

June 13, 2017

Councillor Mark Grimes  
Chair  
Etobicoke York Community Council  
399 The West Mall  
Toronto, ON M9C 2Y2

**RE: Support for Toronto Police Services' School Resource Officer Program**

Dear Chair Grimes,

The Toronto Police Services Board is considering the suspension of the School Resource Officer program, through which uniformed officers are present in Toronto-area schools.

Chief Mark Saunders has urged the public to proceed with caution, and emphasized the need for further dialogue and understanding on such a dramatic decision. Since 2008, more than 30 officers have been stationed at 75 schools across the city with the support of the federal government.

Integrating such an essential agency of public safety into our educational institutions is a critical way of developing and reinforcing better relations between law enforcement and the broader community. Given the exceptional work that the Toronto Police Services carry out, including responding to mental health calls, I believe that our children should learn in an environment where they can be exposed to and understand the police's fundamental principles and commitment to integrity and safety.

Rather than perpetuate misunderstandings or distrust of law enforcement, the School Resource Officer program can foster a positive environment and further dialogue amongst the impressionable, young minds of our children.

Therefore, I ask that Council consider this joint letter in regard to the following:

**That Etobicoke York Community Council express its support for the School Resource Officer program, and that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the attention of the Toronto Police Services Board.**

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti  
Ward 7, York West

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Councillor John Campbell  
Ward 4, Etobicoke Centre

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Councillor Vincent Crisanti  
Ward 1, Etobicoke North

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Councillor Justin Di Ciano  
Ward 5, Etobicoke-Lakeshore

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Councillor Frank Di Giorgio  
Ward 12, York South-Weston

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Councillor Sarah Doucette  
Ward 13, Parkdale-High Park

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Councillor Michael Ford  
Ward 2, Etobicoke North

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Councillor Mark Grimes  
Ward 6, Etobicoke-Lakeshore

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Councillor Stephen Holyday  
Ward 3, Etobicoke Centre

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Councillor Frances Nunziata  
Ward 11, York South-Weston

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Councillor Cesar Palacio  
Ward 17, Davenport