. These activities have given residents, visitors, and members of the business community the opportunity to interact with Peace Officers in a non-enforcement fashion permitting relationships and community spirit to flourish through education.

This document provides further detail to the items mentioned above and presents a larger account of what Municipal Enforcement accomplished in 2017.

STRUCTURE

Activities performed on a daily basis by the Municipal Enforcement branch have been streamlined into three (3) categories including: **Regulatory**, **Enforcement**, and **Community Engagement**. The intent behind this structure is to provide each category equal focus, providing a balanced service in all areas of Municipal Enforcement. In 2017, Council approved three (3) Priorities for Municipal Enforcement that lend into the above noted categories; these being: positive youth development, traffic enforcement and parking enforcement.

- The **Regulatory** category primarily focuses on concerns associated to properties or vacant land in Beaumont. Prioritized items include unsightly properties, construction debris, and animal control. In addition Peace Officers assist other municipal branches when required.
- The **Enforcement** category focuses mostly on Provincial Statutes. Concerns commonly associated to Provincial Regulations include but are not limited to moving traffic and parking violations. Peace Officers also observe areas of concern that include alcohol and tobacco.
- The **Community Engagement** category prioritizes building relationships within the community and improving interactions with the public. A large portion of this category involves attending special events, and participating with working groups that interact in Beaumont to improve public safety and positive public relations.

Regulatory	Enforcement	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsightly properties • Construction site cleanliness • Illegal signage • Snow/ice covered sidewalks • Assist other municipal branches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic enforcement* • Parking enforcement* • Heavy & commercial vehicles • Alcohol and tobacco concerns • Noise issues • Assisting RCMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special events • Positive youth Development* • Community education • Community events • Working groups and committees • Joint collaborations

**Municipal Enforcement Priorities*

MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

As a part of the 2017-2018 Municipal Enforcement Priorities plan adopted by Council in May, Municipal Enforcement has remained focused on three (3) specific areas. These three areas were identified within the feedback received from residence who participated in an online survey in March 2017.

- **Traffic Enforcement:** Peace Officers have focused much attention on school zone enforcement and joint traffic operations with the RCMP. The total number of violations issued by Peace Officers decreased in 2017 (28% decrease); however, an increased number of warnings (1585) were issued. These numbers support the popular choice of respondents to the survey on how Municipal Enforcement should enforce this initiative.

- **Positive Youth Development:** In efforts to promote Youth Development within Beaumont, Peace Officers, in conjunction with the RCMP, issued a total of 998 Positive Tickets within the Town. Positive Tickets are issued to youth who do good deeds or are acting in a safe and courteous manner. Some winners have also become local celebrities, making their way on the front cover of the Beaumont News, showcasing their good work in the community.

- **Parking Enforcement:** Parking Enforcement has remained one of the primary functions of Municipal Enforcement. Working under the Traffic Safety Act, Peace Officers are almost solely responsible for this action within Town. Key areas for Parking Enforcement are:
 - Unregistered / Uninsured vehicles;
 - Abandoned vehicles;
 - Sidewalk / Road obstructions;
 - Intersection / hydrant obstructions;
 - Snow routes and;
 - Heavy vehicles / trailers.

The goal of Parking Enforcement is to improve safety by reducing the number of obstructions and issues caused by improperly parked vehicles on roadways.

REGULATORY

- **Unsightly Properties:** Construction site cleanliness is an area that continues to be worked on in collaboration with the Development Department. Officers will make patrols, or follow-up on complaints received of construction debris and make contact with the developers to gain compliance. If unable to gain compliance officers in conjunction with the Development Department can obtain a construction site stop work order, ceasing work on a specific site until the property is brought into compliance. With respect to residential properties, Officers will serve a written order to the property owner to complete the necessary work required to bring a property into compliance. Municipal Enforcement will utilize a third party contractor to bring a property into compliance if voluntary compliance is not obtained. The fees associated to this process are administered to the property owner via the Municipal Government Act.
- **Sidewalks:** Snow/ice covered sidewalks are one of the most common concerns brought forward due to Alberta's climate. Sidewalks covered in snow/ice often present significant safety concerns to pedestrians. Officers conduct patrols observing properties with sidewalks not in compliance in attempt to reduce concerns before they arise. Similar to unsightly properties, property owners are served with a notice to remove snow/ice from sidewalks within a specified time period. Municipal Enforcement will utilize a third party contractor to bring sidewalks into compliance if voluntary compliance is not obtained. The fees associated to this process are administered to the property owner via the Municipal Government Act.
- **Development Collaboration:** In conjunction with the Development Department Municipal Enforcement often conducts regulatory investigations under the Land Use Bylaw and Business License Bylaw. Uniformed Peace Officers provide assistance to investigations through inspections and the formal service of Development Branch documents pertaining to violations.
- **Other Municipal Departments:** Upon request Municipal Enforcement assisted other Municipal Departments throughout the year. Document service was provided to Legislative Services, and Peace Officers assisted Public Works during times of peak snow fall when snow routes were in effect, making contact with vehicle owners to ensure vehicles were removed from roadways so snow could be removed.

