



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Toronto Police Service – 2007 Annual Report

Date:	July 21, 2008
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the City of Toronto - Executive Committee with the 2007 Annual Report of the Toronto Police Service.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications in regard to the receipt of this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on June 19, 2008, the Toronto Police Services Board was in receipt of reports from the Chief of Police regarding the 2007 Annual Report and the 2007 Annual Statistical Report (dated May 05, 2008 and June 17, 2008 respectively).

COMMENTS

The Toronto Police Services Board received the Chief's reports and a deputation by Mr. Geoff Currie. The Board also referred a written submission provided by Mr. Harvey Simmons to the Chief for consideration in the preparation of future annual statistical reports.

A copy of Board Minute No. P164/08, in the form attached as Appendix "A", regarding this matter is provided for information. Copies of the 2007 Annual Report and the 2007 Annual Statistical Report are also attached for information.

CONTACT

Chief of Police William Blair
Toronto Police Service
Telephone No. 416-808-8000
Fax No. 416-808-8002

SIGNATURE

Alok Mukherjee
Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Board Minute No. P164/08
Toronto Police Service 2007 Annual Report
Toronto Police Service 2007 Annual Statistical Report

APPENDIX A

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD HELD ON JUNE 19, 2008

#P164. 2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

The Board was in receipt of the following report dated May 05, 2008 from William Blair, Chief of Police:

Subject: 2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board receive this report and forward a copy to the City of Toronto Executive Committee.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendation contained within this report.

Background/Purpose:

Each year, the Toronto Police Service (Service) prepares an Annual Report on activities during the previous year. The report focuses on the individual and collective accomplishments of frontline members, sworn and civilian; it highlights innovation and achievement and contains a section highlighting the 50th anniversary of the Service.

Discussion:

The report provides highlights relating to Service priorities, major Service initiatives and community events for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2007. The annual publication will be available in limited, hard-copy quantities. The full report is also available on the Service internet site, <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca>.

Conclusion:

The Service is comprised of men and women who are committed to improving the quality of life in our city. The Annual Report highlights accomplishments of the past year and illustrates ways in which the Service effectively moves towards the accomplishment of its goal.

Deputy Chief Jane Dick, Executive Command, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

The Board was in receipt of the following report dated June 17, 2008 from William Blair, Chief of Police:

Subject: 2007 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board receive the 2007 Annual Statistical Report.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendation contained within this report.

Background/Purpose:

At the Board meeting on November 15th, 2007, a deputation was delivered by Professor Harvey Simmons of York University and the Toronto Police Accountability Coalition, recommending that an annual gun audit be provided to the public (Min. No. P349/07 refers). In response to the deputation, the Board approved the following motion:

“THAT Chief Blair be asked to report annually to the Board with a compilation of statistics on gun use and seizures and that this information be included in the Service’s Annual Report”.

Discussion:

Attached for the information of the Board is the 2007 Annual Statistical Report. As in previous years, the report provides an overview of operational, crime, traffic, and other policing data. In addition, a new section has been added to the report, outlining data relating to firearms seizures and thefts (pages 31 to 34). The Annual Statistical Report is available to the public on the Service’s website at <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca>.

Conclusion:

Deputy Chief Jane Dick, Executive Support, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report

Copies of the 2007 Annual Report and the 2007 Annual Statistical Report are on file in the Board office.

The Board was also in receipt of a written submission dated June 18, 2008 from Harvey Simmons, Toronto Police Accountability Coalition, with regard to the “Firearm Seizures and Thefts” statistics contained in the 2007 Annual Statistical Report. A copy of Professor Simmons’ written submission is attached to this Minute for information.

Mr. Geoff Currie was in attendance and delivered a deputation to the Board regarding the 2007 Annual Statistical Report.

Chief Blair noted Professor Simmons' recommendation to identify the classification of the firearms in the Crime Gun – Firearm Classification table on page 32 of the report in common language. Chief Blair said that the classifications noted in the table are based upon legal terms but that he would include a description for each of the legal terms in future annual statistical reports.

