



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Police Service: 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report

Date:	April 4, 2014
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive Committee with the Toronto Police Service's (Service) 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications with regard to the receipt of this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on March 13, 2014 the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) was in receipt of a report dated February 10, 2014 from William Blair, Chief of Police, with regard to the Service's 2013 Annual Hate Crime/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

COMMENTS

The Board approved the Chief's report and agreed to forward a copy to the City of Toronto – Executive Committee for information.

CONCLUSION

A copy of Board Minute No. P46/14, in the form attached as Appendix "A", regarding this matter is provided for information.

A copy of the Executive Summary to the 2013 Annual Hate Crime Report is contained within Appendix A. A copy of the complete report can be accessed on the Toronto Police Service website: www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications.

CONTACT

Chief of Police William Blair
Toronto Police Service
Telephone No. 416-808-8000
Fax No. 416-808-8002

SIGNATURE

Alok Mukherjee
Chair

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A – Board Minute No. P46/14

a: Annual Report_2013 hate crimes.doc

APPENDIX A

THIS IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD HELD ON MARCH 13, 2014

#P46 ANNUAL REPORT: 2013 HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICS

The Board was in receipt of the following report February 10, 2014 from William Blair, Chief of Police:

Subject: ANNUAL REPORT: 2013 HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICS

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board receive this report for information; and
- (2) the Board forward a copy of this report to the City of Toronto Executive Committee for information.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Background/Purpose:

The Toronto Police Service Intelligence Services - Hate Crime Unit has collected statistics and has been responsible for ensuring full and thorough investigation of hate/bias crime offences since 1993. Attached is the 2013 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

Discussion:

The year 2013 was characterized by strengthened relationships with our community partners, education and a commitment to encouraging greater public reporting of hate crimes.

In 2013, Toronto Police Service (Service) members completed the *Hindu Religion - Items of Religious Significance* training module. The module was a mandatory on-line course that was created by the Toronto Police College and offered on-line through the Canadian Police Knowledge Network. The module was developed to enhance officer awareness about the Hindu religion and the items and customs associated with the faith. In addition, the module reviewed the Service procedures when handling items of religious significance and interacting with persons of the faith. In 2013, the *Hindu Religion - Items of Religious Significance* training module was completed by 5001 Service members.

The Hate Crime Unit has been an active member of the provincial Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT) since 2005. The HCEIT consists of members from fifteen Ontario Police Services that receive provincial funding for their joint collection and sharing of information, enforcement and education on hate/bias crimes. In 2013, HCEIT formed partnerships with the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police.

In 2012, the Ontario Police College in partnership with the HCEIT created an Advanced Hate Crime Investigators Course for police officers across Ontario. The course focuses on enhanced understanding of investigating hate/bias crimes and the application of federal legislation to hate propaganda. The course was attended by members from Ontario and Alberta Police Services, the Hate Crime Unit and several Service divisional investigators. The course was held at the Ontario Provincial Police Academy in March 2013 and at the Ontario Police College in November 2013. This course will continue to be offered in 2014.

In 2013, the Hate Crime Unit attended provincial hate crime and extremism training relating to hate/bias crime laws and trends, investigative strategies and prosecution of hate crimes with police services, community agencies and partners from across North America. Conferences were attended by the Hate Crime Unit in Toronto and Niagara Falls.

The Hate Crime Unit continued its partnership with the Divisional Policing Support Unit and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Liaison Unit to provide local and international education on LGBTQ awareness including support of the Report Homophobic Violence Period Program.

Conclusion:

In summary, this report provides the Board with a comprehensive overview of the hate/bias crimes reported and investigated in the City of Toronto in 2013.

Deputy Chief Mark Saunders, Specialized Operations Command, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have.

The Board approved the foregoing report.

Moved by: A. Pringle

A copy of the Executive Summary to the 2013 Annual Report on Hate/Bias Statistics is appended to this Minute for information. A copy of the full report is on file in the Board office.

Executive Summary

The Toronto Police Service Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report is an annual report that provides statistical data about criminal offences which are committed against persons or property and are motivated by the victim's race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or other similar factor within the City of Toronto.

This report explains the mandate of the Toronto Police Service Intelligence Services - Hate Crime Unit and the methodology that is used by the Hate Crime Unit to collect the statistical data. The results of the data are based on hate/bias crimes that were reported to the Toronto Police Service between January 1st, 2013 and December 31st, 2013.

This report also provides an overview of the training and education that was provided to officers with respect to hate/bias crimes in 2013, as well as the various community outreach initiatives that were undertaken by the Hate Crime Unit and other units within the Toronto Police Service.

In 2013, there was a decrease in the number of total hate/bias crime occurrences reported to the Toronto Police Service. In comparison to 2012, the number of reported occurrences decreased from 142 to 131 representing a difference of approximately 8%. Over the past ten years, between 2004 and 2013, the average number of reported hate/bias crimes is 144 per annum.

The number of arrests in 2013 increased from 15 persons arrested in 2012 to 17 persons arrested in 2013. As in previous years, the number of arrests for hate/bias motivated offences was attributed to allegations of mischief to property (i.e. graffiti) in circumstances where there was little or no suspect description available. These occurrences frequently transpired without the victim or any witnesses present. These factors add significantly to the challenges in investigating hate/bias motivated offences and arresting suspects.

The three most targeted groups since 2006 have been the Jewish community, the Black community and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community. In 2013, the Jewish community, followed by the LGBTQ community and the Black community were the most victimized groups.

The three most reported criminal offences motivated by hate/bias in 2013 were mischief to property, assault and criminal harassment. The Jewish community and the Black community were the most victimized group for mischief to property occurrences, while the LGBTQ community was the most victimized group for assault and criminal harassment occurrences.

When more than one identifiable group (i.e. Catholic and Ukrainian) were targeted in an occurrence the occurrence was categorized as multi-bias. In 2013, 10 of the 131 hate/bias occurrences were categorized as multi-bias. In 2012, 21 of the 142 hate/bias occurrences were categorized as multi-bias. In comparison to 2012, the number of occurrences categorized as multi-bias decreased by approximately 54% in 2013.

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Since the publication of the first Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report in 1993, hate/bias crimes have been most commonly motivated by the following five factors: race, religion, multi-bias, sexual orientation and nationality.