

May 10, 2024

Secretary, Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners  
c/o The City Clerk's Office,  
222 3rd Ave N, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners,

**Re: NSBA Recommendations regarding Crime and Safety**

As representatives of the business community with a membership of over 750 businesses, the NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association is deeply concerned about the recent increase in crime and its effects on businesses. We are writing to you to address this pressing issue and to propose recommendations.

Over the past few months, the NSBA has received numerous complaints from members regarding the alarming increase in crime. To gain a better understanding of the situation, we conducted a survey among our members, the results of which validated the severity of the current reality in the city. Over 80 per cent of responding NSBA members reported being directly or indirectly (employees and customers) impacted by the increase in crime, which has led to increased expenses by the businesses and changed hours of operation.

According to our survey, vandalism and break-ins are the top two concerns expressed by members, most especially businesses located in the north-end and downtown areas. The NSBA recognizes the efforts being made tackling root causes, such as homelessness and addiction, but those are long-term and complex challenges, and we firmly believe that immediate actions are necessary to address the pressing issues businesses are facing.

Based on the findings of our survey, we have compiled a list of recommendations to consider:

1. **Increase Police Presence and Patrols:** We urge for an increase in police presence and patrols, particularly in highly impacted areas like downtown and the north end. Increased patrols during after-work hours, when most crimes occur, would significantly deter criminal activities. Stronger enforcement of the law for all illegal activities and going back to basics is also critical.
2. **Encourage Businesses to Report Crimes to Assist Data Collection:** Many businesses have ceased reporting crimes due to cumbersome reporting processes and perceived lack of outcomes. Encouraging businesses to report incidents is important for accurate data collection, as well as for deploying resources and assessing the effectiveness of different programs. The collection of data for the ultimate purpose of reducing crime has been successful in cities such as Edmonton, Dallas, and Lethbridge, which recently adopted CompStat software.

3. **Enhance and Improve Crime Reporting Process for Crimes Over \$5,000:** Streamlining and expediting the reporting process for crimes exceeding \$5,000 would encourage businesses to report incidents promptly. Simplifying this process is crucial.
4. **Form a District Liaison for the Business Community:** Establishing a police liaison for each major business district, dedicated to fostering collaboration between the police and the business community is imperative. This liaison would bridge the communication gap and ensure that the concerns of businesses are effectively addressed.
5. **Develop a Property Damage Relief Program:** Implementing a program to compensate businesses for vandalism and property damages would alleviate the financial burden placed on them. Examples such as the BC Small Business Rebate Program and the Edmonton Window Repair Program illustrate the effectiveness of such initiatives in supporting affected businesses.

I would be happy to elaborate on any of these points with a verbal presentation and answer any questions you may have at an upcoming meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

In closing, we acknowledge and appreciate the tireless efforts of the Saskatoon Police Service in safeguarding our city. We would also like to extend our congratulations on the appointment of the new chief and express our eagerness to collaborate with him. Together, we can work towards creating a safer and more prosperous community for all.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen  
Executive Director