



FORWARDED TO
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DATE 15 Nov 17

[Signature]
CHIEF OF POLICE

RECEIVED BY
PEEL POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DATE Nov 15/17

LOG No. 350 Police Services Board

FILE CLASS PO1

116

REPORT
For Information

File Class: 1-02-02-03

Cross-Reference File Class: 3-03-09-03

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **2016 ANNUAL YOUTH CRIME REPORT**

FROM: Manuel Rodrigues, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be forwarded to the Police Services Board as part of annual reporting requirements.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Young persons represent 7.65% of the policing population at 102,050 residents.
- In 2016, 1,860 young persons were charged by Peel Regional Police. This is a 6.4% increase from the previous year.
- In 2016, 792 youths were charged with crimes against persons related offence(s), an increase of 25.3% from the previous year.
- In 2016, the number of youths charged with crimes against property related offence(s) decreased by 5.4% and drug offences dropped by 4.1% from the previous year.
- Young persons represented 13.2% of all persons charged criminally by Peel Regional Police in 2016.
- Peel Regional Police continue to collaborate with schools in creating educational programs that adhere to new trends and issues surrounding youth.
- The Chief's Youth Advisory Committee was established to enhance the direct exchange of information and create a means for youth to directly provide input to the Chief from their perspective.
- Peel Regional Police continue to work in partnership with community agencies in creating new initiatives that engage youth such as the Low Ropes Course in the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) program, summer day camps at the Peel Children's Safety Village, and the Youth Advisory Committee.

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2017
17-1727

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The 2016 Youth Crime Report provides insight in to crime statistics and trends, related to young persons investigated by Peel Regional Police. The statistics used to generate this report were received from the Peel Regional Police Corporate Planning and Research Bureau.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) defines a young person as someone between the ages of 12 and 17. The YCJA came into effect in April 2003. The legislation includes guiding principles that promote the long-term protection of society. The overriding principle is to strike a balance between the need to ensure that there is a meaningful consequence for youth who contravene the law while addressing the underlying causes and promoting the rehabilitation of offenders.

In 2008, an increase in gun violence amongst youth prompted a study and the subsequent release of a report titled, "The Review of the Roots of Violence". The analysis revealed a number of underlying issues that required response in a structured and sustained way. In 2012, presented in support of the concerns identified in the Roots of Violence Report, was Ontario's "Youth Action Plan". The plan identified the need to increase support for evidence based impactful initiatives that provide opportunities to youth and strengthen community capacity. Recognized as essential to the plan was the requirement to provide early positive intervention in a young person's life, to better coordinate multiagency efforts and the adoption of a long term sustained approach focused on positive outcomes.

a) Population

In 2016, the combined population of the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga was 1,333,000; 102,050 of which were young persons, a decrease of 0.63% in comparison to 2015. In 2016, Young Persons represented 7.65% of the area population.

