

Police Facility Task Force

Headquarters location and the impact on crime.

May 16, 2022

During the April 25, 2022, meeting of the Police Facility Task Force, the question was asked; “Does the location of a police headquarters have an impact on crime?” It was requested that I report back to the Task Force regarding this question.

I have conducted a search, to locate published research that addresses this question. Ideally, I was looking for examples from Ontario or within Canada. I have found no documented research or analysis that addresses a headquarters location and the impact on crime. We inquired with Laurier Brantford professors to see if they were aware of any research on this topic. Unfortunately, they were unable to locate any, as there appears to be a lack of exploration in this area.

In summary, it is unclear if locating a police headquarters in the downtown would contribute to a reduction in crime or create a perception of safety. However, options such as, a police presence in a current facility, such as the Laurier Brantford campus and/or enforcement programs, such as the Special Constable project, could assist with enhancing our presence and a sense of security downtown.

At this time, I cannot offer any supporting documentation that indicates moving the police headquarters to the downtown core will have any impact on crime rates.

Jason Saunders

Deputy Chief.