



REPORT FOR ACTION

Immediate Steps to Address Gun Violence

Date: July 17, 2018
To: City Council
From: Interim City Manager
Wards: All

SUMMARY

At its meeting of June 26-28, 2018, Council directed the City Manager to request an emergency meeting with the Toronto Police Service, Toronto Community Housing Corporation and appropriate staff to determine what additional resources are needed to take immediate steps to address gun violence in the city, and report back to the July 23, 24 and 25, 2018 meeting of Council.

This report provides information on the emergency meeting, an overview of current initiatives to address gun violence (Appendix A), and a listing of proposed crime prevention actions for investment by the City (Appendix B) and other levels of government for Council's consideration.

This report also seeks authority for the Executive Director Social Development Finance and Administration to request funding of up to \$30.0 million from the Federal government to support Community Crime and Violence Intervention Initiatives and up to \$15.0 million from the Provincial government to support Enforcement initiatives.

The report also requests authority to increase the 2018 Approved Operating Budgets for Social Development, Finance and Administration and Shelter, Support and Housing Administration by \$1.050 million required to immediately implement responses to community violence, with expanded programming subject to confirmation of funding from Public Safety Canada.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Interim City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration (SDFA) to apply for, enter into any necessary agreements, receive, and allocate Federal Government funding for an amount of \$1.050 million in 2018 to immediately implement the Youth Violence Prevention Initiatives and expand the Community Crisis Response Program (as detailed in Appendix B - #1,3,4 and 16);

2. City Council, upon receipt of Federal Government funding authorize the Chief Financial Officer to adjust the 2018 Approved Operating Budgets for Social Development, Finance and Administration by \$0.900 million gross and \$0 net, which will support the addition of 8 temporary positions to the program complement; and Shelter, Support and Housing Administration for \$0.150 million gross and \$0 net, contingent on receipt of funding from the Federal Government;
3. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to apply for up to an additional \$29.0 million in Federal Government funding over a five year period beginning April 1, 2019, for ongoing investments in community violence intervention and prevention programming;
4. City Council authorize the City Manager to request, enter into any necessary agreements, receive, and allocate Provincial or Federal Government funding up to \$15.0 million to support enforcement initiatives, including enhanced surveillance activities and enhanced community security in local communities most impacted by gun violence as detailed in Appendix B, #18, #19, #20;
5. City Council direct the City Manager to report through the 2019 budget process on the impact of these investments and any additional resources required to implement a proactive safe summer plan in 2019; and,
6. City Council forward this report to the Boards of the Toronto Police Service and Toronto Community Housing Corporation for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report requests authority for the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration to apply for, receive and allocate \$1.050 million from Public Safety Canada to deliver immediate community interventions that help prevent community violence.

This report also requests City Council grant authority for the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration to apply for a further \$30.0 million from the Federal government to support Community Prevention and Intervention programming and to request an additional \$15.0 million from the Provincial government to support Enforcement initiatives for 2019 and future years, with programming initiatives outlined in Appendix B.

This report requests authority to increase in the 2018 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration by \$0.900 million gross and \$0 net and increase the approved complement by 8 temporary positions, as well as increase the 2018 Approved Operating Budget for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration by \$0.150 million gross and \$0 net to deliver expanded Community Prevention and Intervention programming as part of an on-going investment in the City's communities to prevent community crime and violence.

Should funding for the requested budget increases not be forthcoming from third party governments, the City Manager will work with other community partners to explore funding opportunities, (including the United Way of Greater Toronto), and report back to Council with a funding strategy.

