
2017 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

PROVINCIAL OFFENCE TICKETS

Issue/Background:

- This briefing note responds to Budget Committee motion 28.1 #11 (b) adopted on December 20, 2016, requesting Toronto Police Service Board (TPSB) and the Chief, Toronto Police Service (TPS) to provide a briefing note on the decline in Provincial Offences Tickets and (1) the reasons for this decline; (2) the absolute change in numbers of tickets from 2006-2016 on the Service's budget.
- The number of Provincial Offences Tickets (POT's) issued began to decline in 2011, but that was in comparison to 2010 during which the highest ticket issuance was achieved by the TPS for the period 2006 - 2016. The real decline actually started in 2012, with the most significant drop occurring in 2013.

Key Points:

Reasons for the Decline in the Number of Provincial Offence Tickets (POTs) issued

- There are a number of operational changes that have occurred over the past few years that have directly impacted the number of Provincial Offences Notices (PONs) issued by the Service. These reasons were outlined in a report requested by the City's Executive Committee from the Toronto Police Services Board in August 2014, and received by the Board at its meeting on October 19, 2015 (Min No. P258 refers, and are summarized below). This report was forwarded to the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.
- Lower Uniform Staffing Levels: A continuing reduction in uniform staffing levels has contributed to a decrease in the number of officers available to engage in proactive enforcement activities. Average uniform deployment started dropping significantly starting in 2012 and continues to decline.
- New Approach to Traffic Enforcement: The Service has generally moved from an enforcement focused approach to traffic safety, to a more balanced crime prevention and community mobilization strategy. The overall objective of this new approach is to achieve improvements in overall traffic safety such as a reduction in the number of vehicle collisions and injuries to the public.

- Provincial Offences Act (POA) Cautions: POA cautions (warnings) were introduced in August of 2013. This process was formalized through the Service's implementation of a new police operations system (Versadex) in November 2013, and it is now used by Service members when conducting traffic investigations in lieu of charges for some POA violations. Officers are encouraged to appropriately use POA cautions as an effective method of positive interaction with members of the public to encourage people to change their driving behavior, without the necessity of laying charges.

The Absolute Change in Numbers of Tickets from 2006 – 2016

Year	POTs	Year to Year Change	2006 to 2016 Change
2006	509,490	~	~
2007	606,188	96,698	~
2008	612,982	6,794	~
2009	623,712	10,730	~
2010	598,534	-25,178	~
2011	597,707	-827	~
2012	530,186	-67,521	~
2013	360,902	-169,284	~
2014	234,149	-126,753	~
2015	252,643	18,494	~
2016	245,799	-6,844	-263,691

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