Recommendations Arising from the Community Safety Task Force

Date: June 17, 2014
To: Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From: Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to request that the Executive Committee approve recommendations arising from the Community Safety Task Force’s report entitled Final Report – Community Safety Task Force.

RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that:

(1) the Executive Committee request Toronto City Council to request the Province of Ontario to:

   a. through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), require Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) to provide funding to housing organizations (or through community agencies to housing organizations) similar to that being piloted at 291 George Street with the Toronto Central LHIN and social agencies, reducing costs for emergency room visits, policing and for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation while also reducing the number of tenants being taken to the Landlord and Tenant Board;

   b. increase funding for supportive housing;

   c. through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care or Local Health Integration Network, increase funding for existing supportive housing agencies operating in Toronto Community Housing Corporation space under an agreement. Increases would be based on a flexible model, if we could demonstrate that there is a spike in activity or supportive need based on agreed indicators;
d. provide funding for building retrofits and new construction to increase sound-proofing in Toronto Community Housing Corporation buildings (to mitigate noise, a major anti-social behaviour issue);  
e. create an exception, under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), for Toronto Police Service to share information with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) regarding incidents on TCHC property; and  
f. review the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) to identify opportunities to expedite the eviction process in cases where eviction is merited; and

(2) prior to approving recommendation no.1, the Executive Committee consult with the Information and Privacy Commission and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, as appropriate, in order to identify and address any privacy or human rights issues that may arise with respect to these recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
The Toronto Police Services Board is not aware of the extent to which the approval of the foregoing recommendations may result in financial implications to the City of Toronto.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
At its meeting on May 15, 2014, the Toronto Police Services Board (the “Board”) was in receipt of a report from Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair of the Community Safety Task Force, entitled Final Report – Community Safety Task Force (the “Task Force report”).

COMMENTS
After considering the Task Force report and comments made by several deputants, the Board approved, with some amendments, the recommendations contained in the Task Force report. The Board also approved a number of Motions arising from the Task Force report and deputations. The recommendations pertaining specifically to the City of Toronto have been summarized above.

CONCLUSION
A copy of Board Minute No. P115/14, in the form attached as Appendix “A”, regarding this matter is provided for information.

Copies of correspondence sent to Chief of Police William Blair and Chair Bud Purvis with regard to recommendations that have been directed to the Toronto Police Service and Toronto Community Housing Corporation, respectively, are appended in the form as Appendix “B” for your information.
CONTACT
Chair Alok Mukherjee
Toronto Police Services Board
Telephone No. 416-808-8080

SIGNATURE

______________________________________
Alok Mukherjee
Chair

ATTACHMENT
Appendix A – Board Minute No. P115/14

x: tche_taskforcerecommends.doc

c: Mr. Bud Purves, Chair, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
Chief William Blair, Toronto Police Service
Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair, Community Safety Task Force
Members, Community Safety Task Force
Dr. Anne Cavoukian, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
Commissioner Barbara Hall, Ontario Human Rights Commission
#P115. COMMUNITY SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

The Board was in receipt of the following report April 30, 2014 from Frances Nunziata, Member, and Chair, Community Safety Task Force, and Councillor, City of Toronto:

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY TASK FORCE (CSFT) REPORT

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. The Board approve the 10 recommendations included in the final report of the Community Safety Task Force appended to this report,

2. The Board correspond with the Chair of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) Board of Directors to encourage it to:

   (a) consider the formalization of a strategic partnership and sustainable relationship focussed on community safety, between TCHC, Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board; and,
   (b) form Safety Committees at all TCHC buildings, to be comprised of tenants, representatives from TCHC and representatives from the Toronto Police Service

3. The Board forward this report to the Chief of Police with a request that he report to the Board on the feasibility of implementing Recommendations 1 and 2 in the CSTF report,

4. The Board forward this report to the TCHC Board of Directors, and to the City of Toronto Executive Committee with a request that they approve and take any necessary action to implement the recommendations in the CSTF report,

5. The Board request that the Chief of Police engage in an ongoing dialogue with the City's relevant division and agencies, boards and commissions to develop a 'definition' of community safety and associated metrics; and,

6. The Community Safety Task Force meet in the fall of 2014, to review responses to the recommendations in its final report and to further consider the results of the consultation requested in Recommendation 5, noted above.
Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising from the Board’s consideration of this report.

