



Municipal Enforcement 2018 Year in Review

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BACKGROUND

The City of Beaumont Municipal Enforcement is a team of three uniformed Officers in providing both an educational and enforcement role. The core function is a balanced and multifaceted approach of Enforcement and Community Engagement. The future focus is to have all officers trained in every aspect of the enforcement role including animal control.

The department continues to experience growth and change in how to best provide Beaumont with a program that will engage residents in a concept of maintaining itself as a safe and secure community. The department structure will support and align with the City Councils Strategic Plan for 2017 -2021.



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide a 2018 year in review of Municipal Enforcement's accomplishments, challenges and initiatives going forward.

The Community Peace Officers are responsible for maintaining peace and protecting life and property by enforcement of Municipal Bylaws and select Provincial Statutes. As noted previously, the Peace Officer program promotes itself through education / enforcement by regular and focused patrols. This would include mobile, foot and bike patrols when possible. The department utilizes a variable shift schedule to provide City residents with a wide range of patrol coverage. The current operational plan provides the RCMP with additional assistance regarding general bylaw enforcement, animal control and traffic duties. It is currently estimated that 30% of working hours are dedicated to moving traffic enforcement within the City limits. These traffic enforcement hours have dropped to accommodate additional bylaw complaint investigations.

- **Staffing:** The Municipal Enforcement area has been engaged in an informal operational review to better serve the residents of Beaumont. This includes the use of casual staff and the focus of officer patrol time. As of the time of this report, the City Municipal Enforcement team includes Peace Officer Sgt. Jason Springham and Peace Officer Tyler Peterson. There is a current vacancy of the third Peace Officer position that is still in a recruiting process. A new School Resource Officer position will join the team in mid-2019 focusing on youth development and education within local schools.
- **Statistics:** There was a slight decrease in files generated through public reported and officer initiated investigations for 2018. A total of 1,091 files were investigated in 2018 compared to 1,179 files in 2017. With the continued efforts of compliance through education and other factors, violation tickets issued by Municipal Enforcement decreased from 910 in 2017 to 505 in 2018.
- **Community Involvement:** Municipal Enforcement continued to engage its residents and the greater community in many public events throughout the year. Attendance at many open house events, Town and Country Daze and Halloween safety patrols were some of the listed events officers attended to. There will be a focus in 2019 to promote active engagement with the public by both foot patrols and bike patrols in the community. It's important to build a rapport with the residents and those that visit Beaumont in promoting a safe and secure community.

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 2018, Council approved three (3) Priorities for Municipal Enforcement that lend into the above noted categories; these being: Positive youth development, Traffic enforcement (Warning / Education emphasis) and Unsightly properties.

- 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, tobacco and cannabis
- 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 / Emphasis on warnings* • Parking enforcement • Heavy & commercial vehicles • Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis concerns • Noise issues • Assisting RCMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive youth Development* • Special events • Community education • Community events • Working groups and committees • Joint collaborations

**Municipal Enforcement Priorities*

Contract Services

Kennel / Pound Facility: With the restructuring of Animal Control services in 2018, a key component that has remained in place is the kenneling of animals. The City has a current contract with Black Gold Kennels to impound lost or found animals. For animals that remain unclaimed, the kennel has a network of regional animal rescue groups that assist with providing foster animal caregivers or adoptable homes. Black Gold Kennels has transitioned into new ownership in 2018 and they are looking forward to serving Beaumont into the future.

With the growth of Beaumont, it's anticipated that our animal population numbers will continue to expand as well. Administration wants to ensure that Beaumont will continue to have a facility that is sustainable and can safely house animals.



INVESTIGATIONS

A large portion of a Municipal Enforcement Officer's time is generated through complaint investigations. This can range from a simple parking complaint to a complex animal bite / injury investigation. It is estimated that this time can be one hour on a basic call to over two weeks on an intensive investigation. This time is attributed to file data entry, interviewing those involved with the file, and associated court time.

Beaumont Officers conducted 1,091 file investigations in 2018 which represented a slight decrease from 1,179 in 2017. This is still consistent with a higher file load per officer as indicated in previous years. It should be noted that individual files can have additional incident types attached to them reflecting numerous contraventions (Ex. Animal control investigation with an animal at large combined with a fail to licence).