ENFORCEMENT

- **Traffic and Parking Enforcement:** Peace Officers have continued to follow both the Beaumont Traffic Safety Plan and the Alberta Traffic Safety plan. Municipal Enforcement, along with the RCMP and other capital region stakeholders conducted numerous joint operations, projects, and several large-scale vehicle stops on major roadways within Beaumont, in order to educate drivers on the rules of the road. This proactive approach has been successful in revealing items of serious nature including: unsafe commercial vehicles, impaired drivers, suspended drivers, drugs, alcohol, and several wanted persons. Peace Officers continued to patrol residential areas observing parking concerns that can cause potentially unsafe conditions. Parking concerns often related to abandoned vehicles, sidewalk obstructions, and intersection visibility. Officers also focused on heavy vehicles and unattached trailers as they can narrow residential roads causing potential safety concerns.
- **School Zone Safety:** In collaboration with the RCMP, Peace Officers have continued to make daily school zone patrols a priority during times of high pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Peace Officers stayed alert to areas of concern ranging from moving traffic, parking, pedestrian crossings, and children not wearing helmets while riding bikes/scooters/etc. These patrols have allowed for Officers to interact with children, parents, and teachers providing education to items of safety.
- **Commercial and Heavy Vehicles:** Peace Officers in conjunction with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance conducted 96 North American Standard Inspections on commercial vehicles. 548 defects were observed and 93% of vehicle inspected failed the inspection. 83 of the vehicles inspected were deemed out of service and required correction prior to re-commencing their journey. The most common defect observed was related to cargo securement. Cargo not secured or secured properly can lead to property damage, serious injury or death. The Heavy Vehicle and Dangerous Goods Bylaw was intended to reduce heavy vehicle traffic from transiting Beaumont, the implementation has caused some unintended consequences such as creating restrictions for local residents who rely on heavy vehicles for their livelihood. Municipal Enforcement did provide special permission letters to individuals and companies who met this criteria.

COMMUNITY

- **Events and Ceremonies:** Municipal Enforcement participated in various community events promoting positive public relations. Several open house meet and greets such as the Community and Protective Services Barbeque and the RCMP Detachment Open House gave the public the opportunity to interact with Municipal Enforcement, RCMP, and Fire in a relaxed and friendly setting. Municipal Enforcement continued to provide traffic control services for the Town and Country Daze parade, Canada Day parade, and the Remembrance Day March. Peace Officers were engaged at community events providing foot patrols at Town and Country Daze festivities, Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival, and Canada Day Celebrations. With the RCMP, Peace Officers attended local elementary schools in October providing Halloween Safety presentations and handing out goody bags.
- **Positive Ticket Program:** Municipal Enforcement has continued to play a leading role in the application of Beaumont's Positive Ticketing Program. From the April kickoff until the end of 2017 Peace Officers along with the RCMP issued 998 Positive Tickets. The Positive Ticket Program recognizes youth in the community who have demonstrated positive behavior and values. Many of the positive interactions between youth and Officer originated when a young person was practicing bicycle safety such as wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle or walking their bicycle safely across an intersection. Positive Tickets include a reward for the good behavior observed. These rewards have been provided by and may be redeemed at many local businesses. Municipal Enforcement wishes to thank all the youth who received a Positive Ticket and to the participating businesses and business owners.
- **Public Communications:** Municipal Enforcement and the RCMP have continued to ensure operations are done in a collaborative approach, showing the unity of safety partners in the community. Many joint initiatives including traffic operations have included both departments interacting with the community to educate the public with safety at the forefront. Advertising with local media and on social media for various areas of focus such as: pet licensing, unsightly properties, abandoned vehicles, snow routes, and snow covered sidewalks continued in 2017 further educating the public on ways to improve community safety.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

