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## 2020 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Neighbourhood Community Officer Program

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#### Issue:

At its meeting on January 17, 2020, Budget Committee requested the Chair of Toronto Police Services Board to provide a budget briefing note ([BU14.2](#) Motion 5j) on the following:

1. The list of 10 neighbourhoods included in the expansion of the Neighbourhood Officers Program; and
2. The rationale for the allocation of the 40 net new Neighbourhood Officers across the 10 neighbourhoods.

#### Background:

- The pilot for the enhanced Neighbourhood Community Officer Program (NCOP) started on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The eight City of Toronto Neighbourhoods selected for the enhanced Pilot were: Lambton Baby Point, Weston-Pelham Park, Islington City Centre West, Etobicoke West Mall, Oakridge, Kennedy Park, L'Amoreaux and Malvern.
- On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the enhanced Neighbourhood Community Officer Program expanded across the city in to all Divisions, incorporating 25 additional neighbourhoods which already had the Neighbour Officer Program in place.
- As part of the Board's 2020 Operating Budget for the Toronto Police Service, the Board is requesting funding for an additional 40 Neighbourhood Community Officers. If granted, this funding will allow the Service to expand the Program to an additional 10 City neighbourhoods – a move towards the ultimate goal of having the Program in every neighbourhood of the City.
- At this time, the Service has not determined which 10 additional neighbourhoods the Program will be expanded to, if budget funding is ultimately provided. This analysis is still being undertaken, and is comprised of weighing multiple factors.

#### Factors for determining where to deploy Neighbourhood Community Officers:

- The enhanced Neighbourhood Community Officer Program aligns its neighbourhoods with defined City of Toronto Neighbourhoods. This is intended to create more consistent access to services.

- When the Service determines where to place Neighbourhood Community Officers (NCOs), it considers the following factors:
  - *The nature and volume of crime within the various neighbourhoods.* The Service conducts this analysis using the Statistics Canada Crime Severity Index variables, which provides a sense of serious crime across each neighbourhood. Statistics Canada gives different offence types different weight based on severity (level of violence) or seriousness and volume. Examples of specific crimes that fall within this Index are: murder, firearm offences, robbery, sexual assault, assault, human trafficking, break and enter, drug offences, motor vehicle offences (i.e. impaired driving, fail to remain causing injury or death), thefts, and mischief;
  - *Socio-economic characteristics and perception data.* The Service examines socio-economic data available by neighbourhood, as well as survey-based perception data, including fear of crime. This data is obtained from Statistics Canada and the City of Toronto). This data is also used by the City of Toronto to determine its Neighbourhood Improvement Areas;
  - *Persons in crisis calls for service.* The Service will also consider information related to the volume of calls for persons in crisis that it receives, broken down by neighbourhood.
  - *Motor vehicle collisions.* As part of its analysis, the Service specifically examines numbers of motor vehicle collisions, broken down by neighbourhood.
  - *Local police and community input.* Finally, the Service will assess additional input it receives from officers already deployed in the neighbourhoods and local residents, businesses, community organizations and other partners (e.g. schools). This allows the Service to identify emerging or significant neighbourhood issues that should be considered in its overall assessment.

### **Discussion:**

- No final determination concerning the ultimate deployment of these new NCOs has been made. The Service is still in the process of engaging in its decision-making and applying the various factors, outlined above. Should City Council ultimately approve the budget request, the Service will deploy these new NCOs to the additional 10 neighbourhoods on a rolling basis, with full deployment completed by February 2021.
- In addition, it is important to note that a minimum of four Neighbourhood Community Officers (NCOs) are required per neighbourhood, for the following reasons:
  - During consultations, the community was clear that having NCOs available and accessible in their communities on a daily basis was a priority. Taking this into consideration, the most practical approved shift that achieved this was the 8 days on, 6 days off schedule. Given this schedule, having a minimum of 4 officers allows divisions to deploy two teams of two officers each, in the neighbourhood, 7 days a week, which aligns with the community's articulated priority.

- Having two NCOs per team allows them to respond effectively and safely to priority calls for service in their neighbourhood. It also allows for greater flexibility and availability to attend community meetings and events.

**Conclusion:**

Expanding the Neighbourhood Community Officer Program into an additional 10 City of Toronto Neighbourhoods speaks specifically to Recommendation #33 of *The Way Forward*, and to the Board's and Service's goal of being where the public needs the Service the most, embracing partnerships to create safe communities and focusing on the complex needs of a large city.

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**Prepared by and Further Information:**

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