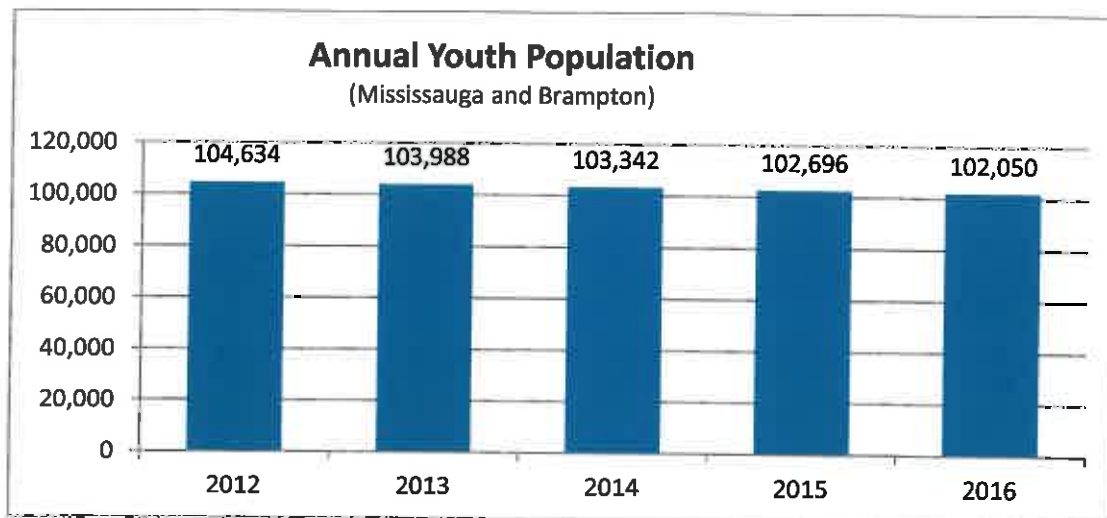


Figure 1

b) Pre-charge Diversion

A significant component of the Youth Criminal Justice Act is the application of extrajudicial measures, a means by which young persons are diverted away from the criminal justice system while still ensuring that the young person is held accountable for their actions. Legislation directs that when a young person has committed an offence, extrajudicial measures shall be considered before a charge is laid. Where appropriate, Peel Regional Police will refer youth, who have committed a criminal offence, to the Pre-charge Diversion Program administered by Associated Youth Services of Peel. The agency counsels and administers the performance of tasks that help youth to acknowledge and appreciate the significance of breaking the law.

In 2016, 529 cases were referred by Peel Regional Police to Associated Youth Services of Peel, while 610 referrals were made in 2015. This represented a decrease of 81 cases, or 13.2%. Each month, the Pre-charge Diversion Program Coordinator examines the frequency of referrals compared to the use of cautions by officers. In 2016, 75.9% of all occurrences that met the criteria of the diversion program were referred to the agency by officers. There was virtually no change compared to 2015, where 75.8% of all cases were referred by officers.

The decision to refer a young person to the program is solely that of the investigating officer; the option is one of four prescribed under the YCJA. In 2016, officers referred fewer cases to the program than they did in 2015; however, the percentage of cases being referred remained virtually unchanged. Closing minor cases by caution is appropriate if the investigating officer deems it to be the correct course of action. It is worth noting that most of the cases referred to the Pre-Charge Diversion Program are very minor in nature. With referral to the program, youth are simply given a greater consequence for their actions rather than an immediate verbal caution.

In 2016, youths were charged in 17 instances as a result of not having completed the program offered by Associated Youth Services of Peel. Another 31 young offenders were removed from the program because they were either unsuitable or did not qualify for referral. These cases include incidents where, the youth had a previous criminal charge, had uncooperative parents, or was experiencing mental health issues. Some youths were not charged on the recommendation of the counselor who had been working with them. These youths were dealt with by caution.

It is worthy of note that as of May 2015, youths who have previously been referred to the program remain eligible to participate in the program once again, provided they meet the other criteria for acceptance into the program. Previously, young persons who had availed themselves of the program were ineligible for a second opportunity.

Also, in December 2015, the list of allowable offences committed by young people eligible for the diversion program was expanded to include offences related to cyber bullying and sexting. This is a reflection of our times given the use of social media. Eligible offences now also include Non-consensual Distribution of an Intimate Image, Criminal Harassment, Extortion, Defamatory Libel, Vexatiousness and Personation.

Each month an analysis is conducted on the recidivism rate of youth in comparison with the same period from the previous year. Of the youth who successfully completed the program in 2016, only 15.5% committed another crime within a one-year period. For those who did not complete the program, the recidivism rate was considerably higher at 37.8%.

The Pre-charge Diversion Program enabled over 500 young people to have a second chance to learn from their mistakes before experiencing the criminal justice system.

c) Crimes Against Persons

Crimes against persons include offences such as assault, robbery, sexual offences, criminal harassment and threatening. In 2016, 792 young persons were charged with one of the noted offences. This represented an increase of 160, or 25.3% in comparison to 2015. Although this is a substantial increase, it represents just the first time since 2008 that the numbers have increased. Each year since 2008, these numbers have consistently decreased from one year to the next. It is too soon to determine if this years' increase is a new trend or an anomaly. Peel Regional Police will continue to monitor these statistics.

