



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Police Service: 2016 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report

Date:	April 12, 2017
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Councillor Chin Lee, Acting Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive Committee with the Toronto Police Service's ("Service") 2016 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 23, 2017 the Toronto Police Services Board ("Board") was in receipt of a report dated March 2, 2017 from Mark Saunders, Chief of Police, with regard to the Service's 2016 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. P49/17, in the form attached as Appendix "A", regarding this matter is provided for information.

A copy of the Executive Summary to the 2016 Annual Hate Crime Report is contained within Appendix A. A copy of the complete report can be accessed on the Toronto Police Service website: <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/2016hatecrimereport.pdf>

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Councillor Chin Lee
Acting Chair

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A – Board Minute No. P49/17

a: Annual Report_2016 hate crimes.doc

APPENDIX A

This is an Extract from the Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Toronto Police Services Board that was held on March 23, 2017

P49

Annual Report: 2016 Hate/Bias Crime Statistics

A copy of the full report is [here](#).

March 02, 2017 from Mark Saunders, Chief of Police

The following were in attendance and delivered deputations to the Board:

- Dena Smith, Advice Counsel, African Canadian Legal Clinic
- Brenda Ross*

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

The Board approved the foregoing report.

Moved by: S. Carroll
Seconded by: D. Noria



Toronto Police Services Board Report

March 2, 2017

To: Chair and Members
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Mark Saunders
Chief of Police

Subject: 2016 ANNUAL HATE/BIAS CRIME STATISTICAL REPORT

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- 1) The Board receive the following 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 (H.C.U.) 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 hate/bias crimes in 2016, as well as the various education, training and

community outreach initiatives that were undertaken by the H.C.U. and other units within the Service.

Discussion:

The year 2016 was characterized by strengthened relationships with community partners, education and a commitment to encouraging public reporting of hate/bias crime.

In 2016, there was an 8% increase in the number of reported hate/bias crimes compared to 2015. 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 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 2016, the H.C.U. continued to be an active partner of the provincial Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team (H.C.E.I.T.). The H.C.E.I.T. consists of members from 15 Ontario police services that receive provincial funding for the joint collection and sharing of information, enforcement and education of hate/bias crimes.

Throughout the year, the H.C.U. 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 H.C.U. collaborated with the Service's Divisional Policing Support Unit (D.P.S.U.), Muslim and L.G.B.T.Q. Liaison Officers with regard to outreach in the respective communities. The partnership between the H.C.U. and D.P.S.U. provides local and national 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 2016.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Saunders, O.O.M.
Chief of Police

MS/kb

Hatecrimereport.doc

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 factors within the City of Toronto.

The report explains the mandate of the Toronto Police Service Hate Crime Unit (H.C.U.) and the methodology that is used by the H.C.U. to collect the statistical data. The data is based on hate/bias crimes that were reported to the Toronto Police Service, the Service between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

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 2016, as well as the various community outreach initiatives that were undertaken by the H.C.U. and other units within the Service.

In 2016, there was an increase in the total number of hate/bias crimes occurrences reported to the Service. In comparison to 2015, the number of reported occurrences increased from 134 to 145 representing a difference of approximately 8%. Over the past ten years, between 2007 and 2016, the average number of reported hate/bias crimes is approximately 141 per annum.

The number of arrests related to hate/bias crimes in 2016 decreased from 19 persons arrested in 2015 to 11 persons arrested in 2016. 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 (L.G.B.T.Q.) community. In 2016, the Jewish community, followed by the L.G.B.T.Q. community, the Black community, and the Muslim community were the most victimized groups. The three most reported criminal offences motivated by hate/bias in 2016 were mischief to property, assault and criminal harassment. The Jewish community was the most victimized group for mischief to property occurrences; the L.G.B.T.Q. community was the most victimized group for assault occurrences; and 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 reported hate crimes and the community groups that are victimized. These factors include international events, community educational programs, hate crime training, and increased reporting.

When more than one identifiable group (i.e. Catholic and Ukrainian) was targeted in an incident the occurrence was categorized as multi-bias. In 2015, 10 of the 134 hate/bias occurrences were categorized as multi-bias. In 2016, 14 of the 145 hate/bias occurrences were categorized as multi-bias.

In 2014, the Canadian Center for Justice Statistics (C.C.J.S.) 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 C.C.J.S. 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, sexual orientation, multi-bias, and nationality.