

A Welcome Change

Changes to WPS CrimeStat Now Reflect Downtown Boundaries

This week, Winnipeg Police Service announced the realignment of its downtown CrimeStat boundaries with the downtown boundaries identified by the City of Winnipeg.

This is important for several reasons.

While this administrative adjustment of the boundary will not reduce crime in the downtown, it will help to simply paint a more accurate picture for the public and the media when it comes to the issue of downtown safety.

Many know that downtown Winnipeg is comprised of 11 neighbourhoods. But before this announcement, the WPS via CrimeStat and from a policing perspective, were reporting downtown under 26 neighbourhoods. Communities found in the West End, North End, West Broadway and other inner city neighbourhoods, were included in these boundaries.

This change allows downtown stakeholders, the media and Winnipeggers to accurately report where crimes actually take place in our city, and to track it from year to year, so there's data comparable and consistent with the City's defined boundary.

People understand that the media plays a significant role in influencing public perception, especially when it comes to the topic of downtown safety. This change to CrimeStat will help to address some of these challenges by simply laying out the facts and statistics more appropriately.

We acknowledge and recognize that crime in surrounding communities have an impact in our downtown. And the safety of our downtown and city is of course related to the safety in inner city neighbourhoods. But that is a separate issue and one that deserves broader discussion.

An incident that may occur in West Broadway or the West End can move towards the downtown and is our concern too. And vice versa. There's no questioning this. This is why BIZ safety programs often extend outward to our neighbours. We help in any way that we can and support their initiatives. There is strength in numbers, and in working together and collaboratively.