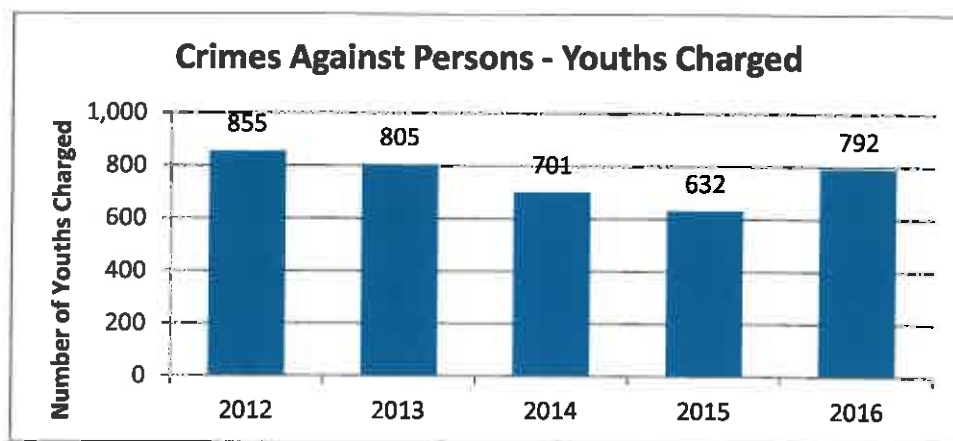


Figure 2

The four most frequently occurring incident types for crimes against persons were robbery, assault (Level One and Two) and uttering threats.

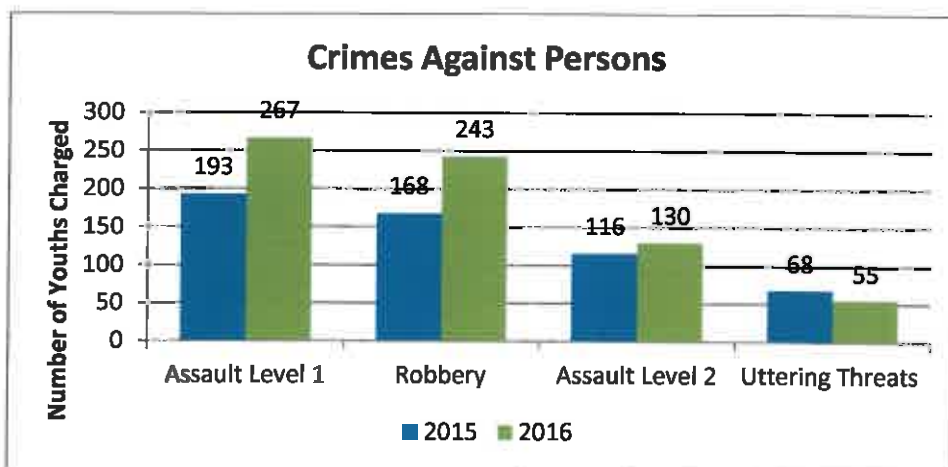


Figure 3

d) Crimes Against Property

Crimes against property include offences such as break and enter, theft, possession of property obtained by crime, fraud, mischief and arson. In 2016, 522 young persons were charged with one of the noted offences. This represented a decrease of 30, or 5.4% in comparison to 2015.

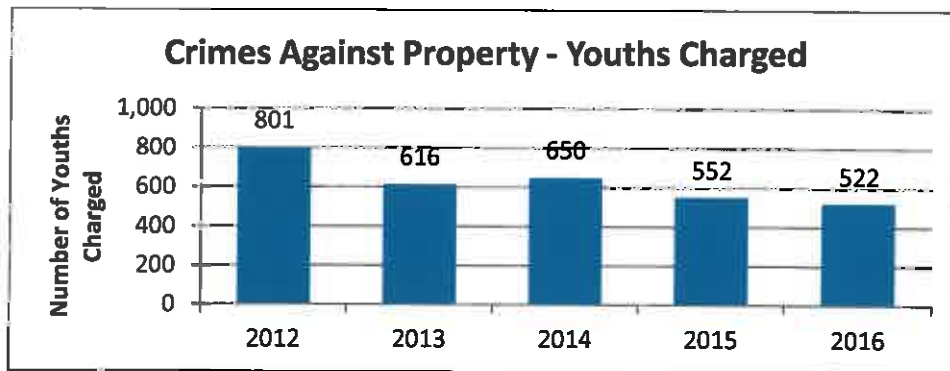


Figure 4

The four most frequently occurring incident types for crimes against property were theft under \$5000 – shop theft, break and enter, mischief, and theft under – other (not including shoplifting and/or breaking and entering).

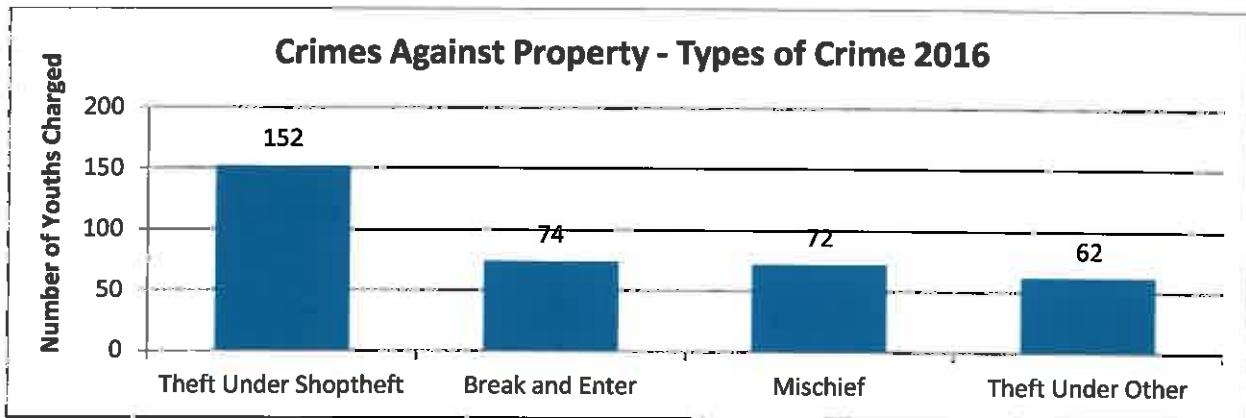


Figure 5

e) Criminal Driving Offences

Criminal driving offences include offences such as dangerous driving, failing to remain at the scene of an accident, impaired driving and street racing. In 2016, 25 young persons were charged with one of the noted offences. This represented an increase of one (1), or 4.1% in comparison to 2015. The majority of the charges are related to dangerous driving.

