



John Tory
Mayor

Date: August 22, 2019

To: Chair and Members, Budget Committee & Executive Committee

From: Mayor John Tory

Re: Additional funding to support Toronto Police Service's immediate response to increased levels of gun violence and to keep communities safe

Dear Chair and Members:

Over the last several weeks we have seen a spike in gun violence in Toronto that is deeply troubling and absolutely unacceptable.

The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto are all committed to stopping gun violence. That commitment includes ensuring that our police officers have the resources they need to keep neighbourhoods safe.

One of my principal priorities as Mayor has been to work with other governments in order to deliver on our priorities and get results for the people of Toronto. That is why I brought all three levels of government together to provide \$4.5 million to the Toronto Police Service to help fund additional initiatives to address the current violence. As you know by now, Chief Saunders has outlined, as appropriate, how those resources will be deployed.

The other governments agreed to provide funding to support immediate police efforts to keep communities safe and to help redouble efforts to prevent criminal activity and combat the activities of street gangs.

By way of this letter, I am asking the committee to approve a \$1.5 million contribution to the Toronto Police Service's budget (our share of the \$4.5 million total) in order to assist Chief Mark Saunders in the deployment of additional resources to help reduce further violent incidents.

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This additional funding is an important step in addressing a need to keep our streets safe. As Mayor I am continuing to work with my counterparts at the federal and provincial governments to obtain additional resources for the purposes of investing in communities to address the roots of violence and I continue, as agreed by City Council, to advocate for changes to our laws to strengthen penalties for those caught engaging in gun violence or gun trafficking.

I look forward to working collaboratively with many of you during this term and beyond to continue to develop productive public policy tools that can reduce gun violence in our city.

Background:

At its meeting of July 23, 2018, City Council adopted CC44.14 "Immediate Steps to Address Gun Violence." The report contained measures to address both immediate violence intervention and long-term prevention. The increased funding of \$4.5 million to the Toronto Police Service by all three levels of government fits into the immediate violence intervention category.

As part of the long-term prevention measures, City Council directed the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to apply for grants up to \$32.6 million over five years from the Federal National Crime Prevention (NCP) Strategy. At the end of July 2018, SDFFA applied for 5 grants to support community violence prevention initiatives with a focus on vulnerable youth and crisis management, including \$2.6 million to support and enhance implementation of measures in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy. The Federal government confirmed funding for one initiative and confirmation of funding for the remaining is pending. I have reached out to the Federal government requesting that the remaining funding be approved on an expedited basis.

Link to report:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.CC44.14>

Recommendation:

It is recommended that City Council increase the 2019 Operating Budget for the Toronto Police Service by \$4.5 million gross and \$0 net to fund the Project Community Space program, with increased gross expenditures offset by \$4.5 million in added revenue from a combination of \$3.0 million in Federal and Provincial funding and a one-time draw of \$1.5 million from the City's Tax Stabilization Reserve.

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto