



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Fire Services – Open Data

Date:	June 8, 2016
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Fire Chief and General Manager, Fire Services
Wards:	All
Reference No:	p:\2016\ClusterB\FIR\cd160010

SUMMARY

This report responds to the Community Development and Recreation Committee’s request for the Fire Chief and General Manager, Fire Services to provide an update on the Open Data initiative with respect to Toronto Fire Services’ (TFS) data. The report addresses the data format of TFS' daily incident responses currently posted on the TFS Website. This report also addresses the use of the “Open by Default” standard, Open Data deliverables in Requests for Proposal (RFP), Open Data in 9-1-1 standards, and TFS annual reporting on new datasets.

TFS is committed to transparency in data reporting. TFS adopted the City’s Strategic Action #13, Open Government by Design, in the Master Fire Plan 2015-2019. Recent requests for large volumes of incident data have encouraged TFS to review both format and content of data as well as how to make data readily available. The data provided in response to these requests will form the basis for TFS Open Data sets. TFS anticipates the release of the datasets by the fourth quarter 2016.

TFS is working with the City’s Information and Technology Division as well as Toronto Paramedic Services (TPS), the Toronto Police Service, the City Clerk’s Office and Legal Services to ensure compliance with the Open Data Policy, and, to ensure that datasets do not contain personal or private information and are published in accordance with the requirements of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fire Chief and General Manager recommends that:

1. The Community Development and Recreation Committee receive this report for information.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts from this report. Costs associated with reporting incident data or the implementation of new reporting applications are included in the 2016 Council Approved Operating or Capital Budgets for City Programs.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

The Executive Committee, at its meeting on May 24, 2016, requested the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, the City Clerk and the City Solicitor to develop an Open Data Strategic Plan to address, among other things, the Open Data challenges and opportunities identified by TFS in its report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX15.25>

At its meeting on March 7, 2016, the Community Development and Recreation Committee (CRDC) requested the Fire Chief and General Manager, Fire Services report back to the CDRC regarding the Open Data initiative with respect to TFS daily incident responses and examine options with regards to the use of the “Open by Default” standard, Open Data deliverables in Requests for Proposal (RFP), Open Data in 9-1-1 standards and TFS annual reporting on new TFS datasets.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CD10.8>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

TFS is committed to transparency in data reporting and has adopted the City’s Strategic Action #13, Open Government by Design, in the 2015-2019 Master Fire Plan. TFS has been publishing Active Incident data online for more than 10 years. The Active Incident webpage, [Toronto Fire/Active Incidents](#), provides high-level incident data from the TFS LiveCAD environment in five minute intervals. The current publication methods are based on demand requirements and the technology available at the time of implementation. Recent requests for large volumes of incident data have encouraged TFS to review both format and content of data as well as how to make data readily available.

COMMENTS

TFS is working with the City's Information and Technology Division as well as TPS, Toronto Police, City Clerk's Office and Legal Services to ensure compliance with the Open Data Policy, and, to ensure that datasets do not contain personal or private information and are published in accordance with the rights of privacy, security and confidentiality as identified in *MFIPPA* and *PHIPA*. In response to the Community Development and Recreation Committee's request, additional information related to TFS Open Data options are noted below:

Open Data and TFS Daily Incident Responses (LiveCAD)

TFS has received Freedom of Information requests for TFS Daily Incident Response data and has provided multiple years of data in response. These data sets will form the basis for TFS Open Data. The datasets will include a comprehensive volume of emergency response statistics and post incident report information.

TFS anticipates the release of the datasets by the fourth quarter 2016. The initial publication is expected to include data from 2010 to 2015 with further updates posted on an annual basis. Data will be provided in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) format. XML can be opened by widely used software and is a widely accepted standard for transferring large and small amounts of data. There are many current examples of XML files being used in the Open Data catalogue.

Making Open Data part of 9-1-1 Standards

9-1-1 is a telephone service across North America that connects a caller to an emergency response centre via telephony network to a Public-Safety Answering Point (PSAP). 9-1-1 calls initiated within Toronto are routed to the Toronto Police Service's Communication Centre which route calls for services to TFS and/or TPS as required.

Standards associated with 9-1-1 calls can only be addressed through the Toronto Police Service. In response to an April 20, 2016 request from the Toronto Police Services Board (Item# P77), the Toronto Police Service will be addressing its publication of data at the July 2016 meeting of the Board.

Open By Default, Open Data Deliverables in RFPs, Open Data Annual Reports

TFS has consulted with the City's Information and Technology Division as well as the City Clerk on the adoption and enforcement of the "Open by Default Standard", making Open Data deliverables part of all RFPs for Software and Services and reporting annually on TFS Open Data. These items will be addressed further by the Chief Information Officer, Information & Technology Division and the City Clerk in their response to the request made by the Executive Committee at its meeting of May 24, 2016 and the Government Management Committee at its meeting of February 22, 2016.

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SIGNATURE



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