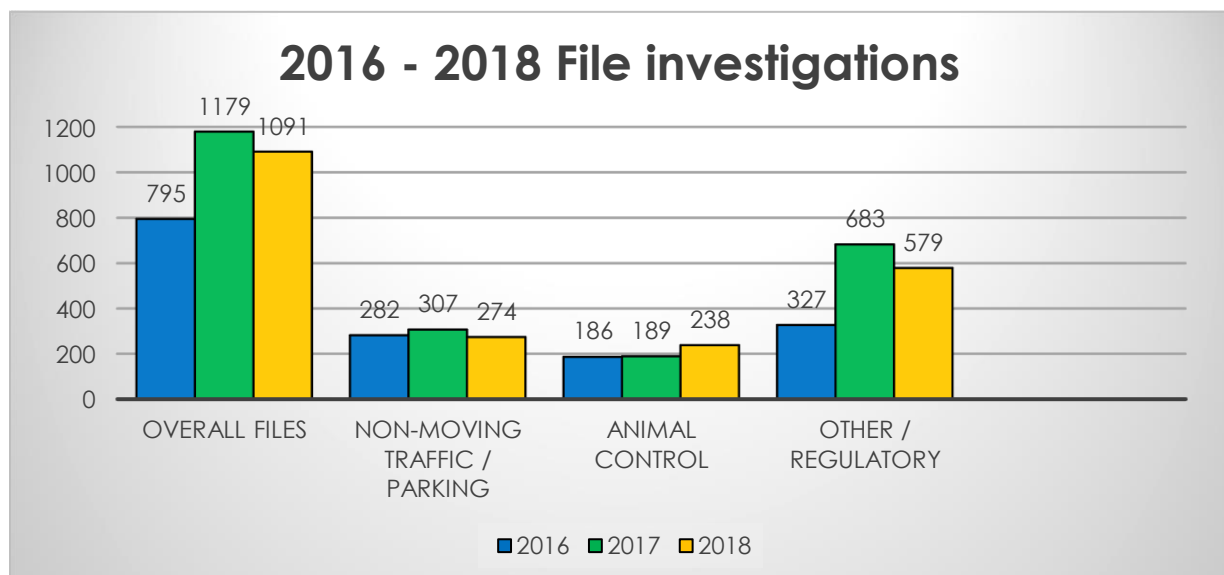
For 2018, a total of 1,362 different incident types / occurrences were noted on files.

The most reported incident type for 2018 pertained to Animal Control with 310, of which 140 occurrences related to animals at large (82 Dogs / 58 Cats). This number represented a 100% increase from 2017 of 70 animals at large. There were also 10 occurrences that involved either aggressive dogs / dog bites.

Non-moving traffic occurrences were the second highest reported for 2018 at 220 incident types, with 139 calls for service regarding abandoned vehicles.

Other general regulatory calls included 177 incident types regarding snow removal on both residential / commercial properties and 83 incident types for unsightly premise.