Background/Purpose:

At its in camera meeting on January 23, 2013, the Toronto Police Services Board approved my motion to establish a Task Force with membership from the Toronto Police Services Board, the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), the City’s Employment and Social Services Unit and two community and/or tenant representatives to look at options to improve overall security and community safety on, and adjacent to, TCHC properties. The Task Force was also to consider practices and partnerships to enhance security. The Board agreed that I will chair the Task Force.

At its meeting on February 19, 2013, the Board further approved the inclusion of Somali-Canadian youth on the Task Force.

In proposing the establishment of this Task Force it was my hope that we could further expand on, and advance, the existing partnership between the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and the City of Toronto, to further improve safety in our City.

Discussion:

The CSTF Terms of Reference established that, in the course of its work, the Task Force, would consult with a wide spectrum of TCHC resident groups and stakeholder organizations from surrounding neighbourhoods, subject matter experts and other community members including Somali-Canadian youth and would review the following:

- An inventory of initiatives, practices and partnerships currently in place involving TCHC and the Toronto Police Service (TPS). The Task Force may also consider whether it will compile and review an inventory of initiatives involving various City of Toronto agencies, boards and commissions and other community partners
- An analysis of current crime trends and public safety indicators in, and around, TCHC properties

The Task Force agreed to address the following questions:

1. How effective are the current initiatives, practices and partnerships involving TCHC and TPS? How is success measured?
2. What other agency or community partnerships are in place that address safety and security and assist in crime prevention?
3. What service delivery and/or safety gaps exist?
4. Which gaps are most critical to address?
5. What program or policy changes should be recommended to improve safety?
The Task Force committed to deliver to the Police Services Board, a report proposing a strategy that aims to improve overall security and community safety on, and adjacent to, TCHC properties; the strategy will include measurable objectives where possible. If necessary, the Task Force was to identify recommendations to be directed to other jurisdictions.

The CSTF met on 4 occasions including one meeting which was open to the public and held at the York West Active Living Centre.

At its final meeting the CSTF discussed the importance of a coordinated approach to community safety, particularly as it pertains to the school boards and TCHC. As a result, the CSTF agreed to recommend that the Board correspond with the Chair of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) Board of Directors to encourage it to consider the formalization of a strategic partnership and sustainable relationship focussed on community safety, between TCHC, Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Some CSTF members suggested that this relationship might be codified in a formal protocol, using the existing Safe Schools protocols as a guideline.

In considering the final report, some community members of the CSTF expressed concern that the recommendations did not directly address residents’ concerns. They wanted recognition that poverty and lack of employment opportunities or under-employment may be part of the root causes of compromised community safety. It was suggested that TCHC residents need more opportunities to give input into community safety issues respecting their homes and that there needs to be more discussion about the sources of guns and drugs in communities.

The CSTF decided to convene an additional meeting in the fall of 2014 to gauge reaction to its recommendations and to further consider the need for a definition of community safety and associated metrics.

**Conclusion:**

The appended report is the final report of the Community Safety Task Force (CSTF). It summarizes the considerations of the CSTF and makes 10 recommendations to improve overall security and community safety on and adjacent to Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) properties including new partnerships, legislative changes and a pilot project for an innovative Hub-style approach to community policing on and around TCHC buildings.

The following persons were in attendance and delivered deputations to the Board with regard to this report:

- **Idil Burale** *
- **Miguel Avila**
- **Susan Gapka**
- **Tracey Cook, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards**
- **Steven McCammon, Legal Counsel, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario**

*written submission also provided; copy on file in the Board office.*

Staff report for action on Community Safety Task Force
The Board was also in receipt of a written submission from Zakaria Abdulle, Coordinator, Policing Literacy Initiative. A copy of Mr. Abdulle’s written submission is on file in the Board office.

Following the deputations, Councillor Frances Nunziata responded to questions by the Board. Deputy Chief Peter Sloly, Community Safety Command, also responded to questions by the Board.

