



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2006 Annual Report SCHOOL LIAISON

Report Date: January 22, 2007
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A. Mandate of the Unit

General

- Act as liaison between the North Bay Police Service and 17 area schools;
- Establish, develop and maintain partnerships with area school stakeholders

Specific

- Providing information on community safety issues;
- Promoting and fostering a reduction of crime and victimization in relation to young persons;
- Assisting in the development of students' understanding of good citizenship
- Diverting young persons away from crime and anti-social behaviour; and
- Working in partnership with other government and community-based organizations to support positive youth development

B. Executive Summary

The School Liaison Program was initiated in January of 2000 with the identified need to increase service delivery to area schools in order to foster and maintain safe, non-threatening environments for students, staff and community members.

At present, the unit consists of one Detective Constable who reports directly to the Detective-Investigative Support. The majority of investigations, being conducted by the unit, can be resolved without imposing federal and/or provincial sanctions upon the offender. There are occasions when the laying of charges under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act or the imposition of Youth Criminal Justice Act provisions is necessary. The use of mediations, conferences, written and verbal warnings and the option of taking no further action are also at the disposal of the Investigating Officer.

C. Activities Related to Mandate

During the 2006 school year, the SLO was primarily engaged in conducting investigations into criminal incidents ranging from assaults, threatening, robbery and drug related activity. Due to the provisions of the Police/School Protocol and the variables of response that are afforded young persons under the Youth Criminal Justice

act, the length of time needed to investigate and properly respond to each incident has dramatically increased.

The SLO's function in the school is not one solely to respond to criminal activity and, as such, it is necessary to be in area schools for other reasons. This necessitated attendance at school sporting events, charity functions, dances, special events and in a ceremonial function at graduation ceremonies. The SLO was present at many functions and was responsible for presentation of "Good Citizenship" awards and bursaries at graduation ceremonies.

The SLO was also involved in meetings involving the coordinated efforts of school officials, the Crown and Youth Criminal Justice Committee members in an attempt to facilitate and streamline the referral of young persons.

During 2006, the SLO authored four Operational Plans facilitating canine searches of local high schools. This was being used as an effective tool to convey the message that illicit drugs were not permitted within our school community.

D. Activity in Addition to Mandate

The SLO continued to be involved in other areas of police interest. Training in Death Notification to the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS) was given. Also, in conjunction with a review of the Nipissing Transition House's Emergency Management Plan, the SLO provided training in recognizing and responding to threatening situations. Through the efforts of the Director – Nipissing Transition House, the SLO became a resource for the Youth Advisory Council, which is a student group that concerns itself with educating others on dating violence.

In addition, throughout the calendar year, the SLO was called upon to assist other members of the Service with the execution of search warrants, specialized surveillance projects and security for the attendance of the Premiere of Ontario.

The SLO continues to sit on a number of Service Committees and is the President of the North Bay Police Association.

E. Training Received

The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander; Barbara Colorosso Workshop

Restorative Justice; Arthur Lockhart Workshop

Cybercops Internet Safety Program for Youth; OPHEA

F. Performance Indicators

In 2006, there were 406 calls for service to schools within the mandate of the School Liaison program. Of these calls, the SLO personally responded to 127.

Thirteen (13) Criminal charges, five (5) Provincial Offences Act notices and twenty-seven (27) youth warnings or diversions were issued by the SLO.

See attached graphs.

G. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Drugs

The use, possession and distribution of illicit drugs in our schools continue to be the major concern. School officials are reporting the emergence of drug use, by students, that is not as easily detectable and identifiable by school staff. This would indicate a movement away from the typical use of marijuana, by the majority of students who are drug users, toward the increased usage of synthetic drugs. Recent court decisions restricting the use of drug detecting dogs in schools will severely hinder the ability of school officials and police to respond to drug activity. As a result of attempts, by the SLO to gain the trust of students, drug information has been gained and given to the JFO Drug Officer for action. Many of the violent incidents taking place on school property are as a result of drug activity. One officer cannot supply a proper response. A joint effort by Street Crime, Drug Unit, Intelligence and the SLO is needed to respond appropriately.

