



2024 Street Check Review

January 31, 2025

Purpose

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 2024 have 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 2024 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 2024 quarterly street check reviews was conducted.
- 5) The data from street checks was taken from the NICHE reports, assessed, categorized, mined for the required details, and added as appropriate to this report under "Results".
- 6) All confirmed street checks were examined for fulfilment of the required reporting categories. As a result, 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 2024 there were two (2) street check occurrences involving the collection of personal information voluntarily provided to police from a total of two (2) members of the public. Both street check occurrences were conducted within the Field Operations Division, one having taken place on April 4 and the other on May 22, 2024.

In both instances police located individuals in a high crime area with recency considerations and a street check was conducted whereby personal information was voluntarily provided to the officer. There was no legal obligation to do so and there was not an arrest or detention of any of the individuals. Both reports spell out clearly the voluntary nature of the information disclosure. Details of these occurrences are captured in files SC24000001 and SC24000002.

There are no reported instances of attempted street checks. Some further work is required with I.T. and NICHE to establish an easier and more overt method for officers to indicate attempted street checks within the existing street check reports. This is still in development but members have been informed and trained on the need to record attempted checks as well as how to report them within the current form.

The street checks in review involved a total of two individuals, both of whom were adults, one of whom was female and one of whom was male. Of the two individuals checked one was Caucasian, and one was Aboriginal. The two street checks were conducted within the city of Lethbridge, one downtown and one on the south side. Data specifics for annual reporting requirements are represented below.

Results:

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

- **Two (2)**

i) **Street check numbers by Operational Division:**

- **Field Operations Division – Two (2) or 100%**

B) Number of street checks attempted (beyond the number recorded immediately above):

- **Zero (0)**

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 – One (1)**
- c) **Others – Zero (0)**

Total = Three (2)

ii) Age category:

- a) **Adult (aged 18+) – Two (2)**
- b) **Youth (aged 1-17) – Zero (0)**

Total = Two (2)

iii) Race:

- a) **Aboriginal – One (1) = 1 female adult.**
- b) **Caucasian – One (1) = 1 male adult.**

Total = Two (2)

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

- **None.**

F) Location of the street check:

- **One street check interaction (file SC24000001) was the result of an occurrence located at 3727 Mayor Magrath Drive South, Lethbridge (30 Beat).**
- **One street check interaction (file SC24000002) was the result of an occurrence located at *the* 745 1 Ave South, Lethbridge (10 Beat).**

G) Date of the street check:

- **Both street check interactions (files SC24000001 and SC24000002) took place during the *overnight hours* - at 01:05 on April 4, 2024 and at 03:05 on May 22, 2024.**

H) Reason for street check:

- **Both street check interactions (files SC24000001 and SC24000002) were the result of suspicious, and/or drug-related activity (**Suspicious Activity**) in a high crime area.**

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 2024 totalled two within two separate occurrences. By comparison, in 2023 there were zero street check interactions, in 2022 there were three street check interactions within two occurrences, in 2021 there were five street check interactions within two occurrences, and 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 either 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. In 2023 there were six (6) street check reports submitted with none qualifying as actual street checks. In 2022 there were 33 Street Check Reports submitted of which only two occurrences were actual street checks as defined by policy and legislation.

Over the past three years 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. Additionally, an alternative reporting process (with training) was created for intelligence and information collection pertaining to instances that DO NOT constitute a street check. These are for instances where police either have no interaction with the public at all or where the public is legally obligated to provide information to police. The number of Street Check Reports and the number of inaccurately categorized reports has been in steep decline.

In the past two years we have come into compliance with policy and legislation regarding the requirements for restricted access to Street Check Reports after five years have passed from the time of their collection/submission. This was achieved in the first half of 2023 and continues through today. All Street Check Reports that are five years old or older now have restricted access.

Previous annual reports have indicated that we were lacking (albeit slightly) in compliance with the provincial reporting requirements 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 task has taken significant time to accommodate from the I.T. section but was requested early in 2021. In the interim, officers have been instructed to indicate voluntariness of information disclosure in the text of their Street Check Report narratives. This is occurring, was well demonstrated in 2024, and can be observed as a success. Additionally, officers have been trained to submit Street Check Reports even in instances where no information was gathered during an *attempted* street check. Training to this effect has been provided. There have been no attempted street checks reported by LPS members.

There have been zero public complaints related to LPS officer attempts to collect information under the authority established by the Provincial Regulation.

There has been no access to any street check reports or information that after five years since their collection and documentation have been properly restricted.

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:

There are no 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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