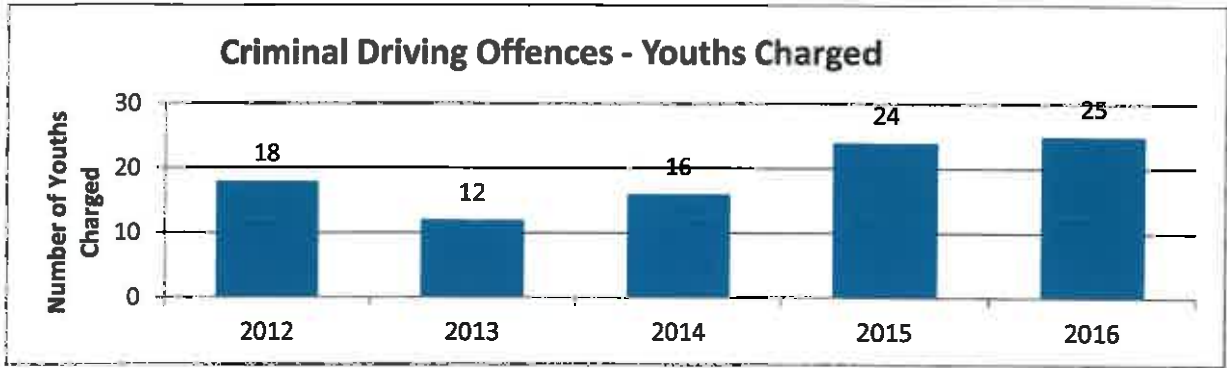


Figure 6

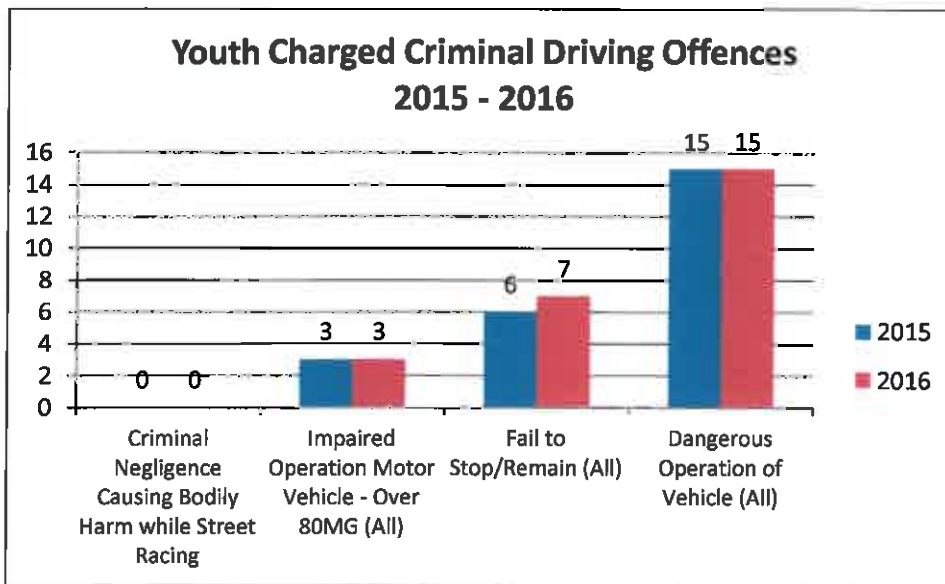


Figure 7

f) Drug Offences

Drug offences included possession, trafficking and other related crimes. In 2016, 165 young persons were charged in relation to one of the offences. This represented a decrease of seven (7), or a 4.1% decrease in comparison to 2015.

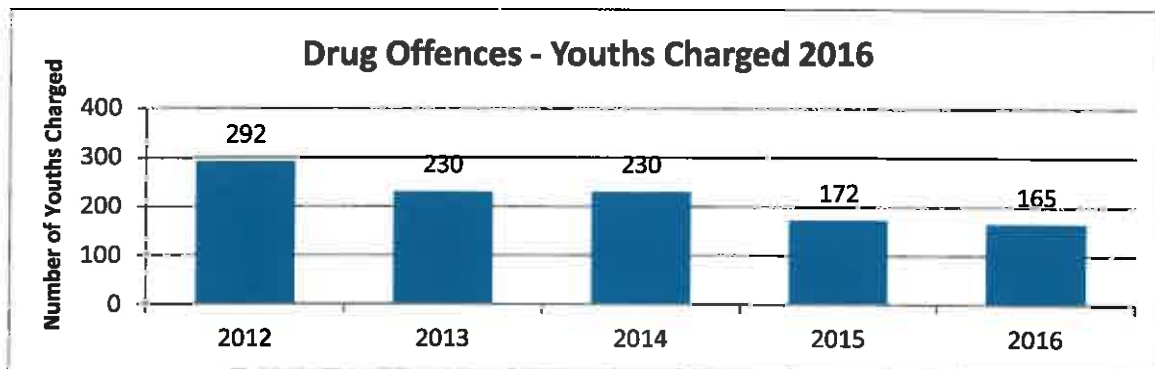


Figure 8

g) Total Young Persons Charged

In 2016, 1,860 young persons were charged by Peel Regional Police; an increase of 112, or 6.4% in comparison to 2015.

