

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM43.23	ACTION			Ward:All
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Emergency meeting regarding the increase in gun and gang violence in our City - by Councillor Vincent Crisanti, seconded by Councillor Michael Ford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Vincent Crisanti, seconded by Councillor Michael Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct 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 the spike in gun and gang violence in our City and ways the Federal and Province Government can further assist to implement an expedited sustainable community policing model for our City, and to report back to City Council on the outcome of the meeting.

Summary

Already half way through the year we have seen gun and gang violence in numbers that have significantly surpassed those from last year. Gun related incidents are more frequent and brazen.

The goal of the Toronto Police Modernization plan, "The Way Forward", is to deliver efficient police services in partnership with our communities, to keep Toronto the best and safest place to live and work. However, this process has had a detrimental effect on our police force, civilian workers and the safety of our communities.

From the start, when the initial recommendations were made by the Mayor's Task Force, I was quick to point out and advocated to all levels of government that a hiring freeze was going to spell trouble for our uniformed and civilian workers of the Toronto Police Service. It was basic common sense.

This recommendation has demoralized our frontline officers, with many leaving our force far beyond the predicted number of attrition, which required a late effort to curb this issue by hiring 80 new officers this year. This strategy has essentially left us playing a game of catch up, while those who conduct criminal behaviour have the upper hand, knowing that there are not enough police officers to keep our neighbourhoods safe.

The truth of the matter is that the Toronto Police Service should never have moved forward with a hiring freeze, but would have better served our City by keeping the tap running on hiring to balance the negative effects of the modernization process.

The increase in gun and gang violence shows that we are at a critical point and quick, corrective actions must be taken to keep the people of our City safe.

Our Mayor, Police Chief and Toronto Police Services Board must find a way to fund sustainable community policing and ramp up hiring to have boots on the ground immediately. Sustainable community policing must be of the highest priority while managing costs.

I am recommending an emergency meeting with the City Manager's Office, the Toronto Police Service and other appropriate staff to determine what additional resources are required to take immediate steps to address the spike in gun and gang violence and to expedite a sustainable community policing model.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM43.23