



**CONCLUDED
PROBLEM REPORT
PS-1**

Problem ID: 60

Reporting Division :NORTH

District:

Neighbourhood: MONTROSE

Address: 12027-65 STREET

Reg	Rank	Last Name	First Name
1580	CST	PATON	R
1791	CST	HOULE	M

Key Description : NEIGHBOUR TROUBLE

Problem Description:

The neighbour to 12027 - 65 Street contacted the turf constable to voice concerns over the happenings at the location. The neighbour had mobilized the neighbourhood against the excessive pedestrian/vehicular traffic, the noise and parties at all hours, and the overall disruptive activity from this home and its occupants.

Police had responded to the location previously for a dispute arising out of an apparent drug deal gone bad. While it was noted to be a problem location, no police action was taken apart from separating the contrabands. This was only a harbinger of bad things to come as the property evolved into a flop house for all kinds of undesirables and showed all the signs of being a drug house. Area residents appealed to elected officials, various City departments and the police to deal with the problem.

Problem solving strategies and results :

A background check of the residence revealed the lone true occupant to be one Wayne BEFUS, 32 years. Suffering from a longstanding medical/physical condition, BEFUS was a recipient of the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program. The home itself had been purchased by his brother for the sole purpose of giving him a home. BEFUS would live here rent free, while this same brother would act as the trustee for the AISH cheque. The brother lives about an hour outside of Edmonton and apart from ensuring adequate grocery supplies on a weekly basis, Wayne BEFUS was essentially left to his own devices.

Wayne's disability leaves him just on the edge of where he can barely fend for himself without supervision. As a result, the home was entirely unkept inside and out, and his own personal appearance suggested poor physical health and condition. Further, the residence had become a magnet for a host of undesirables including prostitutes, small-time drug dealers, other homeless people and a transient party crowd. While clearly being taken advantage of, BEFUS was nevertheless a willing participant in this never-ending party.

Contact with the brother and the remainder of the family was the first step taken in searching for a solution to this problem. It was evident that Wayne is viewed as a burden to the family. While assistance was being granted, it appeared that their help was heavily influenced by an "out of sight/out of mind" mentality. Regardless, a few positive steps were realized, it was agreed that current living conditions were not in Wayne's best interests and an agreement was searched whereby police could do spot checks and evict free-loaders. It served to open a dialogue between police and Wayne and his brother. Perhaps the greatest success realized from this first step was a clean-up of the property and some attention to this dilapidated house. At the very least, it was no longer the eyesore it once was.

The next step was to consult with the AISH program. They acknowledged that it was less than an ideal situation but they were working hard towards some semblance of reintegration for Wayne to get back into society. An agreement was reached that AISH would act if it could be demonstrated that Wayne was the author of any criminal activity.

During this entire process, police enlisted the help of neighbouring residents in watching over the location. Combined with surveillance and constant police attention, it was concluded that the BEFUS residence had become a drug distribution point. All the other unlawful and disruptive activity was just an extension of this root problem.

As an adjunct to an ongoing undercover drug operation, BEFUS was charged with two counts of trafficking. He

ultimately served seven months in custody and has since been released. Despite all of this, AISH case workers did not follow through on their earlier assurance. There would be nothing forthcoming on the funding front that would curtail a possible repeat incident.

In a letter to the regional director for Alberta Family and Social Services, Cst. Houie outlined his concerns over the situation and the fact that AISH workers had recanted. As a result, a new action plan was worked out. AISH conducted a home visit to assess the lifestyle situation for Mr. BEFUS and charted out a case plan. This case plan outlines corrective action that must be undertaken forthwith or funding would be jeopardized.

Withing eighteen months of coming to police attention, a workable solution is in place. A review of the BEFUS house has revealed a substantial amount of drop in traffic and there is nothing to indicate anymore drug activity.

This initiative serves as a reminder of the obstacles an officer may be forced to overcome to alleviate a situation. BEFUS himself became less cooperative as time went by when it became apparent that police were determined to alter his illegal lifestyle. The brother felt it necessary to contact Internal Affairs, alleging "harrassment" on his brothers behalf. His initial support of police initiatives quickly waned when it looked like Wayne may be forced out of Edmonton. Even a government agency recanted on earlier assurances that they would support our efforts until they were brought back on line by head office.

Finally, the neighbours continue to voice concern. Spoiled by earlier success when BEFUS was incarcerated, they feel this problem will be solved only when BEFUS has been forced from his home. Many times a solution can be found by simply moving a part of the problem away, but in this case, this was not an alternative.