



**Subject:** *Property Crime - Uniacke and Elmsdale Business Parks*  
**To:** Corporate and Residential Services Committee  
**Date Prepared:** October 23, 2023  
**Related Motions:**  
**Prepared by:** Graham Scott, Manager, Economic and Business Development  
**Approved by:** Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services

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### Summary

During 2022 and 2023, Economic and Business Development (EBD) received multiple reports of theft from business owners in the Uniacke and Elmsdale Business Park. Based on these reports, EBD has engaged the RCMP for further analysis.

### Financial Impact Statement

There is no financial impact from further examination to verify the increased incidents of unreported crime.

### Recommendation

There is no recommendation with this report as it is presented for informational purposes.

### Recommended Motion

There is no recommended motion with this report as it is presented for informational purposes.

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### Background

During 2022 and 2023, Economic and Business Development received multiple reports of theft in the Business Parks from business owners, although antidotally more incidents were mentioned by business owners as not being reported. Based on these reports, property crime, theft, and break-and-enter incidents, appear to be increasing in frequency and are not being consistently reported to law enforcement. In addition, in conversations with local business owners, there has been a growing sentiment that East Hants needs to be involved in managing and finding solutions to crime issues in the park, beyond crime prevention measures that individual property owners can implement.

Previously, in 2015, Council explored the option of an area rate in the Elmsdale Business Park to implement a security service(C15(138)). A petition vote was conducted and at the time it did not have the majority of support from the business owners.

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### Discussion

In October, Economic and Business Development contacted the East Hants RCMP detachment to gather data on the number of crime incidents that Officers responded to in the Business Parks. The RCMP provided a detailed analysis of incidents which has been attached to this staff report for Council to review. Over the past two years, 44 occurrences in total were reported to the RCMP. The RCMP responded to 24 incidents in the Elmsdale Business Park and 20 incidents in the Uniacke Business Park. For this report, the Milford Industrial Park was not included.

Currently, Economic and Business Development provides educational campaigns on preventative business security practices to local businesses in the business parks and East Hants overall. This is completed as part of the Division's annual marketing plans and is delivered through e-newsletters, social media, and direct

communication. In addition, the Division provides the local business community with issue reporting through our business support ticketing system and works one-on-one with those local businesses in the Business Park when they are affected by crime.

In response to these incidents, Economic and Business Development will be setting up public meetings with Businesses in the Business Parks to discuss concerns and issues they have. These will be scheduled over Q3-Q4 based on availability.

The RCMP has suggested additional prevention measures including the installation of cameras in the Business Parks and on-site security. Both of these options would have significant financial and operational considerations that would need to be explored.

It should be noted that Council has been steadily investing in additional RCMP resources that will work towards 24-hour coverage. Council could also consider requesting additional patrols in the business parks as resources allow. This would not mitigate the risk completely however, more presence throughout the overnight hours may help to deter crime in those areas.

#### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This initiative aligns with the East Hants Strategic Plan 2021 goals of a strong community and economic prosperity by creating a safe environment where businesses can thrive.

#### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Not applicable.

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No financial considerations.

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## Alternatives

1. That Corporate and Residential Services recommends to Council to provide further direction to Staff.

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## Attachments

Crime Report on East Hants Business Parks.pdf