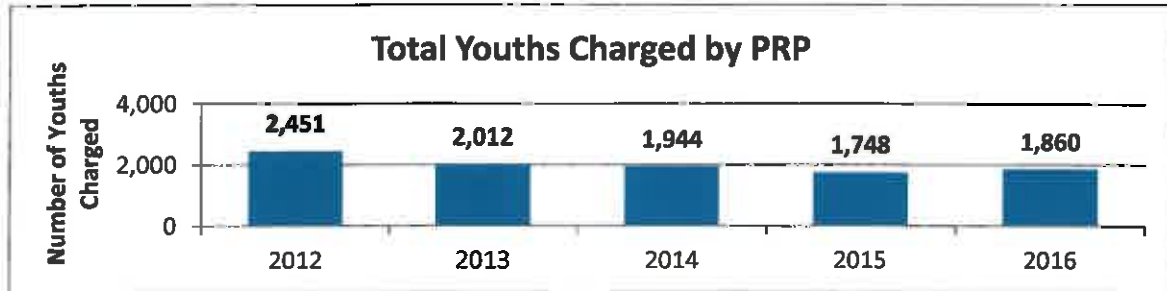


Figure 9

Young persons represented 13.2% of all persons criminally charged by Peel Regional Police in 2016. The following chart summarizes the comparative analysis of statistics, on both youth and adult offenders, related to 2015 and 2016.