The Board approved the following Motions:

1. THAT the Board approve the foregoing report with the following amendments:
   - THAT recommendation no. 1 in the foregoing report from Councillor Nunziata be revised to read as follows:
     THAT the Board approve the 10 recommendations included in the final report of the Community Safety Task Force appended to this report subject to consultation with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC) in order to identify and address any privacy issues;
   - THAT recommendation no. 9 in the final report of the Community Safety Task Force be amended to indicate that the Community Mobilization pilot should be Community “HUB-Style” pilot;
   - THAT an additional recommendation (no. 11) be included in the final report as follows: the Toronto Police Services Board send a recommendation to the TCHC Board of Directors that TCHC Special Constables be trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

2. THAT the Board receive the deputations; and

3. THAT representatives of the IPC be invited to attend a meeting of the Community Safety Task Force.

Moved by: F. Nunziata
March 20, 2014

Attn: Members of the Community Safety Task Force

From: Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair

Re: Final Report - Community Safety Task Force

Summary:

This report is the final report of the Community Safety Task Force (CSTF). It summarizes the considerations of the CSTF and makes recommendations to improve overall security and community safety on and adjacent to Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) properties including new partnerships, legislative changes and a pilot project for an innovative Hub-style approach to community policing on and around TCHC buildings.

Recommendations:

The Community Safety Task Force recommends that the Toronto Police Services Board request that:

(1) Toronto Police Service enter into an agreement with Toronto Community Housing Corporation to access Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera images from TCHC properties

(2) Toronto Community Housing Corporation pursue the proposed partnership with the York West Active Living Centre to provide programming for the tenants of Eagle Manor and possibly, 101 Humber Boulevard.

(3) Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) consider inviting all agencies currently located within TCHC properties to submit proposals for partnerships with TCHC that could enhance the well-being of tenants and enhance safety in and around the properties within which they are located

(4) Toronto Police Service, in partnership with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), undertake a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis of TCHC properties, starting with those reported to have the highest incidents of violent calls in and around the property\(^1\), to identify changes that may be made to enhance safety through environmental design.

(5) Toronto Community Housing Corporation, going forward, commit to consulting with those trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design when building new facilities or retrofitting existing ones.

(6) The City of Toronto request the Province of Ontario to:

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\(^1\) As listed in the report "Toronto Community Housing Corporation" from Chief Blair (April 3, 2013) to the Toronto Police Services Board

Staff report for action on Community Safety Task Force
a. Through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), require Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) to provide funding to housing organizations (or through community agencies to housing organizations) similar to that being piloted at 291 George Street with the Toronto Central LHIN and social agencies, reducing costs for emergency room visits, policing and for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation while also reducing the number of tenants being taken to the Landlord and Tenant Board.

b. Increase funding for supportive housing

c. Through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care or Local Health Integration Network, increase funding for existing supportive housing agencies operating in Toronto Community Housing Corporation space under an agreement. Increases would be based on a flexible model, if we could demonstrate that there is a spike in activity or supportive need based on agreed indicators.

d. Provide funding for building retrofits and new construction to increase sound-proofing in Toronto Community Housing Corporation buildings (to mitigate noise, a major anti-social behaviour issue)

e. Create an exception, under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), for Toronto Police Service to share information with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) regarding incidents on TCHC property.

f. Review the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) to identify opportunities to expedite the eviction process in cases where eviction is merited.

(7) Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) undertake an evaluation of TCHC buildings to determine which may benefit from “seniors only” designation

(8) Toronto Community Housing Corporation ask the City of Toronto to, by way of a written agreement, mandate Eagle Manor, located at 1901 Weston Road, a seniors-only building

(9) Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) endorse the establishment of a Community Mobilization pilot and advise the Toronto Police Service of which property, among the 25 TCHC buildings with the highest number of violent calls for service and greatest number of quality of life issues, would be ideal for this pilot.

(10) Upon receipt of the information requested in recommendation #9, Toronto Community Housing Corporation lead the development and implementation of the Community Mobilization pilot program.

Background/Purpose:
At its in camera meeting of January 23, 2013, during the consideration of a report containing statistical information related to violent crimes that were committed at or near Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) facilities, the Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB) directed the creation of a Task Force with a mandate to look at options to improve overall security and community safety on, and adjacent to, properties owned by TCHC, with the review to include consideration of practices and partnerships to enhance security (Toronto Police Services Board Minute C3/13 from January 23, 2013 refers).

The TPSB directed that, in addition to representation from the TPSB, the Task Force include representation from the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the City of Toronto’s Employment and Social Services division and two community and/or tenant representatives.
On February 6, 2013, the Board of Directors of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation resolved to support the Task Force established by the TPSB (Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board Report TCHC:2013-08 from February 6, 2013 refers).