School Safety and Crisis Management Plans

As a result of a number of incidents, including suspicious persons on school property, strangers being observed in washrooms and reports of subjects brandishing knives and guns on school property, there is an identified need to educate our members and school staff on appropriate response to these incidents.

Even though all area schools have established plans in place, many issues have been recognized when attempts are made to implement the plans. There is a need for the NBPS to facilitate a conference where senior school officials and leaders, from all school boards, can come together to discuss the needs of students, staff, parents and police under their respective plans. There has been a definite escalation in the number and severity of incidents, nation-wide, within the school environment. We must make efforts to ensure that these needs are addressed prior to a serious occurrence taking place locally.

Staffing

One of the major aims of police, as identified in the Ontario Northeast Region Police and School Protocol, is to ensure consistency of approach when dealing with schools. There is an identified need that the North Bay Police Service's response to calls for assistance from school officials remains efficient and consistent. There has been, and continues to be, a demonstrated need to increase the allocation of personnel in the School Liaison function to the levels that existed prior to 2004 when the unit was staffed with two officers. Should this recommendation not be possible, a re-examination of the relationship between the School Liaison Officer (SLO) and the Youth Officer could result in the desired response to the needs of the school community. This resolution would also be consistent with the recommendations found in the Service's 2007 – 2009 Business Plan i.e. the identified need that the deployment of personnel must remain flexible to ensure the appropriate level of resources is assigned to any one project.

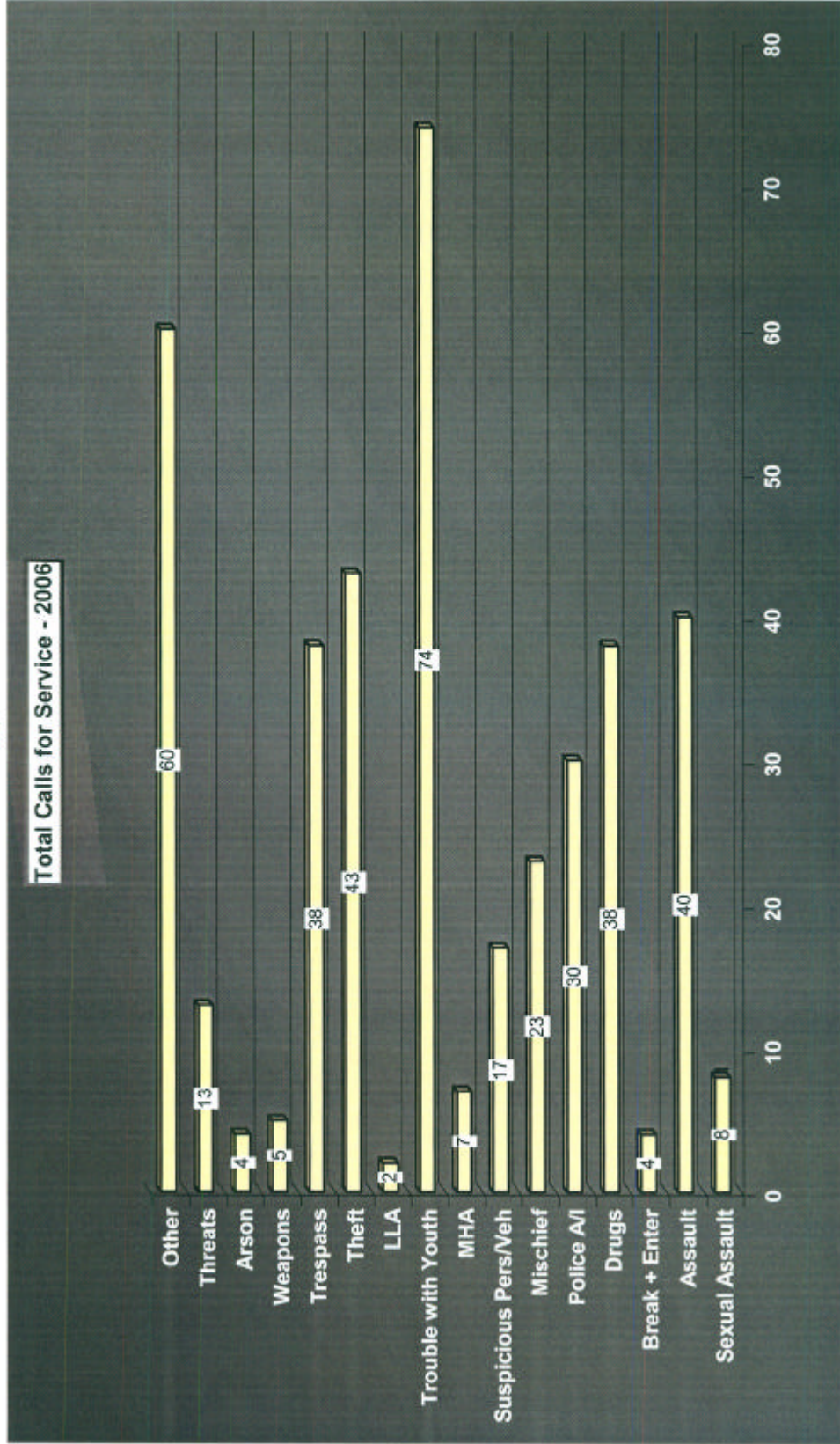
H. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

