

THE ACTION

Addressing Crime Trends In Our Neighbourhoods

UPDATE

February 28, 2012

ACTION's new Bail Compliance Unit keeping Suspects in Check

by Insp. Scott Rastin, Community Mobilization



Hamilton Police Bail Compliance Unit Officers Johnson and Giuliani

To enhance its anti-violence strategy, the Hamilton Police Service has launched a new unit as part of its ACTION (Addressing Crime Trends in our Neighbourhoods) program.

Now in its second month, the Bail Compliance Unit (BCU) is an offender management program. It is devoted to ensuring suspects comply with court-imposed conditions.

"The unit was created to help individuals avoid being repeat offenders while waiting for their court date," said Inspector Scott Rastin, head of the Service's Community Mobilization Division. "We are educating offenders and their sureties to develop positive relationships to aid compliance."

The mandate of the BCU is to promote public safety and reduce the fear of crime. This program is a Service-wide crime prevention initiative which identifies and manages violent offenders through education and bail compliance investigations.

The BCU visits the offenders and their sureties following their release and provides education about the BCU. This includes the consequences of non-compliance by both the offender and the surety.

The BCU officers conduct bail compliance checks any hour of the day or night. Just like ACTION officers, the BCU are in uniform and highly-visible.

This strategy holds offenders and their sureties accountable. The BCU actively monitors the offender to ensure that they are adhering to their conditions imposed upon them by the courts. The BCU will actively search for and arrest these offenders who are breaching court imposed conditions.

Sureties*

A surety is someone who agrees to take responsibility for a person accused of a crime. Being a surety is a serious commitment.

Responsibilities of a Surety

Making sure the accused person comes to court on time and on the right dates.

Making sure that the accused person obeys each condition of the bail order, also known as a recognizance.

Conditions may require the accused person to report to the police and obey a curfew. They may also order the accused to not possess weapons, drink alcohol and/or communicate directly or indirectly with the victim or victim's family. This means that you as the surety are also not to communicate

on behalf of the accused person with the victim or the victim's family.

If you are accepted as a surety, you must sign the recognizance. It means that you agree to pay a specified amount of money if the accused person fails to obey the court order.

*Source:

www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/sureties



ACTION Productivity

	January 2012	December 2011
PONs (tickets)	316	200
Street Checks	574	228
Community Contacts	3,397	2,807
Arrests	65	63
Value of Drugs Seized	2,309.00	\$1,244.30

Arresting Highlights

ACTION

Purse Snatcher Arrested

On January 1, 2012 at 11:00 p.m. a 63-year-old woman was walking on Jackson St. W. A man came up from behind her, shouldered her to the side and took off with her purse. The victim was able to remain on her feet, however, her walker was knocked over. The man ran across Jackson St. and headed south down an alleyway. Police obtained a suspect description. They also were able to obtain video. The video was made available to officers and an ACTION officer put forward a person of interest. This became the prime suspect and on February 9 the suspect was arrested and charged with this robbery.

Replica Hand Gun Seized

At 10:20 p.m. on January 31, ACTION officers were on bike patrol in the area of Cathedral School located at Wentworth and Wilson. A man was being evasive in his conversation with police and upon realizing that he had dealt with the officer in the past, he took off running. ACTION caught up with the man in the field next to the school. During the foot pursuit the male was seen holding his waistband and was exhibiting several characteristics of an armed person. The officer drew his firearm and directed the male to stop. The male quickly laid on the ground and advised that he had a BB gun in his waistband. The male was arrested for weapons dangerous and the investigation is ongoing.

A Walther PPK BB gun was seized along with several bags containing miscellaneous pieces of jewellery.

Firearms Seizure



ACTION officers assisted the Service's Firearms Branch with the seizure of unregistered firearms. On January 20, 2012, the ACTION team seized eight rifles and nine pistols – 17 fewer firearms on the streets of our community.

Graffiti

ACTION officers were visiting a downtown business at King William and Hughson on February 16 at 6:30 p.m. They looked out the front window of the establishment, across the road where they noticed three youths huddled together. One of the males

was tagging the wall with graffiti and the other two were covering him. The three, two males and a female were all arrested for mischief. One of the males was also found to be in breach of probation.

Home Invasion

ACTION officers arrested a man for a violent home invasion robbery that took place on December 15, 2011 on Kenilworth Ave.N. The victim was a disabled man who was seriously injured in the attack. A 20-year-old Hamilton man was arrested in February and charged with robbery.

Drug Possession



ACTION officers stopped a man on February 22, 2012 just after 6:00 p.m. as he exited an alley on King St. The officers observed a large bulge in his coat, and when they asked him what he had in his coat, he took off running. The officers quickly caught up to the suspect as he was pulling the item from his coat. On arrest he was found to be in possession of two one pound bags of marihuana. He was arrested and faces possession charges.

Mounted



January 21, 2012 - While at the Outdoor Classic Bulldogs Game, a call came out at

Main and Connaught for a wanted person that was spotted by a citizen. MPU offered to assist - they split up with one officer remaining on the perimeter of the address and the other dismounting and assisting the patrol unit by attending the apartment door. The accused fled out the balcony door and began jumping from roof top to roof top. The MPU officers cornered the accused and talked him down off the roof, resulting in the arrest

February 2, 2012 - At approximately 1:00 p.m., MPU was contacted by Division Three Patrol S/Sgt. who advised of a large mischief occurrence that happened in Dundas overnight. The mischief included many homes being "tagged" with hate graffiti and other objectionable words. The MPU attended the area and actively patrolled, focusing on high police visibility and intelligence gathering. MPU also noticed victims attempting to clean the graffiti off their homes but having no luck. MPU contacted the City to request assistance in removing the graffiti as soon as possible.

February 4, 2012 - MPU focused on Proactive Patrols in and around Hess Village. There was only one very minor disturbance in the area of George and Queen. MPU called the disturbance in, as it broke out, and as quickly as it started.....It ended when people yelled, "the horses are coming" The disturbance ended with no injuries and no complainants. Two males were spoken to by MPU that had been involved. Overall a great night with many happy students.

February 25, 2012 – Despite the relatively low number of patrons at Hess Village on this evening, there were several street disturbances including a serious assault where a male was knocked unconscious for several minutes in front of a nightclub. MPU assisted by blocking traffic and keeping crowds away from the officers, EMS and the victim. The remainder of the incidents occurred at closing time, with the area of George/Queen becoming a particular hotspot. Last call of the evening occurred in front of another nightclub, where a man was threatening to shoot one of the patrons.

MPU attended along with ACTION units, and Division One patrol. The man was located and searched. No weapons were involved.

February 23, 2012 - Mounted officers were approached by a citizen indicating that there were two men drinking on the steps of Jackson Square. The men were stopped and known to police. One man was arrested for two counts of breach of undertaking.

Want to be part of the ACTION?



Over 1,400 people are – they follow ACTION on Twitter:

@HPSActionTeam4

To read comments on ACTION or to submit your own, please go to the Hamilton Police Website at www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca or click below.

www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca/HPS/Action/



The ACTION Team (Addressing Crime Trends In Our Neighbourhoods) is a part of the Hamilton Police Neighbourhood Safety Project. ACTION is a Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services provincially funded initiative dedicated to reducing violence and disorder in our neighbourhoods, increasing safety in the community and improving the quality of life for all citizens of Hamilton.