The City Manager, in consultation with the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration and other City officials, will report the results of the funding requests from the Federal and Provincial governments as part of the 2019 budget process and include service level changes resulting from the negotiations, as well as any additional resources required to implement a proactive safe summer plan for 2019.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of June 26, 2018, Council directed the City Manager to request an emergency meeting with the Toronto Police Service and appropriate staff to determine what additional resources are needed to take immediate steps to address gun and gang violence in our City. Council also requested that:

- the Province amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Civic Remedies Act 2001 to prohibit driving in a motor vehicle in which there is an unlawfully possessed handgun,
- the Federal Government strengthen firearms control legislation (Bill C-71) to allow municipal police services access to legal firearms sales records, and
- the Mayor request the Federal and Provincial governments to review their bail guidelines and procedures to prevent persons with previous convictions involving the possession or use of illegal firearms or use of a firearm to commit a crime from being granted bail.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.MM43.23>

At its meeting of March 5, 2018, the Toronto Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to collaborate with Public Health Ontario and academic partners to develop a research project on the impacts of community violence, and to work with City staff and affected communities to identify effective approaches to shooting incidents.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HL25.6>

COMMENTS

Although Gun Violence creates community safety concerns and issues, gun violence is not a policing issue alone. The roots of community violence stem from inequities in our city and diminishing social determinants of health that often leave young people and their families vulnerable. If left unattended these inequities can manifest into complex conditions including community violence.

Emergency Meeting on Gun Violence

On Tuesday July 10, 2018, the City Manager and Chief of Police co-chaired an emergency meeting of senior staff from Toronto Police Services (TPS), Toronto

Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) and the City to determine what additional resources are required to take immediate steps to address gun violence in the city.

At the meeting it was acknowledged that TPS, TCHC and the City are already working in partnership to address the complex issues related to community violence. See Appendix A - City of Toronto Current Violence Prevention Initiatives for a list of current programs and services underway to promote violence prevention. There was also agreement that solutions require the involvement of many stakeholders and service providers along a continuum of approaches from prevention to intervention to enforcement.

As a result of the meeting a list of proposals from City divisions, TPS and TCHC to address community violence in the city was developed. See Appendix B - Proposed Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Investments. A total of approximately \$30 million dollars over 5 years is required to increase community responses by the City for violence prevention and intervention initiatives. A total of up to \$15 million is required in 2018 and 2019 to support enforcement initiatives, including enhanced surveillance activities and enhanced community security in local communities most impacted by gun violence as detailed in Appendix B.

The partners will continue to monitor the impact of these investments and report through the 2019 budget process for any additional and permanent resources required for a proactive community safety plan in 2019 and beyond. It is anticipated that additional resources required will range between \$10 million and \$15 million per year.

The Government of Ontario and Government of Canada have indicated a willingness to fund programs to support Toronto's immediate response to the increased levels of violence. The Federal Government is currently accepting applications for funding under the National Crime Prevention Strategy to support crime prevention programs for up to five years. Further, the Federal Government committed \$327.6 million in federal funding over five years, and \$100 million annually thereafter in their 2018 budget to support their Initiative to Take Action Against Guns and Gangs. Although still under development, the Initiative is intended to support community-level prevention and enforcement efforts. In its Throne Speech on July 12, 2018, the incoming Provincial Government committed to ensuring Ontario's police services "have the tools, support and resources they need to enforce the law and protect innocent families from the menace of drug, gun and gang-related violence."

This report recommends that the City seek funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments to support community violence prevention initiatives as outlined in Appendix B. Should funding not be approved, the partners will explore other funding opportunities, including discussions with the United Way of Greater Toronto.

At the emergency meeting, the partners committed to continue a coordinated approach to violence prevention. Furthering Our Communities Uniting Services (FOCUS) tables at the local level are well established and will be utilized as a foundation to continue the development and implementation of violence prevention action plans with all partners. FOCUS tables bring together over 150 community partners led by TPS, United Way of Greater Toronto and the City across four Tables (Rexdale, North Scarborough,

Downtown East and Downtown West) where they meet weekly to discuss and intervene in situations of acute elevated risk to crime and victimization.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Appendix A - City of Toronto Current Violence Prevention Initiatives

Appendix B - Proposed Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Investments