The membership of the Task Force was made up as follows:

- Councillor Frances Nunziata, Board Member, Toronto Police Services Board and Task Force Chair
- Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board
- Dr. Dhun Noria, Board Member, Toronto Police Services Board
- Eugene Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Jilian Baker, Tenant Representative, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Jayon Hall, Tenant Representative, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Deputy Chief Peter Sloly, Toronto Police Service
- MPP Laura Albanese, York South-Weston
- MPP Mike Colle, Eglinton-Lawrence
- Munira Abukar, Director, Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board
- Zach Omar, Dixon Youth 4 Youth
- Faduma Mohammed and Idil Burale – Positive Change
- Lekan Olowaye, For Youth Initiative
- Trustee Chris Tonks, Toronto District School Board
- Trustee Frank D’Amico, Toronto Catholic District School Board
- Ted Lis, Director, City of Toronto Employment and Social Services
- Tracey Cook – Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

Advisory members included:

- Inspector Douglas Quan, Toronto Police Service
- Inspector Chris Fernandez, Toronto Police Service
- Joanne Campbell, Executive Director, Toronto Police Services Board
- Sandy Murray, Senior Advisor, Policy and Communications, Toronto Police Services Board

Other representatives included:

- Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Chief Operating Officer, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Patricia Narine, Director, Resident Engagement & Community Development, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Staff Sergeant Steve Pipe, Toronto Police Service
- Lisa Overholt, Senior Director, Community Safety and Council Liaison, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Irwin Stanley, Director, Employment and Social Services

Discussion:
The TPS conducted a spatial analysis of violent crime (i.e. confirmed shootings, street robberies, assaults, homicides, and violent calls for police service) and found that street robberies and assaults were more likely to occur on main roads close to TCHC property, and not within the complex itself, whereas homicides and shooting offences took place on TCHC property. In 2012, over one-quarter of city-wide shootings, and just over one-fifth of city-wide homicides, took place in or around TCHC property. With over 10% of violent crimes city-wide taking place on or around TCHC property, it is imperative that we look at ways to enhance the safety both on and around TCHC properties.
The Community Safety Task Force:

Law enforcement alone cannot address community safety issues on and around TCHC properties. For this reason, the Task Force was established to identify existing partnerships, opportunities to enhance these partnerships, and opportunities for new partnerships as a means to foster community safety.

The Community Safety Task Force considered the following questions:

1. How effective are the current initiatives, practices and partnerships involving TCHC and TPS? How is success measured?
2. What other agency or community partnerships are in place that address safety and security and assist in crime prevention?
3. What service delivery and/or safety gaps exist?
4. Which gaps are most critical to address?
5. What program or policy changes should be recommended to improve safety?

In addition to considering reports from the police and external agencies, the Task Force considered deputations/submissions from members of the public. Key points made by deputants included: overall concern with safety in and around TCHC property including drug and prostitution-related activity; residency as a privilege – not a right; and, the need for increased presence of security/management after hours.

Working Together: The existing partnership between TCHC and TPS

As a first step, the Task Force examined the partnership that currently exists between TCHC and TPS, and ways in which this partnership could be enhanced. This partnership includes practices such as information-sharing, TCHC’s attendance at TPS crime management meetings, and joint patrols and snap inspections by TPS and TCHC, to name a few. Opportunities to enhance this partnership were identified, including enabling the TPS to access TCHC CCTV camera images as they currently do with the TTC.

Partnerships with other agencies

In addition to the partnership that currently exists between TCHC and TPS, partnerships between TCHC and other service agencies were identified. The Task Force was provided with a list of all TCHC properties which house social service agencies. The services provided by these agencies include, but are not limited to, recreational activities, health services, case management, supportive housing and youth programming. It is important to note that in addition to the agencies housed within TCHC buildings, there are many other agencies that utilize TCHC properties to provide services to tenants. The Task Force noted the positive effects these agencies have on the lives and well-being of TCHC tenants, with a view that opportunities to form new partnerships, and enhance existing partnerships, should be explored.

