



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Review of Court Services, Toronto Police Service

Date:	June 12, 2008
To:	Toronto Police Services Board
From:	Jeff Griffiths, Auditor General
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Attached is the Auditor General's report entitled "Review of Court Services, Toronto Police Service." This review was conducted as part of the Auditor General's 2007 Annual Work Plan.

The objective of this audit was to assess and determine the extent to which resources of the Toronto Police Service were deployed efficiently and effectively in ensuring courthouse security and prisoner transportation, and to identify potential opportunities for cost savings.

The issues identified in our report center around three separate but related themes. These themes relate to the following areas:

- Funding arrangements pertaining to court security and prisoner transportation;
- Administrative and staff resource issues identified within the jurisdiction of the Toronto Police Service; and
- Administrative, staff and facility resource issues identified outside the jurisdiction of the Toronto Police Service.

Our review identified the need for a fundamental change in the funding relationship between the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario in relation to court security and prisoner transportation. The Toronto Police Service is in the position of having to adjust to increasing provincial demands in court security and prisoner transportation services without any authority or control over related funding decisions.

Many of the issues raised in this report are complex and difficult to remedy because of the various governmental jurisdictions involved in the administration of the judicial process. While we have identified opportunities for efficiencies and cost savings within the jurisdiction of the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Police Service under current funding arrangements has no option but to continue to operate within a system which is inherently inefficient and over which the Police Service has limited control. Changes in funding arrangements will likely provide a catalyst for the Province to consider changes in order to reduce overall court services costs.

During the course of our review, we have met frequently with members of the Toronto Police Service to discuss issues identified during the review. Many of these issues have the potential to reduce Court Services operating costs. Several of the issues identified were acted upon immediately upon notification to management. Other issues are currently being evaluated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Auditor General recommends that:

1. the recommendations in the attached Auditor General's report entitled "Review of Court Services, Toronto Police Service" be adopted; and
2. this report be forwarded to the City's Audit Committee for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The implementation of recommendations in this report will improve operational efficiency and result in cost savings related to court services in Toronto. While these initiatives may result in cost savings up to \$1 million, any significant cost savings can only be achieved through a closer coordination of all aspects of court services between the Toronto Police Service and the Province of Ontario.

DECISION HISTORY

The review of the court services function of the Toronto Police Service was requested by the Toronto Police Chief. The Chief expressed concerns relating to the escalating costs of this particular function, and as a result, requested an independent review of this area by the Auditor General in order to determine whether or not there were opportunities to reduce costs.

The Chief's request was approved by the Toronto Police Services Board at its January 2007 meeting. The Terms of Reference for this particular review was presented to the Toronto Police Services Board and to the City's Audit Committee in April 2007.

In view of the significant costs involved in Court Services, the Auditor General included this particular project in his 2007 Annual Work Plan.

COMMENTS

The report entitled “Review of Court Services, Toronto Police Service” is attached as Appendix 1. The Chief of Police, in a separate communication, has prepared a detailed response to the report.

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SIGNATURE

Jeffrey Griffiths, Auditor General

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Review of Court Services, Toronto Police Service