- **Global Traffic Group:** Global Traffic Group has been contracted to deter speeding and reduce motor vehicle collisions with the Town of Beaumont via photo enforcement. The criteria for enforced locations includes but it not restricted to: high-risk, high frequency, and high-collision locations. Enforcement locations are designated by the RCMP Detachment Commander. It is essential that photo enforcement be utilized in conjunction with existing enforcement and not replace contact initiated by Peace Officer traffic stops.

The Global Traffic Group enforcement approach aligns with the current Town of Beaumont Traffic Safety Plan by targeting locations of concern and priority. In 2017 Global Traffic Group issued 5,445 (31% decrease) violation tickets, compared to 7,924 in 2016. 4,046 violation tickets were issued for speeding, and 1,399 violation tickets were issued for intersection violations in 2017. The reduction of violations observed is believed to be attributed to an increased appreciation of traffic safety items targeting moving traffic and pedestrian safety.

- **Animal Control:** Municipal Enforcement and Beaumont resident Brandy Wachter actively collaborated to provide Animal Control services to the municipality. Municipal Enforcement is tasked with investigating animal concerns such as: animals causing excessive noise and animal attacks, whereas Ms. Wachter's role was to locate lost or found animals and reunite those animals with their families or transport them to Black Gold Kennels for impound. Ms. Wachter also engaged in patrols of green spaces providing responsible pet ownership education including walking dogs on leash and municipal licensing requirements.

Through education and enforcement that has been well received by the community Ms. Wachter provided Municipal Enforcement with a stable approach to animal control. Ms. Wachter assisted in administering the "Beaumont Animal Control" Facebook page with over 1,100 people following. This page is a valuable resource which helps reunite lost or found animals with their owners. Ms. Wachter resigned her role as Beaumont's Animal Control Officer in December. Municipal Enforcement would like to thank Ms. Wachter for her years of compassion and dedication the pets and residents of Beaumont.

Municipal Enforcement continued to maintain a contract with Black Gold Kennels to impound lost or found animals. Black Gold Kennels takes steps to place non claimed animals with regional animal rescue groups.

INVESTIGATIONS

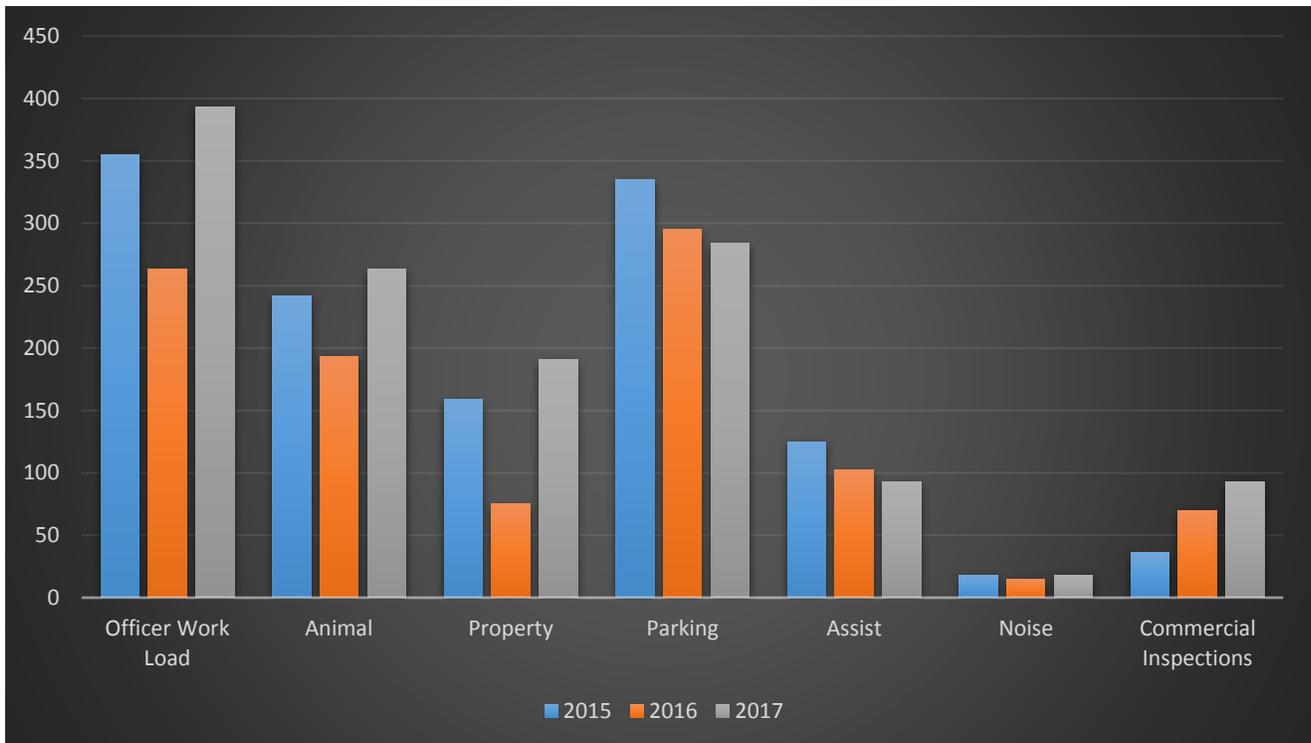
Municipal Enforcement investigated 1,179 documents files in 2017, increasing from 789 in 2016. This represents a file load increase per Peace Officer from 263 in 2016 to 393 in 2017.

