

Brant O.P.P. Detachment Board Report

To: Chair and Members of the Brant O.P.P. Detachment Board
From: Cindy Stevenson, General Manager, Emergency & Protective Services
Date: October 22, 2024
Report : RPT-0350-24
Subject: False Alarm Statistics – January to August, 2024
Purpose: For Information

Recommendation

That Staff Report RPT-0350-24 “False Alarm Statistics – January to August, 2024” be received as information.

Report

Background

At the former Police Services Board’s request, staff have compiled statistics on False Alarms from January, 2023. At the time of preparation, September 2024 statistics were not available.

In 2019, Council approved an escalating fee scale for at-fault false alarms. The following fee schedule has been in place since January 1, 2020:

Number of Responses to At Fault False Alarms

<u>Per Calendar Year (January 1 to December 31):</u>	<u>Fee:</u>
1 st	Warning letter only
2 nd	\$150
3 rd	\$250
4 th	\$350
5 th +	\$500

The escalating fee schedule was implemented at that time as a strategy to reduce the unnecessary use of police resources in response to false alarms.

There was previously a clause in the fees and charges by-law which restarted the warning and cleared the number of responses attached to an address each calendar year. The Board considered removal of this clause as the most suitable as a further deterrent to repeat offenders, which was supported and approved by County Council in March of this year. In administering this option, the fee schedule will reset when an address has a new property owner, or following two (2) years since the last at fault false alarm for a property owner.

The County’s Fees and Charges were updated on April 1, 2024, to the following:

That the County’s fees and charges by-law be updated, effective April 1, 2024, as follows:

Number of Responses to At Fault False Alarms. Fee schedule to reset per new property owner, or following two (2) years since the last at fault false alarm for a property owner:

Fee:

1 st	Warning letter only
2 nd	\$150
3 rd	\$250
4 th	\$350
5 th +	\$500

Analysis

The January, 2023 to August, 2024 False Alarm Statistics are outlined below:

Month	Responses	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5 th +	Total Invoiced
January, 2023	15	15	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
February, 2023	20	19	1	0	0	0	\$150.00
March, 2023	15	13	2	0	0	0	\$300
April, 2023	22	22	0	0	0	0	\$0
May, 2023	11	9	2	0	0	0	\$300
June, 2023	25	23	2	0	0	0	\$300
July, 2023	18	14	4	0	0	0	\$600
August, 2023	18	12	2	3	1	0	\$1,400
September, 2023	17	10	2	3	1	1	\$1,900
October, 2023	16	8	3	3	2	0	\$1,900
November, 2023	8	5	1	2	0	0	\$650
December, 2023	27	19	6	2	0	0	\$1,400
January, 2024	17	17	0	0	0	0	\$0
February, 2024	22	22	0	0	0	0	\$0
March, 2024	20	13	6	1	0	0	\$1,150
April, 2024	14	12	0	2	0	0	\$0
May, 2024	20	16	1	0	1	2	\$1,500
June, 2024	25	18	4	2	1	0	\$1,450
July, 2024	36	17	5	2	1	11	\$7,100
August, 2024	12	7	3	1	0	1	\$1,200

Year-to-date for August, 2024, is a total of 166 responses, which is an increase from 2023 at 144 responses, or a 15.3% increase.

So far, for 2024, there has been an increase in repeat responses and false alarm fees charged year to date, from a total of 17 repeat calls in 2023 with fines totaling \$3,050 to 44 repeat calls with fines totaling \$12,400 (January to August). There have been a number of outliers so far this year, with 5 properties accounting for 36 false alarms.

The breakdown for 2024 of repeat responses to the same address is as follows:

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5 th +
2024	73.5%	11.4%	4.8%	1.8%	8.4%

Summary and Recommendations

Though the increase in the number of false alarm responses is concerning, it is premature for a proper evaluation of the recent change to the false alarm fee schedule. Consideration is warranted

for one-on-one follow-up with the outliers responsible for repeat calls. Enhanced communications with alarm owners and the public regarding are also recommended as strategies to curtail the recent increase.

Attachments

None

Reviewed By

N/A

Copied To

Heather Boyd, General Manager, Corporate Services