



*Courage. Safety. Service.*

Date: February 3, 2022

**TO:** Staff Sergeant Woods  
**FROM:** Sergeant McMillan  
**SUBJECT:** 2021 Annual Street Check Report

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Alberta's *Provincial Guidelines for the Collection of Personal Information From a Member of the Public (2020)*, the *Collection of Information Voluntarily Provided by the Public Regulation (2021)*, and Lethbridge Police Service *Street Check Interactions and Collection of Information* policy all put forth requirements to review and report on police collection of personal information from members of the public on a quarterly and annual basis. In terms of our internal Lethbridge Police Service (LPS) procedures this is specific to information resulting from "street checks" as recorded and retained electronically by way of Street Check Reports in NICHE RMS. Each of the four quarterly reviews on this subject for 2021 has previously been submitted. This summary will constitute the annual report which by statutory and policy requirements is to be submitted to the Chief of Police for review. The *Collection of Information Voluntarily Provided by the Public Regulation* further requires that the Chief's annual report be sent to the Director of Law Enforcement by no later than March 31 in each given year.

A street check is defined as the attempted or actual collection, recording, and retention of personal information voluntarily provided by a member of the public obtained as a result of a non-detention, non-arrest interaction with a police officer. With that in mind I will provide

the collected data from all 2021 street checks conducted by the Lethbridge Police Service.

**Review Process:**

- 1) An examination was conducted of existing LPS policy for process, reporting, and oversight/review of street checks.
- 2) An examination was conducted of the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's 2020 Provincial Guidelines for the Collection of Personal Information from a Member of the Public and the annual reporting requirements therein.
- 3) An examination was conducted of the *Collection of Information Voluntarily Provided by the Public Regulation (2021)* for annual reporting requirements therein.
- 4) A review of all four 2021 quarterly street check reviews was conducted.
- 5) With assistance from the I.T. Section and the utilization of a NICHE data script, all 2021 Street Check Reports were previously mined electronically for the information fields required for annual reporting purposes and a spread sheet was created to show the results. This data had been compiled and submitted on a quarterly basis but was consolidated for this report.
- 6) All confirmed street checks were compared to the script-mined data and were further examined for fulfilment of the required reporting categories. The Professional Standards Unit and the FOIPP Coordinator were consulted for other required data. Information was sought for the following categories:
  - a. Number of street checks conducted (by Operational Division);
  - b. Number of street checks attempted;
  - c. Number of requests for information that did not meet street check requirements set out in policy or statute;
  - d. Personal information obtained from street checks including:
    - i) Gender identification;
    - ii) Age category (adult/youth);
    - iii) Race (by age category);
  - e. Personal information obtained through officer observations of *attempted* street checks including:
    - i) Gender identification;
    - ii) Age category (adult/youth);
    - iii) Race (by age category);
  - f. Location of street check;
  - g. Date of street check;
  - h. Reason for street check;

- i. Information obtained as it relates to the community/location where the information was collected;
- j. Number of requests for information from members of the public related to their street check interaction with officers and;
- k. Number of public complaints related to street check interactions;

### **Overview:**

In all of 2021 there were two (2) street check occurrences involving the collection of personal information voluntarily provided to police from a total of five (5) members of the public. Both street check occurrences were conducted within the Field Operations Division, both took place in February, 2021 and both began as a lawfully conducted traffic stop during which the drivers of the involved vehicles were legally obligated to provide their personal information to police. Police interaction with the drivers in these occurrences does not constitute a street check but in both instances passengers were present in the vehicles and they provided their personal information to the investigating officer without any legal obligation to do so thereby meeting the criteria required for reporting a street check. Details of these occurrences are captured in files SC21000014 and SC21000019.

Without the updated training or the enhanced reporting requirements for street checks in place organizationally at the time of these occurrences data is not available on the Street Check reports to indicate the voluntary nature of the personal information disclosure. Both of the investigating officers were interviewed and both presented the information as having been voluntarily provided. Street check training has since been provided to all members of the LPS and work continues with Information Technology (I.T.) to accommodate reporting requirements for clear indication of voluntariness.

Further work is also required with I.T. and NICHE to establish an electronic means of recording *attempted* street check interactions with members of the public. This is in development but data to indicate number and results of *attempted* street checks is unavailable for 2021 reporting purposes. It will continue to be so until such time as the reporting mechanism is constructed and properly in place.

The street checks in review were conducted on February 1 and February 7, 2021. They included a total of five individuals all of whom were adults, four of whom were female and one of whom was male. Of the five individuals checked two were Caucasian, two were Aboriginal, and one was Metis. The two occurrences and five checks themselves were conducted within the city of Lethbridge, on the near north side (10 beat) and the west side (40 beat). Data specifics for annual reporting requirements are represented below.