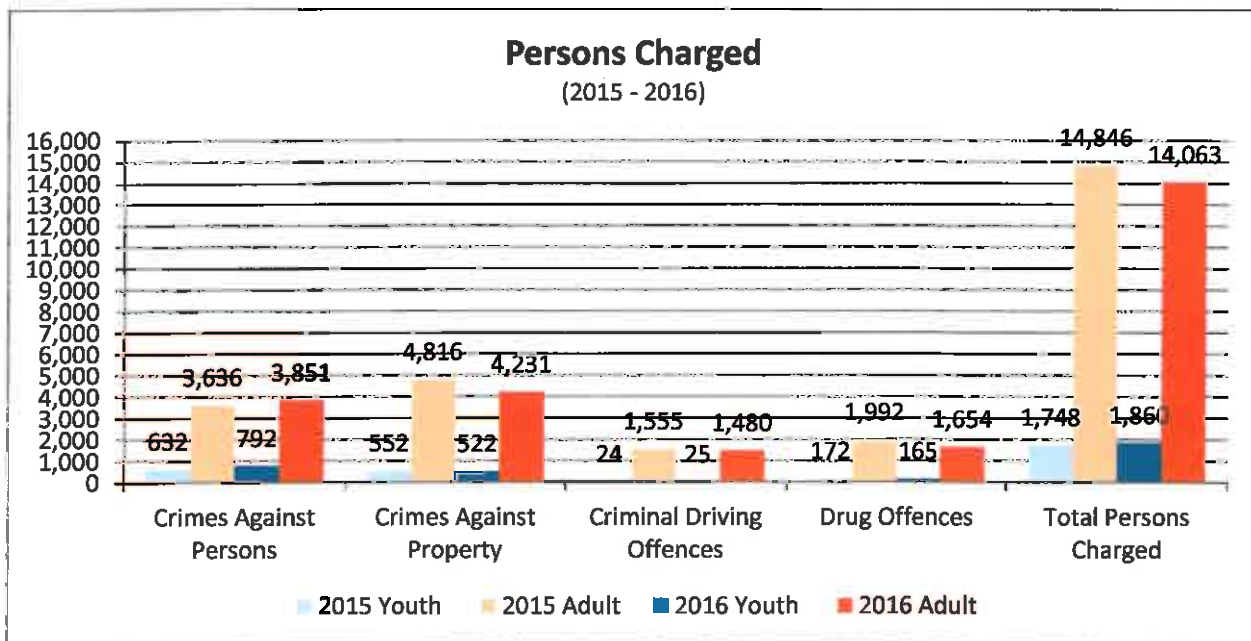


Figure 10

2. Findings

In general terms, there was a statistical increase in youth crime reported in 2016 in comparison to 2015. As identified in Figure 9, the total number of criminal charges involving youth for 2016 increased by 6.4%. The incidents of crimes against persons, including crimes of violence, increased by 25%. The frequency of charges, in the broad categories described in Figure 10, has shown overall that the criminal involvement of young people has increased over the past year; however, the incidents of crimes against property decreased by 5.4% and drug offences decreased by 4.1%.

3. Working Together with Young People

Peel Regional Police has an excellent reputation for collaborating with organizations to make our community safer. Our working relationships with the local school boards, local crime prevention associations and the Region of Peel contribute on a daily basis toward helping youth succeed. Peel Regional Police has had a number of successful programs that have served to bring youth and police together.

a) Chief's Youth Advisory Committee

The Youth Advisory Committee is chaired by the Chief of Peel Regional Police. The mission of the Youth Advisory Committee is to support and ensure community safety through proactive engagement between Peel Regional Police (PRP) and the Youth community. The purpose of the committee is to develop partnerships and relationships with youth and ensure that information is being shared. The committee allows for a better understanding of problems and issues in the communities that the youth represent. It then allows PRP and the youth to create pro-active strategies in an effort to mitigate those issues.

b) Neighbourhood Policing Units

Divisional Neighbourhood Policing officers (School Resource Officers) have been placed into every secondary school in the cities of Mississauga and Brampton. The relationships these officers have established with students and staff continue to help maintain a safe environment for young people to learn. Officers have continued to conduct enforcement while, at the same time, striving to be positive role models. Officers in the schools investigated 2,462 incidents during 2016, an increase of 15.2%. Countless hours have been spent by Neighbourhood Policing Unit officers in fundraising, sports and other volunteer school activities.

c) Youth Education

The Youth Education Bureau is responsible for providing safety related education to elementary level students. Having the opportunity to provide drug awareness education through the *Reduce Abuse in Drugs* (R.A.I.D.) program to 22,290 students, and hosting 14,720 youth at the *Peel Children's Safety Village*, has allowed the Peel Regional Police to positively impact a broad spectrum of our children.

Youth Education officers also attended classrooms throughout the year to present topics such as Bullying Awareness, Internet Safety, Youth and the Law, Street Proofing, Drug Abuse Prevention and Youth Gangs. In 2016, 121,590 youths were provided with educational presentations on these topics.

In the summer of 2016, the Peel Children's Safety Village provided Pedestrian Pedal Power (P3) days where parents registered their families to attend and receive instruction on pedestrian and bicycle safety. They were then able to go outside and apply what they learned on bicycles or miniature Jeeps within the Safety Village. Officers provided 151 youths and their families with this training.

Also in the summer of 2016, the Peel Children's Safety Village piloted a program to provide a summer camp experience to youth, aged 5-8, from priority neighbourhoods at no cost to the participants. Officers welcomed 133 youth who received safety presentations and also unique experiences such as exploring the back of an ambulance with Peel paramedics; learning about

Peel Regional Police's Emergency Disposal Unit robot and equipment; and analyzing their own fingerprints.

This pilot program was deemed a success by all involved and Peel Regional Police continued this program in the summer of 2017.