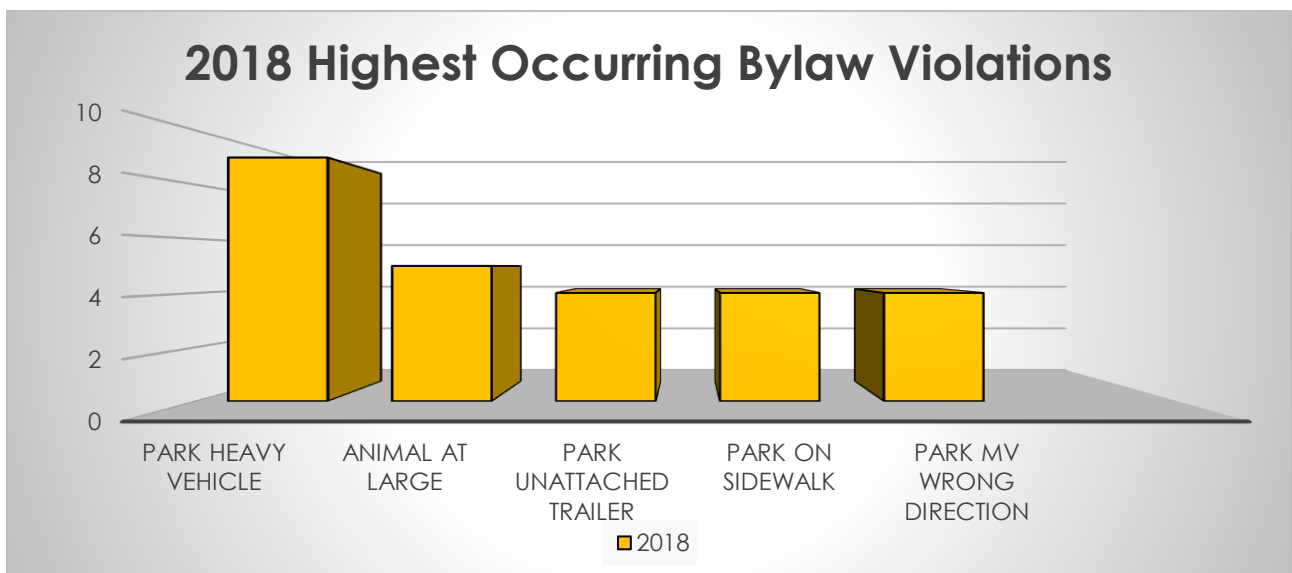
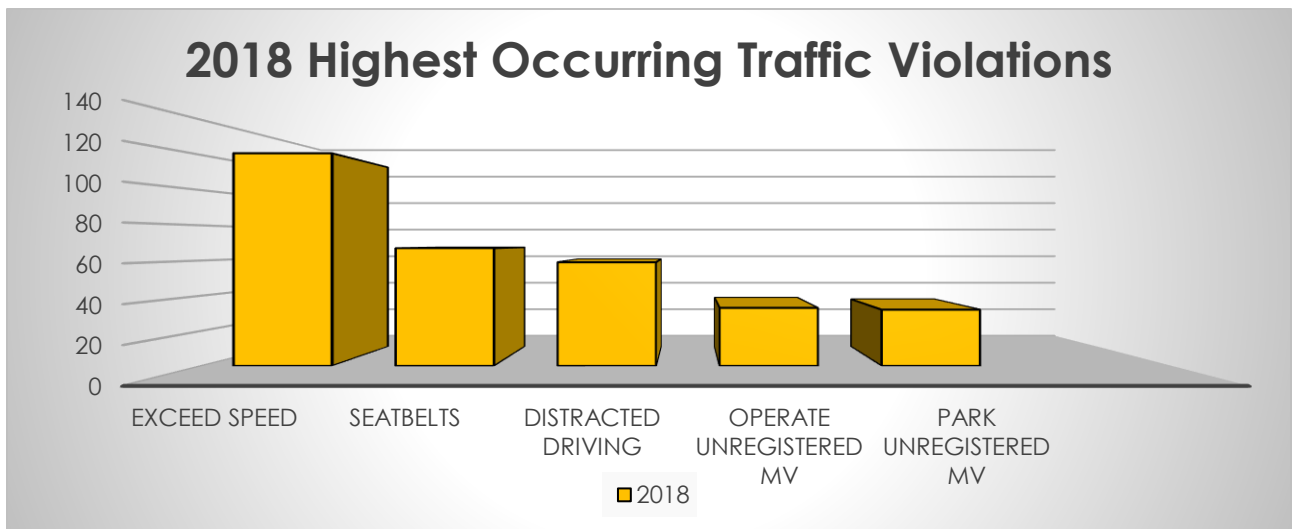
After-hour complaints are also a primary area of concern regarding level of service. Most of these are related to noise which generated 23 incident types in 2018. To improve the response to these types of complaints, the City has engaged a call service to evaluate and forward on the information for a response.



VIOLATIONS

Municipal Enforcement issued 505 violation tickets in 2018, which represented a decrease from 910 in 2017. This has been impacted by both staffing changes and operational needs related to general investigations. 408 documented warnings issued and 33 Bylaw violation tickets issued.

The department utilizes a combination of both proactive patrol and focused joint force operations when conducting traffic enforcement. The top violations tickets written related to exceed speed limit (121), fail to wear seatbelt (67), distracted driving (59), operate unregistered MV (33) and park unregistered MV (32).



2018 Successes

- A focus of the department has been to actively seek out partnerships with other law enforcement agencies in promoting safety initiatives. A unique idea was to create a regional enforcement supervisor meeting group that included Leduc County, City of Leduc, Town of Calmar and Town of Devon. This group is dedicated to collaborating on regional training, information sharing and other assistance when required.
- Both Municipal Enforcement and the RCMP partnered on another successful year with the “Positive Ticketing” program which issued a combined total number of 1134 / promoting positive reinforcement with children in community. Officers also participated with the RCMP on visits to the Chantal Bérubé Youth Centre.
- To promote a higher level of customer service to Beaumont residents, Municipal Enforcement is currently using a dedicated after-hours call service which can better coordinate complaints for the department. The new service will allow an individual to speak directly with an operator as opposed to leaving a voicemail message after regular business hours. This was researched last year and initiated in early 2019.
- The department effectively transitioned from the contracted animal control contract into fulltime duties for the Peace Officers. This included providing training to enhance the department's animal handling abilities. Officers were also involved with successfully coordinating and investigating several files that dealt with aggressive animals.

2019 Initiatives / “Looking forward”

- Concept for an annual “Pets in the Park” (City green space / off-leash park) celebrating responsible pet ownership. This would be an opportunity for pet owners / residents, and other stakeholders to develop a positive networking event that promotes Beaumont as a safe and healthy community for animal ownership.
- The department would like to facilitate an “Understanding Animal Behavior” education session in relation to a future Responsible Pet Ownership program.
- The implementation of a School Resource Officer position that will ultimately provide a positive influence within the schools and provide opportunities for mentoring. Building future leaders for tomorrow.