### **Results:**

A) Number of street check interactions between members of the public and police:

- **Five (5)**
  - i) **Street check numbers by Operational Division:**
    - **Field Operations Division – Five (5) or 100%**

B) Number of street checks attempted:

- **Data not available (reasons outlined above and contained in each of the 2021 quarterly reports).**

C) Number of requests for information that did not meet street check requirements set out in policy or statute:

- **Zero (0)**

D) Personal Information:

- i) Gender:
  - a) **Males – One (1)**
  - b) **Females – Four (4)**
  - c) **Others – Zero (0)**
  - Total = Five (5)**
  
- ii) Age category:
  - a) **Adult (aged 18+) – Five (5)**
  - b) **Youth (aged 1-17) – Zero (0)**
  - Total = Five (5)**
  
- iii) Race:
  - a) **Aboriginal – Two (2)**
  - b) **Caucasian – Two (2)**
  - c) **Metis – One (1)**
  - Total = Five (5)**

E) Personal information obtained through officer observations of attempted street checks:

- **Data not available (see “Number of street checks attempted”).**

F) Location of the street check:

- **Three (3) street check interactions (file SC21000014) were the result of one traffic stop occurrence located at 2 avenue north and Mayor Magrath Drive in Lethbridge (10 Beat).**

- Two (2) street check interactions (file SC21000019) were the result of one traffic stop occurrence located at *Edgewood Blvd and University Drive west* in Lethbridge (40 Beat).

G) Date of the street check:

- Three (3) street check interactions (file SC21000014) took place during the *day* at the same time (07:30) on February 1, 2021.
- Two (2) street check interactions (file SC21000019) took place during the *night* at the same time (19:18) on February 7, 2021.

H) Reason for street check:

- Three (3) street check interactions (file SC21000014) were the result of one lawful traffic stop involving a known offender driving and engaged in contraventions of the vehicle equipment regulations as well as suspicious drug-related activity ([Traffic Stop, Suspicious Activity](#)).
- Two (2) street check interactions (file SC21000019) were the result of a lawful traffic stop involving a known offender driving and engaged in possible contraventions of the motor vehicle equipment regulations ([Traffic Stop, Observation](#)).

I) Information obtained as it relates to the community/location where the information was collected;

- **None**

J) Number of requests for information from members of the public related to their street check interaction with officers:

- **Zero (0)**

K) Number of public complaints related to street check interactions:

- **Zero (0)**

**Observations:**

The number of street checks in 2021 totalled five within two occurrences. By comparison, in 2020 there were 12 street check interactions within 9 occurrences. There continued to be some inaccurate reporting by officers who submitted Street Check Reports for occurrences which did not qualify as being a veritable street check. These were instances

in which observations were made without any interaction between a member of the public and a police officer, or in which a member of the public had a legal obligation to provide their information to police (such as drivers in traffic stop occurrences). In 2021 there were 57 Street Check Reports submitted of which only two occurrences (SC21000014 and SC21000019) were actual street checks as defined by policy and provincial guidelines. The two occurrences involved police interaction and information collection from five individuals. By comparison again, 2020 saw 188 Street Check Reports submitted of which only 9 were deemed to be actual street check occurrences.

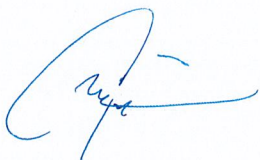
Over the past year there has been a substantive overhaul to the LPS Street Check policy and statutory reporting requirements as well as to the training provided to our members. The number of Street Check Reports and the number of inaccurately categorized reports is in decline. We are in compliance with policy but lacking (albeit slightly) in compliance with the new provincial reporting requirements. This deficiency is specific to our NICHE capabilities for recording and reporting on verified voluntariness of information disclosure by the public and for recording and reporting on the number of *attempted* street checks. This has taken some time to accommodate from the I.T. section but was requested early in 2021.

The sample size of actual street checks is very small and in isolation can reveal neither meaningful, demonstrable trends nor any disproportionate application of their use.

### **Recommendations:**

Completion of the structural reporting changes within NICHE to reduce inaccurate reporting categories, allow for proper representation of voluntary interactions between members of the public and police, and document attempted street check interactions is necessary. There are no further recommendations currently.

Training will continue to be provided to all members on what constitutes a street check and how to report it properly. This will occur annually and/or as determined necessary based upon statutory or policy changes. It will include but not be limited to definitions, scope of officer authorities and responsibilities, detailed reporting requirements, and the importance of voluntariness. Corrective feedback will continue to be provided following all quarterly reviews that indicate any deficiencies or inaccurate reporting categorization.



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Quality Assurance, Audits, & Accountability