



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Toronto Police Service: 2009 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report

Date:	June 04, 2010
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to submit a copy of the Toronto Police Service's 2009 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on April 22, 2010, the Toronto Police Services Board was in receipt of a report, dated March 23, 2010, from Chief of Police William Blair containing the Toronto Police Service's 2009 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

COMMENTS

The Board received the Chief's report and agreed to forward a copy to the City of Toronto – Executive Committee for information.

A copy of the Executive Summary to the Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report is attached for information. A copy of the complete report has been filed with the Committee Administrator.

A copy of Board Minute No. P105/10, in the form attached as Appendix "A", regarding this matter is provided for information.

CONTACT

Chief of Police William Blair
Toronto Police Service
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SIGNATURE

Alok Mukherjee
Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

ATTACHMENT

A: tps_2009 annual report_hate bias crime statistics.doc

Appendix “A”

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD HELD ON APRIL 22, 2010

#P105. 2009 ANNUAL REPORT: HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICS

The Board was in receipt of the following report dated March 23, 2010 from William Blair, Chief of Police:

Subject: 2009 ANNUAL HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICAL REPORT

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board receive this report for information; and
- (2) the Board forward a copy of this report to the City of Toronto Executive Committee for information.

Financial Implications:

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

Background/Purpose:

The Hate Crime Unit of the Intelligence Division has collected statistics and has been responsible to ensure full and thorough investigation of hate/bias crime offences since 1993. Attached is the 2009 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

Discussion:

The year 2009 was characterized by strengthened relationships with our community partners, education and a commitment to encouraging greater public reporting of hate crimes. Approximately 5,250 Toronto Police Officers completed hate crime training in 2009. The Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit partnered with the Empowered Student Partnership Program to target the public school system in the area of hate/bias crime education. Furthermore, the Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit partnered as a committed member of the Policing Standards Advisory Committee Hate Crimes Working Group which was developed to address the recommendations/findings of the 2006 Hate Crimes Community Working Group report which impacts directly on policing and seeks to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims of hate/bias crimes.

Conclusion:

In summary, this report provides the Board with a comprehensive overview of the Hate/Bias crimes reported and investigated in the City of Toronto in 2009.

Deputy Chief Anthony Warr, of Specialized Operations Command, and representatives of Intelligence Division will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have.

The Board received the foregoing report and agreed to forward a copy to the City of Toronto – Executive Committee for information.

A copy of the Executive Summary to the Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report is attached for information. A copy of the complete report is on file in the Board office.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains salient information about the hate/bias victimization of various racial, religious, ethnic and other groups within the City of Toronto for 2009. In addition, this report provides information specific to community groups that were the target for Multi-Bias hate crimes.

In 2009, in the City of Toronto, there was an increase in reported hate/bias crimes from the previous year. There were 174 hate/bias occurrences recorded in 2009 in contrast with 153 recorded in 2008. These figures represent a 13.7% increase from the previous year. Over the past seventeen years, the average number of reported hate/bias occurrences is 201.

Although there was an increase in occurrences for 2009, the number of arrests and charges remained relatively the same as the previous year, with 23 persons arrested. However, the number of hate/bias motivated charges increased from 40 charges in 2008 to 50 charges in 2009. As in previous years the low number of arrests for hate/bias motivated offences is partly due to the fact that a large bulk of the occurrences involve mischief (i.e. graffiti) where there is little or no suspect description, as many of these occurrences transpire without the victim or witnesses present. The ability to apprehend suspects for hate/bias motivated offences in the absence of any suspect description is difficult at best.

Since 2007, the three most targeted/affected victim groups have included the Jewish community, the Black community, and the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community in various orders. The most targeted/affected victim group for 2009 was the Jewish community, followed by the LGBT community and the Black community. The most commonly reported hate/bias motivated offence in 2009 was Mischief, followed by Assault and Threatening. The Jewish community is the most affected victim group for mischief occurrences, while the LGBT community is the most affected victim group for violent hate/bias motivated crimes, such as attempt murder, assault, and threatening.

It is important to recognize in evaluating this report that the information contained herein is an analysis of reported hate/bias motivated crime within the City of Toronto, and may not be a true reflection of the prominence of hate/bias crimes that permeate our society. The concern is that there may be a lack of reporting. The Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit recognizes this reality and consistently endeavours to encourage public reporting of hate crimes.