The Board received the foregoing reports from the Chief and received Mr. Currie's deputation. The Board also extended compliments to all the members of the Service who were involved in the production of the 2007 Annual Report.

The Board referred Professor Simmons' written submission to the Chief for consideration in the preparation of future annual statistical reports.

The Board also clarified that, in future, the narrative and statistical reports together constitute the required annual report.

The Board agreed to forward a copy of this matter to the City of Toronto – Executive Committee for information.

To: Deidre Williams, Toronto Police Services Board

From: Harvey Simmons

Date: June 18, 2008

Subject: "Firearms Seizures and Thefts," 2007 Annual Statistical Report, Toronto Police Services

On 15 November 2007, on behalf of the Toronto Police Accountability Coalition, I requested that the TPSB publish an annual gun audit providing details on guns recovered by the Toronto Police Services during the year. That report has now appeared in the 2007 Annual Statistical Report of the TPS. I would like to thank Chief Blair for his quick response, but I think that the report needs some clarification.

According to the chart on "Firearms Seizures," 2,603 firearms of all types were seized by the TPS during 2007, 817 in a crime situation and 1,786 in non-crime situations.

Unfortunately, the report does not provide any further information on these firearms. For example, it would be helpful to know how many of the 2,603 total were obtained on the black market or from private owners, or gun clubs, or dealers, etc. Apparently the Toronto police do have information on the provenance of firearms because a 5 May 2008 article in *The National Post* quoted an "anonymous TPS officer" who stated, "More than 70% [of firearms seized by Toronto police] come from the U.S." But this statistic is not included in the report.

The issue is also confused by "Stolen Firearms—Recovered by Toronto Police Services" which reports that, in 2007, a total of 70 stolen firearms were recovered by the TPS. But how does this relate to the 2,603 total seized by the TPS in 2007? Are the 70 stolen firearms counted as part of this total?

Three charts also should be clarified: Chart I: "Guns Reported Stolen to TPS"; Chart II: "Firearms Thefts-By Premise Type;" and Chart III: "Stolen Firearms—Recovered by TPS"

While Chart I states that 70 guns were reported as stolen, Chart II states that only 45 firearms thefts occurred--a difference of 25 firearms. Chart III reports that 70 stolen firearms were recovered by the TPS in 2007. But the figure of 70 firearms recovered exceeds the total number of firearms thefts on Chart II, and implies the TPS recovered all 70 guns reported stolen to the TPS—which is hardly likely.

Chart II also states that of the 45 firearms thefts that occurred in 2007, 38 (84%) came from "residential" sources. However, the same anonymous TPS officer quoted above also stated that "about a quarter of the firearms seized by Toronto police turn out to be stolen from legal gun owners." But if 2,603 firearms were seized during the year, this would mean that about 650 guns were stolen from legal gun owners. How does this square with the figure of 38 reported stolen from residential sources? Moreover, the report should really explain where these "residential" sources are located: Toronto? Ontario? Elsewhere?

The chart, “Crime Gun-Firearm Classification” includes guns classified as “Prohibited,” of which the police seized 322 in criminal incidents, but another category is “Prohibited Weapon,” of which the police seized 0. What is the difference between these two categories?

There is no information on how many, if any, of the 2,603 guns seized were registered.

There is no information on what percentage of gun crimes were committed with guns stolen from owners, although *The National Post* (5 May 2008) quotes “city bureaucrats” as claiming that “up to 40% of gun crimes in Toronto are committed using firearms stolen from their rightful owners,” whereas, according to the NP, “RCMP and OPP estimates are closer to just 10%.”

It might be helpful if, in the chart on “Crime Gun-Firearm Classification,” the various categories, “Prohibited, Restricted,” etc., were defined in layman’s terms.

Do the charts, “Top 10 Manufacturers by Firearm Type” and “Top 5 Calibres by Firearm Type” refer to the 2,603 firearms seized last year? If so, this should be made clear.