The most reported incidents in 2017 pertained to parking with 284 concerns reported. 171 abandoned vehicles were investigated. 276 municipal bylaw concerns were reported with 124 investigations associated to the snow removal bylaw and 60 investigations associated to construction site cleanliness and unsightly properties.

Municipal Enforcement engaged in 250 Animal Control concerns, with 71 occurrences associated to animals causing excessive noise, 70 occurrences related to dogs and cats at large, and 38 animal licensing concerns.

Additional reported items are associated to proactive driving patrols. In this category Peace Officers investigated 225 incidents including municipal regulatory items and provincial regulations. Peace Officers also conducted 96 Commercial Vehicle Inspections.

Below is a representation of common items investigated by Municipal Enforcement from 2015 to 2017.



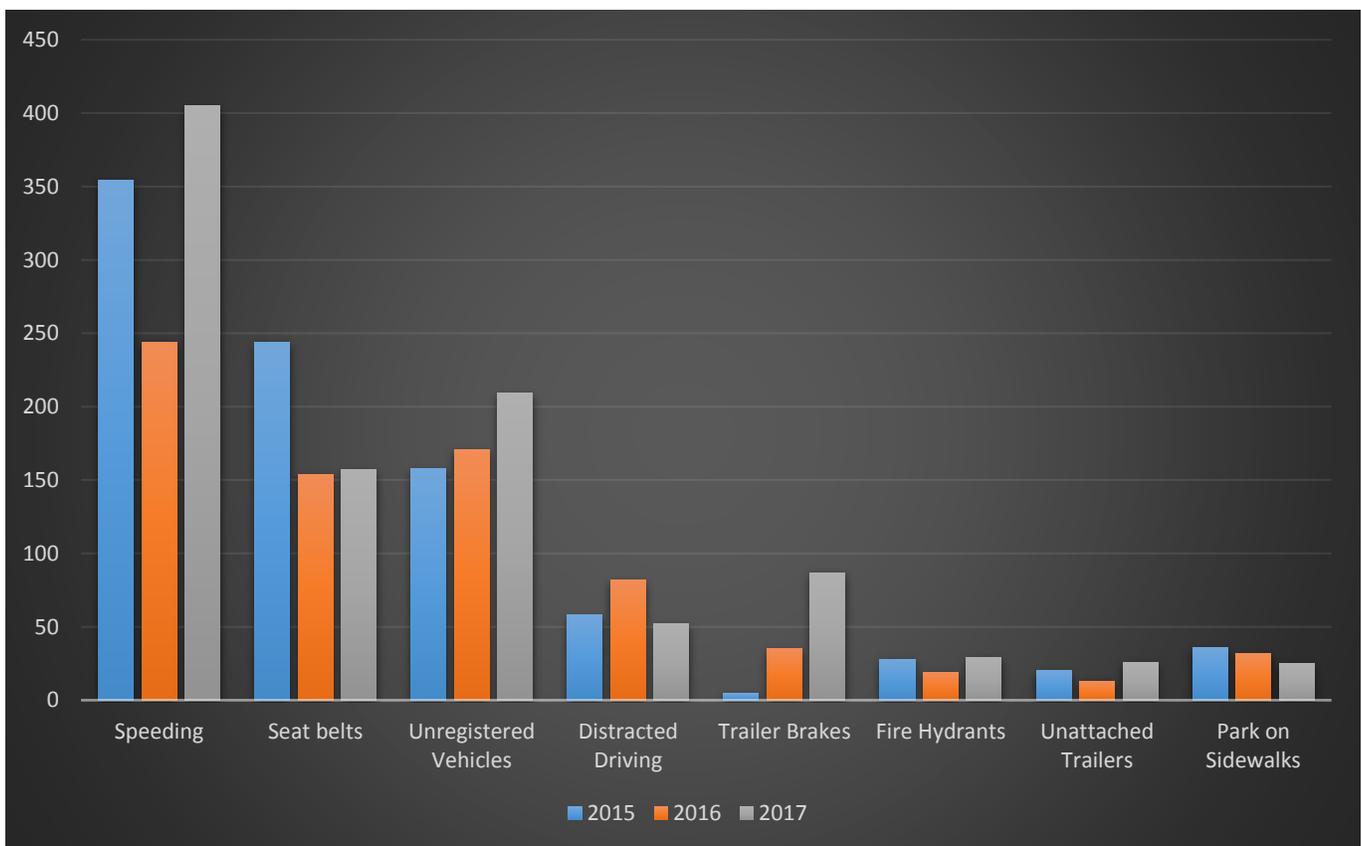
VIOLATIONS

Municipal Enforcement issued a total of 910 violation tickets in 2017, decreasing from 1,269 in 2016. This decrease resulted due to public compliance and from educational warnings issued by Peace Officers. 1,585 documented warnings were issued.

The majority of violations observed were a result of proactive traffic stops. Violations documented include speeding (405), seat belts (157), unregistered motor vehicles (66), and distracted driving (52). In addition 87 trailers were observed to have inoperable brakes or brakes were not in compliance.

Parking violations observed were a result of public initiated concerns or through proactive patrols. Violations documented include unregistered motor vehicles (143), obstructed fire hydrants (29), unattached trailers (26), and park on sidewalks (25).

Below is a representation of the most common violations observed by Municipal Enforcement from 2015 to 2017.



