

## **Auckland City Centre Resident's Group**

### Policing Levels in the Central Area June 2018

*Figures & commentary provided by NZ Police at the June Meeting of the Taskforce on alcohol and community safety in the central city.*

The central area covers from Ponsonby Rd to the hospital and is basically the area enclosed by the inner-city motorways.

The Auckland City District stretches between Herne Bay and Freeman's Bay to the north, St Heliers to the east, Onehunga in the south and Avondale in the west. It includes Waiheke and Great Barrier Islands. It is divided into three specific areas: west, east, and central.

Policing levels in the central area:

- Police Safety Teams or incident cars (24/7 staff who respond to 111 calls: For Auckland City these consist of three sections of a sergeant and at least 6 constables, one section in each area: Central, West and East. There is often an overlap and at peak times of 2200hrs to 0300hrs on Saturday nights there are two sections working in each Area.
- Beat Section: three sections of one Sergeant and 8 staff, one section works 24/7 presence on the street Thursday through to Sunday morning.
- Road Policing Team: Sergeant and 6 staff on rotating shifts
- Police support unit: Sergeant and 6 staff – 2 sections of this team with one section working late shifts Thursday through to Sunday morning.
- Area prevention team: Sergeant and 8 staff
- Alcohol harm team (a preventative focus, working closely with security guards and reporting on licensing applications and issues): 2 Sergeants, 5 staff, 1 admin.
- The police also have an extensive camera network in the central city which is continuously monitored and allows for regular prevention and response

In early week day shifts teams are spread a bit further afield, while Thurs, Fri, Sat evenings they are more focused patrolling central city area. Teams can be tasked to specific areas if needed, and if something major additional police staff can be called in from all other Auckland districts within 20 mins. At any time, staff numbers can be bolstered up.

Auckland is a safe city by any measure and NZ Police are committed to making it as safe as Possible that the greatest risks are generally overnight Wednesday through to Sunday morning and to police this Auckland City Police have a roster which means they work more hours of night time than anywhere else in the country. For example, the ten-hour late shift starts at 2pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, then Thursday it starts at 3pm, Friday at 4 pm and Saturday at 5pm. In every other Police District these shifts do not start after 3pm. Night shift always starts at 10pm so you can see we have a bigger overlap between the shifts at the busy end of the week.

It is acknowledged that any safety incident in the city can lead to a perception that the city centre is unsafe. The media is sometimes not helpful in these situations, and it is hard to get the positive messages out.