The SLO must make a move toward a proactive presence rather than being in the schools strictly in a reactive capacity. Patrol staff must augment the efforts of the SLO, this would allow the SLO to address and fulfil the mandate of the program.

I. Appendices

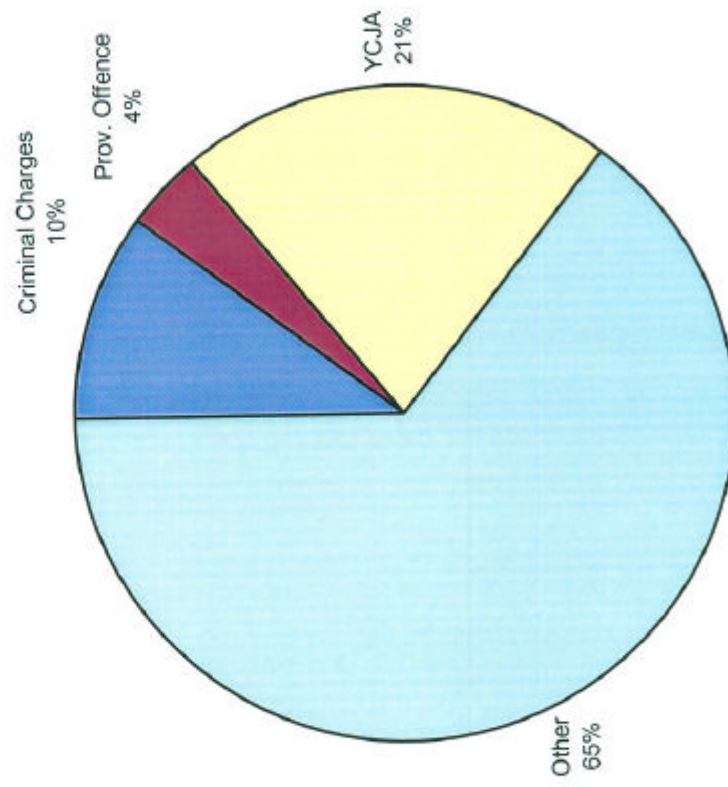
1. Calls for Service - Year
2. Total Calls for Service – Classification
3. SLO Calls – Disposition
4. Charges – YCJA Option

