



Budget Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

September 5, 2019

Re: BU 8.10 - Additional Funding to Support Toronto Police Service's Immediate Response to Increased Levels of Gun Violence and to Keep Communities Safe

Dear Chair & Members,

I am writing to request that you support providing at-risk youth with supportive programs as part of our City's strategy to keep communities safe.

Police enforcement is a critical component of addressing gun violence. However, experts cite inequality, poverty, systemic racism, and a lack of opportunity as primary factors influencing whether a teen picks up a gun or chooses a better path in life. The seminal *Review of the Roots of Youth Violence report*, and many other studies, have concluded that the most effective means of reducing gun violence is by providing youth at-risk with access supports including job training, education assistance, recreation, counselling, and mentorship.

Under Council's Direction (CC44.14) an application for a program that would provide targeted support for youth, entitled *TO Wards Peace*, was submitted for federal National Crime Prevention funding in July 2018. The total request to NCP under this application was for \$6,550,000 over 5 years. The application was not approved.

The Budget Committee has an opportunity to fund the *TO Wards Peace* program, consisting of a youth violence prevention framework, methodology, training curriculum, and City coordination and evaluation support for an integrated service model. This wrap around gang intervention/interruption model would combine community based violence interrupters, nurses and family support workers into integrated staff teams working in targeted neighbourhoods.

This application contains preventative measures including:

- Investment in community partners through grants to hire lived-experience violence interrupters and community mentors to deliver the model
- Investment in community partners through grants to hire nurses and family support workers to deliver the model
- Create the referral process for the Toronto Police Integrated Gang Prevention Taskforce to the integrated staff teams

- Link existing intervention models including pre-charge diversion, FOCUS Toronto and through-care models
- Develop a Violence Prevention marketing and communication strategy

Thank you for your consideration on this vital program to support youth in our communities.

Recommendations:

1. That City Council increase the 2019 Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration to implement year one of the TO Wards Peace program. Funding of \$1.292M gross and net to be provided by a one-time draw from the City's Tax Stabilization Reserve.

2. That City Council direct the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration to include year two funding for TO Wards Peace as part of the 2020 Budget submission.

3. That the City Manager report back during the 2020 budget process on a requirement that any funding infusions to the Toronto Police Services budget to address crime stemming from "Guns and Gangs" must be matched with funding to address the root causes of violence and poverty reduction.

Sincerely,

Councillor Josh Matlow
City Councillor
Toronto – St. Paul's
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Councillor Mike Layton
City Councillor
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Immediate Actions to End Gun Violence – TO Wards Peace

Under Council's Direction (CC44.14) an application called *TO Wards Peace* was submitted to National Crime Prevention in July 2018. The total request to NCP under this application was for \$6,550,000 over 5 years. The application was not approved.

Project Title	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	NCP Grant Applied
TO Wards Peace	\$1,292,457	\$1,301,151	\$1,309,921	\$1,318,770	\$1,327,700	\$6,550,000

Project Description:

Provide a youth violence prevention framework, methodology, training curriculum, and City backbone coordination and evaluation support for an integrated service model. This wrap around gang intervention/interruption model would combine community based violence interrupters, nurses and family support workers into integrated staff teams working in targeted neighbourhoods.

This application contains preventative measures including:

- Investment in community partners through grants to hire lived-experience violence interrupters and community mentors to deliver the model
- Investment in community partners through grants to hire nurses and family support workers to deliver the model
- Create the referral process for the Toronto Police Integrated Gang Prevention Taskforce to the integrated staff teams
- Link existing intervention models including pre-charge diversion, FOCUS Toronto and through-care models
- Develop a Violence Prevention marketing and communication strategy