

NOTICE OF MOTION

ETOBICOKE YORK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Formation of the West-Toronto Crime Task Force

Moved by: Councillor
Seconded by: Councillors

**Palacio
Nunziata, Di Giorgio &
Saundercook**

SUMMARY:

Recently, a number of high profile incidents of crime including shootings and stabbings have raised concerns over community safety and violence in the former Cities of York and Toronto. This raises the need for a complete, community-driven approach in dealing with crime and crime prevention initiatives. Problem addresses and establishments, including public places, have become a pervasive problem that require complete co-operation of all City departments, government agencies and stakeholders to resolve.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s Councillor Palacio led a small group of City Officials known as the “Ward 17 Crime Task Force”. A similar Task Force was also set up by Councillor Frances Nunziata in her Ward. Constituents would report problem locations to the Councillor’s office and monthly meetings would be convened with all relevant City departments including the Police, Municipal Licensing and Standards, Toronto Fire, Public Health, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission, among others. This proved to be an effective means of identifying problematic locations and ensuring that prompt action was taken in a co-ordinated way, by all City departments and stakeholders.

This co-ordinated approach among stakeholders results in increasing efficiency by reducing lost time and duplication, while saving taxpayers money. Officials were expected to report back to the next meeting, if not sooner, as to what progress had been made in laying charges, or taking whatever other action might be appropriate, including shutting down commercial establishments or revoking business licenses.

Although this part of the City is considered relatively safe, recently gangs and guns including the hard core criminal element from other parts of the City are moving into these areas, therefore, we must be proactive.

As a City, community safety and crime prevention is everybody’s business.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council endorse and authorize the formation of a new West-Toronto Crime Task Force, that will include Ward 17, Ward 11, Ward 12 and Ward 13.

2. That regularly scheduled monthly meetings be convened, as required, with representatives of the Toronto Police Service (including Parking Enforcement), Municipal Licensing and Standards, Toronto Buildings, Public Health, Toronto Fire, Alcohol and Gaming Commission to deal with it in a more comprehensive, cohesive and co-ordinated way, to address issues where crime is known or is suspected to be taking place. Any confidential information must be provided to staff in advance and brought forward by the local City Councillors, on behalf of their community.
3. The first meeting of this Task Force is to take place at the York Civic Centre the first week of October, 2008, or soon thereafter, and City staff be requested to invite existing local community groups and BIA's to attend this important meeting.
4. The City of Toronto Police Chief, or his designate, be invited to attend this initial meeting, in conjunction with heads or designates of different City divisions or government agencies.

September 9, 2008