Appendix 1



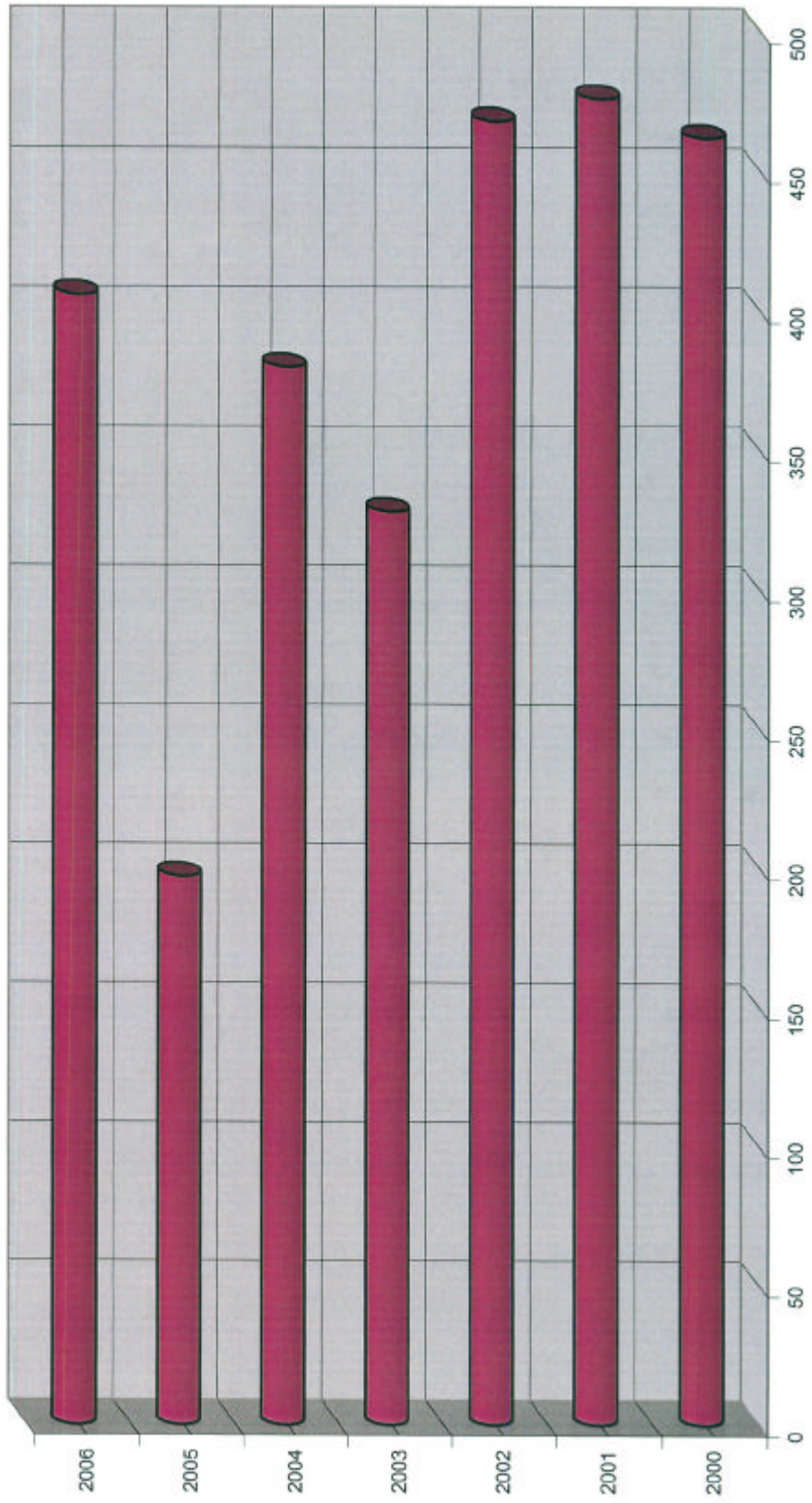
Appendix 2

SLO Calls for Service by Classification



Appendix 3

Annual Comparison Calls for Service



Appendix 4

Annual Comparison Calls - Charges - YCJA Option