SUMMARY

- Municipal Enforcement has continued to provide a balanced service streamlining our responsibilities into three categories of Regulatory, Enforcement, and Community Engagement. This includes positive inroads to the Municipal Enforcement Priorities as approved by Council, these being positive youth development, traffic enforcement and parking enforcement.
- Proactive patrols in areas of concern have changed the traditional enforcement practice of reactionary to a strategic proactive approach, addressing concerns before they fester.
- Regulatory items investigated most often involved property cleanliness and snow/ice covered sidewalks.
- Enforcement items observed commonly involved moving traffic violations such as speeding, seat belts, distracted drivers, along with parking concerns of registration issues, sidewalks, and fire hydrants. In conjunction with the RCMP and other enforcement partners Municipal Enforcement increased joint initiatives to address safety concerns.
- Community Engagement has continued to promote public safety education and increase positive interactions with residents, visitors, and the business community.
- Photo Enforcement violation tickets have decreased from 7,924 in 2016 to 5,445 (31% decrease) in 2017. This is a result of increased compliance as enforcement levels have been maintained.
- Animal control was a collaboration between Peace Officers and Animal Control Officer Brandy Wachter. Ms. Wachter resigned from Animal Control duties in December.
- Investigations have increased from 789 in 2016 to 1,179 (49% increase). This represents a file load increase per Peace Officer from 263 in 2016 to 393 in 2017.
- Violation tickets issued decreased from 1,269 in 2016 to 910 (28% decrease) in 2017 as a result proactive education and warnings issued. 1,585 warnings were issued.