

Extract of Item EY19.39 of the Etobicoke York Community Council meeting held on September 9, 2008.

Other Items Considered by the Community Council

(The Community Council is authorized to take certain actions without Council's approval.)

EY19.39	ACTION			Ward: 17
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Formation of the West-Toronto Crime Task Force

(September 9, 2008) Member Motion from Councillor Cesar Palacio

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Etobicoke York Community Council approved the following:

1. That at its meeting on October 7, 2008, the Etobicoke York Community Council consider the formation of a West-Toronto Crime Task Force, consisting of the Councillors for Wards 7, 11, 12, 13 and 17.
2. That the five Councillors determine the Terms of Reference in accordance with Chapter 27-130 B. of the Procedural By-law.
3. That the City Clerk be requested to bring forward to the October 7, 2008 meeting a Clerk's Impact Statement.
4. That regularly scheduled monthly meetings be convened, as required, with representatives of the:
 - Toronto Police Service
 - Toronto Parking Authority
 - Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
 - Municipal Licensing and Standards
 - Toronto Buildings
 - Toronto Public Health
 - Toronto Fire Services; and
 - Transportation Services

to address issues where crime is known or is suspected to be taking place in order to deal with it in a more comprehensive, cohesive and co-ordinated way.

5. That the first meeting of the Task Force be held at the York Civic Centre, 2700

Eglinton Avenue West, as soon as possible, and that the West-Toronto Task Force invite:

- Police Chief
- President, Toronto Parking Authority
- Chief Executive Officer, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
- Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
- Chief Building Official/Executive Director
- Medical Officer of Health
- Fire Chief
- General Manager, Transportation Services
- Representatives of local community groups; and
- Representatives of Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)

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.

Background Information

Motion

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ey/bgrd/backgroundfile-15531.pdf>)

