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bating organized crime both in Halton and at a provincial level.

When asked by police board chair Jeff Knoll whether Halton residents should be worried about this increase in crime, Tanner noted they should be concerned.

"I would say citizens in Halton and everywhere with the trends we've been seeing should be concerned," he said.

"We need our citizens to be cognizant of what's going on. Just because we're saying Halton is the safest large municipality in Canada doesn't mean everyone is safe every day."

Tanner called on residents to be on the lookout for suspicious activity in their neighbourhoods and noted they can help the situation by doing things like purchasing anti-theft devices for their vehicles.

Camera footage either at a home or at a business can also be a great help to

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police investigations when a crime does happen, he said.

Tanner said Halton police are working hard to deal with the increase in crime and pointed to recent local successes such as Project Eleanor, which saw the recovery of 32 stolen vehicles valued at \$2.2 million and the arrest of seven people on numerous charges.

Project Armadillo, a 12-month investigation into overnight residential break and enters targeting high-end vehicles, resulted in two arrests, 40 charges and two firearms recov-

ered, Tanner noted.

The report also looked at human trafficking, noting that so far this year the human trafficking unit has laid 142 charges, which is significantly higher than 82 charges laid by the unit in 2021.

Hate crimes were also discussed with the report noting that in 2021 there were 64 reported hate/bias motivated occurrences in Halton.

So far this year there have been 45 of these incidents, including 20 in Oakville, 13 in Burlington, eight in Milton and four in Halton Hills.

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