



John Tory  
Mayor

Date: September 17, 2019  
To: Executive Committee  
From: Mayor John Tory  
Re: Investing in Community Based Anti-violence Programs

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Dear Executive Committee Members:

In response to a recent spike in gun violence, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario committed \$3 million to the Toronto Police Service to help fund the deployment of additional resources. I have requested through the City's budget committee that the City match each government's commitment and contribute \$1.5 million to the Toronto Police Service's budget.

We know that violence cannot be solved through policing alone. I have often said that we also need to change our bail system and we need to invest in communities.

In 2018, City Council approved a request to the Federal Government to fund community programs aimed at youth at risk of joining or who are currently members of a gang. The Federal government has confirmed funding for one initiative but several requests are outstanding.

In the interest of investing in communities most impacted by violence, I am asking that City staff review the outstanding requests and identify which program should be prioritized for potential City funding.

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**Background:**

At its meeting of July 23, 2018, City Council adopted CC44.14 "Immediate Steps to Address Gun Violence." The report contained measures to address both immediate violence intervention and long-term prevention. As part of the long-term prevention measures, City Council directed the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to apply for grants up to \$32.6 million over five years from the Federal National Crime Prevention (NCP) Strategy. At the end of July 2018, SDFA applied for 5 grants to support community violence prevention initiatives with a focus on vulnerable youth and crisis management, including \$2.6 million to support and enhance implementation of measures in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.CC44.14>

At its meeting of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Budget Committee adopted BU8.10 "Additional Funding to Support Toronto Police Service's Immediate Response to Increased Levels of Gun Violence and to Keep Communities Safe."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.BU8.10>

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that Executive Committee request the Executive Director Social Development, Finance and Administration to review the outstanding grant requests to the National Crime Prevention Strategy Fund and determine which initiative will make the most meaningful impact to reduce gun violence and the City's long-term Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, and report directly to City Council at its October 2, 2019, meeting.

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John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto