



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Toronto Police Service: 2015 Annual Hate/Bias Crime
Statistical Report**

Date:	April 5, 2016
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Andy Pringle, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive Committee with the Toronto Police Service's ("Service") 2015 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 17, 2016 the Toronto Police Services Board ("Board") was in receipt of a report dated February 16, 2016 from Mark Saunders, Chief of Police, with regard to the Service's 2015 Annual Hate Crime/Bias Crime Statistical Report.

COMMENTS

The Board received 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. P56/16, in the form attached as Appendix "A", regarding this matter is provided for information.

A copy of the Executive Summary to the 2015 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 Mark Saunders
Toronto Police Service
Telephone No. 416-808-8000
Fax No. 416-808-8002

SIGNATURE

Andy Pringle
Chair

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A – Board Minute No. P56/14

a: Annual Report_2015 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 17, 2016

#P56 ANNUAL REPORT – 2015 HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICS

The Board was in receipt of the following report February 16, 2016 from Mark Saunders, Chief of Police:

Subject: 2015 ANNUAL HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICAL REPORT

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 (HCU) has collected statistical data and has been responsible for ensuring the thorough investigation of hate/bias crime offences since 1993.

The Toronto Police Service (the Service) Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report is an annual report that provides statistical data about criminal offences that 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. The report also provides an overview of the training and education that was provided to the Service's police officers with respect to hate/bias crimes in 2015, as well as the various community outreach initiatives that were undertaken by the HCU and other units within the Service.

Discussion:

The year 2015 was characterized by strengthened relationships with community partners, education and a commitment to encouraging public reporting of hate/bias crime.

In 2015, there was an 8.2% decrease in the number of reported hate/bias crimes compared to 2014. There are a number of factors that can affect fluctuation in the number of hate/bias crimes and the community groups that were victimized. These factors include international events, community educational programs, hate/bias crime training and increased reporting. The most prevalent hate/bias occurrences were for the offences of mischief to property, assault and criminal harassment. Assault and criminal harassment occurrences were all occurrences that were unprovoked by the victims. As in past years, these kinds of offences occurred in a variety of different locations including private dwellings, public park/streets, schools, and on public transportation.

In 2015, the HCU continued to be an active partner of the provincial Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team (HCEIT). The HCEIT consists of members from fifteen Ontario police services that receive provincial funding for the joint collection and sharing of information, enforcement and education on hate/bias crimes.

Throughout the year, the HCU consulted with community organizations and representatives for the purposes of education, negotiation, mediation for public order and safety, and to address community concerns specific to hate/bias crimes. Moreover, the HCU collaborated with the Service's Divisional Policing Support Unit (DPSU), Muslim and LGBTQ Liaison Officers with regard to outreach in the respective communities. The partnership between the HCU and DPSU provides local and international education on the subject of hate/bias crimes and discrimination to local government and social agencies, community leaders, and police officers.

Conclusion:

This report provides the Board with a comprehensive statistical overview of the hate/bias crimes reported and investigated in the City of Toronto throughout 2015.

Deputy Chief James Ramer, Specialized Operations Command, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

The Board approved the foregoing report.

Moved by: K. Jeffers

A copy of the Executive Summary is appended to this Minute for information. A copy of the full report can be accessed here:

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2015hatecrimereport.pdf>

Executive Summary

The Toronto Police Service Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report is an annual report that provides statistical data about criminal offences that 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.

The report explains the mandate of the Toronto Police Service Hate Crime Unit (HCU) and the methodology that is used by the HCU to collect the statistical data. The data is based on hate/bias crimes that were reported to the Toronto Police Service, hereafter referred to as "the Service" between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

The report also provides an overview of the training and education that was provided to the Service's police officers with respect to hate/bias crimes in 2015, as well as the various community outreach initiatives that were undertaken by the HCU and other units within the Service.

In 2015, there was a decrease in the total number of hate/bias crimes occurrences reported to the Service. In comparison to 2014, the number of reported occurrences decreased from 146 to 134 representing a difference of approximately 8%. Over the past ten years, between 2006 and 2015, the average number of reported hate/bias crimes is approximately 143 per annum.

The number of arrests related to hate/bias crimes in 2015 decreased from 22 persons arrested in 2014 to 19 persons arrested in 2015. 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 significantly added 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 2015, the Jewish community, followed by the LGBTQ community and the Muslim community were the most victimized groups. The three most reported criminal offences motivated by hate/bias in 2015 were mischief to property, assault and criminal harassment. The Jewish community was the most victimized group for mischief to property occurrences, while the LGBTQ community was the most victimized group for assault occurrences. The Muslim community was the most victimized group for criminal harassment occurrences.

There are a number of factors that can affect fluctuation in the number of hate crimes and the community groups that are victimized. These factors include international events, community educational programs, hate crime training and increased reporting.

The regional instability in the Middle East has resulted in the displacement of nearly four million Syrian refugees. In response, the Canadian government committed to resettle 25,000 Syrian

refugees by January 1, 2016. In 2015, the Service has noted an increase in hate/bias crime targeting the Muslim community, specifically during the month of November. This trend may be attributed to negative backlash following the attacks in Paris, France and the government's refugee resettlement plan.

When more than one identifiable group (i.e. Catholic and Ukrainian) was targeted in an incident the occurrence was categorized as multi-bias. In 2014, 14 of the 146 hate/bias occurrences were categorized as multi-bias. In 2015, 10 of the 134 hate/bias occurrences were categorized as multi-bias. In comparison to 2014, the number of occurrences categorized as multi-bias decreased by approximately 28% in 2015.

In 2014, the Canadian Center for Justice Statistics (CCJS) published the Hate Crime Consultations and Recommendation Report. One of the recommendations made in this report was for police services to report hate/bias crimes targeting members of the Transgender community under either the sex and/or gender category for the purpose of comparability across jurisdictions. For the purpose of uniform crime reporting across Canada, the Service adopted the CCJS recommendation. Hate/bias crimes targeting members of the Transgender community have been categorized under the sex category since the 2014 report. Prior to 2014, the Toronto Police Service Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report categorized hate/bias crimes against members of the Transgender community under the sexual orientation category.

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.