-New Opportunities: York West Active Living Centre-

The York West Active Living Centre (YWALC) was host to one of the Task Force’s meetings, providing members with the opportunity to learn about the services this Centre, located within Eagle Manor (1901 Weston Road), provides. The YWALC, an agency which provides social, recreational, educational and health and wellness programs to those 55 years of age and older in the community, has a lease with TCHC which includes, in addition to rent, 30 membership passes for tenants of the building. The services they provide promote, encourage and support healthy independent living. Opportunity currently exists at Eagle Manor to initiate a partnership with the YWALC to provide programming for tenants in the building, above and beyond the 30 membership passes included in the lease agreement.

Staff report for action on Community Safety Task Force
Eagle Manor has recreational space on the second floor, which used to be heavily used when the building was designated as a senior’s residence. Since this designation was removed, usage of this space has significantly declined, with the seniors in the building consistently reporting that they no longer feel safe in the building and prefer to remain in their units. This is not a healthy way of living. A partnership is currently being explored in which the YWALC would provide both recreational (i.e. line dancing, zumba classes) and social programming in this space, exclusive to TCHC tenants, with benefits which would include: promoting socialization among tenants; reclaiming the second floor space as a safe space to interact with others; and, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for those tenants 55 years of age and older.

In addition to opportunities at Eagle Manor, residents of 101 Humber Boulevard have, upon hearing of the services provided by the YWALC, voiced an interest in opportunities to partake in the programming offered by the Centre. Discussion is currently taking place between TCHC and the YWALC to identify ways in which this building can benefit from the Centre’s programs and activities which would result in the same positive effects as those noted for the proposed partnership at Eagle Manor.

The above opportunities, which will benefit the health and well-being of TCHC tenants, while helping to foster a sense of community within the buildings and should be supported by the Task Force.

Crime Prevention as a Key to Safe Communities

The Task Force identified the role that crime prevention has in maintaining safe communities, with specific focus placed on early intervention with youth. In addition, safety through design, the way in which how the design of the physical environment can help create safer communities, was discussed.

- The Role of Early Intervention -

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program, initiated in 2008, is a partnership between the TPS, the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, in which Officers are assigned to a particular school and work with the students, teachers, administrators and community to promote and maintain a safe school community. The goal of SROs are to establish positive relationships with those in the school community, with a focus on students, by coordinating school lectures, taking part in school activities, and participating in crime prevention activities.

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design -

There are Officers within the TPS who are trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The TPS website explains that:

"CPTED is a crime prevention approach based on a theory that the built environment influences the behaviour of people. The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life. CPTED involves the design of the physical space relative to the needs of the users the normal use of the space the predictable behaviour of the users of the space. Crime decreases if the opportunity to commit the crime is reduced or eliminated. CPTED works by eliminating criminal opportunities in and around your property. This can result in your property being a less appealing target" (Crime Prevention, 2014).
TCHC, in partnership with the TPS, should undertake a CPTED analysis of TCHC properties, starting with those reported to have the highest incidents of violent calls in and around the property\(^2\), to identify changes that may be made to enhance safety through environmental design. TCHC should also commit to, going forward, consult with those trained in CPTED when building new, or retrofitting existing, TCHC facilities.

**Program and Policy Changes: Enhancing safety in our buildings**

It was noted that a key to enhancing safety in and around TCHC buildings is adequately managing and addressing anti-social behaviour of tenants, which is often attributed to mental illness. Without the appropriate supports, tenants exhibiting anti-social behaviour will continue to be a problem for tenants residing in TCHC buildings and the surrounding community.

Numerous ways in which the Province of Ontario can assist in this regard were identified:

1. Through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) require Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) to provide funding to housing organizations (or through community agencies to housing organizations) similar to that being piloted at 291 George Street with the Toronto Central LHIN and social agencies, reducing costs for emergency room visits, policing and for TCHC while also reducing the number of tenants being taken to the Landlord and Tenant Board.

2. Fund more supportive housing

3. Through the MOHLTC or LHIN increase funding for existing supportive housing agencies operating in TCHC space under an agreement. Increases would be based on a flexible model, if we could demonstrate that there is a spike in activity or supportive need based on agreed indicators.

4. Funding for building retrofits and new construction to increase sound-proofing (to mitigate noise, a major anti-social behaviour issue)

In addition to the above, the Task Force identified additional changes to Provincial Legislation which could enhance the quality of life for TCHC tenants:

5. Create an exception, under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), for TPS to share information with TCHC regarding incidents on TCHC property. Currently, the only way TCHC could obtain this information is by summoning the officers to the Landlord and Tenant Board. Having this information in advance can assist in determining whether sending a matter to the LTB is appropriate.

6. Review the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) to identify opportunities to expedite the eviction process in cases where eviction is merited. Currently, it can take more than a month to schedule a hearing related to anti-social behaviour eviction applications. These hearings can be adjourned, causing further delays and rescheduling, and consequently negatively affecting the lives of others in the building for a longer period of time.

\(^2\) As listed in the report "Toronto Community Housing Corporation" from Chief Blair (April 3, 2013) to the Toronto Police Services Board
-Redesignating Buildings as “Seniors Only”

The Social Housing Reform Act, 2001 (SHRA) allowed the City, as Service Manager, to amend, terminate, or replace a mandate (i.e. Seniors, frail seniors, alternative housing, etc.) with a written agreement between the City and the housing provider. At its Meeting of November 26, 2002, Toronto City Council adopted recommendations that allow providers to request special mandates. A provider may approach the City if they do not have a mandate and would like to request one, or if they feel that their current mandate is not appropriate. On January 1, 2012, the SHRA was replaced by the Housing Services Act, 2011 (HSA). The HSA maintained the provision for the housing provider and the service manager to amend, terminate or replace a mandate by way of a written agreement.

Among the concerns the Task Force heard from members of the public was that senior residents in buildings previously designated “seniors only” felt that their safety had been compromised when the building was opened up to other age groups. An example of this is Eagle Manor. While tenancy at this building was opened up to those below 59 years of age due to a high vacancy rate in this building of bachelor apartments, service providers are of the view that if support services are provided in a building, seniors would not be opposed to bachelor units.

Having buildings designated “seniors only” provides a critical mass for service providers to offer support services to those in the building. While not all buildings previously designated “seniors only” may benefit from a redesignation, as the demographics within the buildings may have since changed, an evaluation of these properties should be done to see which ones may benefit from redesignation. The necessary agreements could then be made with the City, as Service Manager, to mandate these buildings as “seniors only.” The transition to a seniors-only building would happen over time, filling units with seniors when they become available (existing tenants would not be forced out, although they could be offered accommodations elsewhere).

Community Mobilization in TCHC Communities: HUB-Style Pilot

In 2011, the Prince Albert Police Service developed the Community Mobilization (CM) approach to policing, which has proven to be successful and has been replicated by other police forces since. Central to the CM approach is partnerships between different government and non-governmental agencies as a tool to identify and intervene in issues before they have the potential of escalating into larger problems.

The CM approach is made up of two elements: the HUB committee and the Centre of Responsibility (COR).

The membership on the HUB committee is made up of both governmental and non-governmental partners including the police, social services, health, mental health, education, and housing, to name a few. The Committee meets regularly to discuss and identify cases of “elevated risk” among individuals or families and then arrange for the appropriate partners to meet with the individuals to offer services and assistance.

The COR, made up of members of various agencies, focuses on community problems. It looks at issues such as addiction and mental health and develops community action plans to address current community issues. Together with the HUB committee, the COR is key to early intervention (Department of Justice, 2014)

It is proposed that a Community Mobilization model, similar to that noted above, be piloted for a TCHC-identified property that is among those on the list of TCHC properties with high incidence of violent calls for service.

Staff report for action on Community Safety Task Force
Conclusion

The promotion, maintenance and enhancement of community safety is not the responsibility of one agency or organization, but a collaborative effort. It is hoped that implementing the recommendations of the Community Safety Task Force will help move towards safer communities for residents living in, and residents living around, TCHC buildings.
Dear Chief Blair:

At its meeting on May 15, 2014, the Toronto Police Services Board (the “Board”) was in receipt of a report from Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair of the Community Safety Task Force, entitled Final Report – Community Safety Task Force (the “Task Force report”).

After considering the Task Force report and comments made by several deputants, the Board approved, with some amendments, the recommendations contained in the Task Force report. The Board also approved a number of Motions arising from the Task Force report and deputations.

A copy of the Minute from the May 15, 2014 meeting regarding the Task Force report is attached for your information. As you will see, several recommendations that were approved by the Board pertain to action that is directed to the Toronto Police Service. I have summarized below the recommendations that are directed to the Toronto Police Service.

The Board has recommended that the Chief of Police:

1. provide a report to the Board on the feasibility of entering into an agreement with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (“TCHC”) to access Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera images from the TCHC properties;

2. engage in an ongoing dialogue with the City’s relevant division and agencies, boards and commissions to develop a 'definition' of community safety and associated metrics;

June 17, 2014
3. as the lead in a partnership with TCHC, undertake a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design analysis of TCHC properties, starting with those reported to have the highest incidents of violent calls in and around the property, to identify changes that may be made to enhance safety through environmental design.

The Board recommends that you implement the foregoing recommendations but, before doing so, you consult with the Information and Privacy Commission and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, as appropriate, in order to identify and address any privacy or human rights issues that may arise with respect to these recommendations.

It is also requested that your representatives on the Community Safety Task Force provide an update to the members of the Community Safety Task Force at a meeting which is expected to be held in the fall of 2014.

If you have any questions with respect to these recommendations, please feel free to contact me at 416-808-8080.

Yours truly,

Alok Mukherjee
Chair

cc: Mr. Bud Purves, Chair, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
    City of Toronto – Executive Committee
    Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair, Community Safety Task Force
    Members, Community Safety Task Force
    Dr. Anne Cavoukian, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario Commissioner Barbara Hall, Ontario Human Rights Commission

attach: TPSB Min. No. P115/14
June 17, 2014

Chair Bud Purves
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
931 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2H2

Dear Chair Purves:

At its meeting on May 15, 2014, the Toronto Police Services Board (the “Board”) was in receipt of a report from Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair of the Community Safety Task Force, entitled Final Report – Community Safety Task Force (the “Task Force report”).

After considering the Task Force report and comments made by several deputants, the Board approved, with some amendments, the recommendations contained in the Task Force report. The Board also approved a number of Motions arising from the Task Force report and deputations.

A copy of the Minute from the May 15, 2014 meeting regarding the Task Force report is attached for your information. As you will see, many of the recommendations that were approved by the Board pertain to action that is directed to the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (“TCHC”).

The following is a summary of the recommendations that are directed to TCHC:

The Board recommends that the TCHC Board of Directors:

1. (a) consider the formalization of a strategic partnership and sustainable relationship focussed on community safety, between TCHC, Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board; and

   (b) form Safety Committees at all TCHC buildings, to be comprised of tenants, representatives from TCHC and representatives from the Toronto Police Service;
2. pursue the proposed partnership with the York West Active Living Centre to provide programming for the tenants of Eagle Manor and possibly, 101 Humber Boulevard;

3. ensure that TCHC Special Constables are trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles;

4. consider inviting all agencies currently located within TCHC properties to submit proposals for partnerships with TCHC that could enhance the well-being of tenants and enhance safety in and around the properties within which they are located;

5. going forward, commit to consulting with those trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) when building new facilities or retrofitting existing ones;

6. undertake an evaluation of TCHC buildings to determine which may benefit from “seniors only” designation;

7. ask the City of Toronto to, by way of a written agreement, mandate Eagle Manor, located at 1901 Weston Road, a seniors-only building;

8. endorse the establishment of a Community Hub-style pilot project and advise the Toronto Police Service of which property, among the 25 TCHC buildings with the highest number of violent calls for service and greatest number of quality of life issues, would be ideal for this pilot project; and

9. upon receipt of the information requested in recommendation #8, TCHC lead the development and implementation of the Community Hub-style pilot project.

The Board recommends that the TCHC Board of Directors approve the foregoing recommendations but, before doing so, it should consult with the Information and Privacy Commission and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, as appropriate, in order to identify and address any privacy or human rights issues that may arise with respect to these recommendations.

It is also requested that your representatives on the Community Safety Task Force provide an update to the members of the Community Safety Task Force at a meeting which is expected to be held in the fall of 2014.
If you have any questions with respect to these recommendations, please feel free to contact me at 416-808-8080.

Yours truly,

Alok Mukherjee
Chair

cc: Chief of Police William Blair, Toronto Police Service
    City of Toronto – Executive Committee
    Councillor Frances Nunziata, Chair, Community Safety Task Force
    Members, Community Safety Task Force
    Dr. Anne Cavoukian, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
    Commissioner Barbara Hall, Ontario Human Rights Commission

attach: TPSB Min. No. P115/14