To further engage with youth in the community, Youth Education officers attended 29 Breakfast Clubs where they assisted in providing breakfast to youth who typically did not receive a proper breakfast prior to attending school. They also participated in 32 Cram-A-Cruiser events where they assisted in collecting food donations to be taken to local food banks. Other community events that Youth Education officers attended with youths include Bike-To-School days, school athletic engagements and Peel Regional Police Divisional Open Houses.

d) Drug Education

The Drug Education Unit is responsible for delivering police-related education to secondary school students. In 2016, 7,611 students received drug education presentations on such topics as street level drugs, the effects of drugs on the body and the importance of making positive choices.

As of July 2015, a new presentation called Identifying Vulnerabilities in Youth (IVY), was implemented at the high school level. The presentation focuses primarily on Human Trafficking, online safety and sexting and it is delivered in conjunction with the presentations on drugs. In 2016, an additional 3,932 students received this new presentation, which continues to grow in demand at the high school level.

e) Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI)

During the summer of 2016, Peel Regional Police, in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, employed 20 young people in a mentoring relationship for a period of eight (8) weeks. With the assistance of the Peel District School Board, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and our French language secondary schools, as well as Peel Children's Aid Society, 20 students were selected to work alongside officers and civilians. This mentoring opportunity was well received by these young people.

The Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) was improved to ensure a meaningful employment and mentorship experience was maintained for the students. In keeping with current trends, the students were required to research a social media application and speak to its benefits as well as its dangers from a youth's perspective. Students delivered the presentation to their fellow students and to officers from the Youth Education Bureau, ultimately educating the police about their topic from a youth's perspective.

In 2016, a new initiative was incorporated into the YIPI program; the students participated in a Low Ropes Course and they learned values such as teamwork, goal setting, leadership and self-confidence. This experience was then offered to youth aged 10-12 from priority neighbourhoods and the YIPI students were able to act as mentors for these youth in helping them learn about making good decisions and working together with others.

The YIPI students were able to act as mentors to 78 youth for this Low Ropes Course experience which also served to teach them how they can be a positive influence and role model for other youths in the community.

Also new to the YIPI program was the development of a YIPI Team Leader position, which was created in collaboration with the United Way and Safe City Mississauga. This Team Leader was hired through Safe City Mississauga to work alongside Peel Regional Police during the eight week YIPI program.

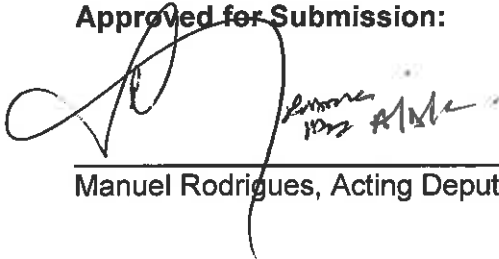
The position placed a university/college aged youth from the community in a mentorship role for the YIPI students and served as a liaison between the students and officers. This position was deemed to be very valuable for the youth and officers and was continued in the 2017 YIPI program in collaboration with the United Way and Safe City Mississauga.

Feedback from the participants of the YIPI program, including those from years past, has been extremely positive with many having expressed an interest in or actively pursuing a career in policing. Many of them have gone on to pursue post-secondary education in police related studies.

CONCLUSION

The Peel Regional Police 2016 Youth Crime Report lists important data on the involvement of youth in policing related activities. Although the overall number of youth charged has increased by 6.4% over the past year, the number of youth charged for both crimes against property and drug related offences has decreased. The increase in youth being charged with crimes against people has been acknowledged and Peel Regional Police will continue to deliver programs in a continued effort to reduce those offences. Peel Regional Police will also continue its partnerships that adhere to Ontario's Youth Action Plan and contribute to the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan through strengthening community engagement (1.2) and enhancing youth programs and partnerships (1.6).

Approved for Submission:



Manuel Rodrigues, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Support Services

For further information regarding this report, please contact Inspector Butt at extension 3609 or via e-mail at waheed.butt@peelpolice.ca

Authored By: Detective Michael Szabo #1975, Youth Engagement