



Toronto Police Services Board

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December 20, 2019

Executive Committee
City of Toronto
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Executive Committee Members,

Re: City of Toronto Council Decisions – Establish Places of Worship Security Task Force

At its meeting held on November 21, 2019, the Toronto Police Services Board was in receipt of a report from Chief Mark Saunders dated October 31, 2019 with regard to the City of Toronto Council Decisions – Establish Places of Worship Security Task Force.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Executive Committee receive this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from the receipt of this report.

COMMENTS

The Board approved the report dated October 31, 2019 and agreed to forward a copy to the City's Executive Committee.

CONTACT

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Toronto Police Service
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SIGNATURE

Jim Hart
Chair

ATTACHMENTS

A copy of Board Minute No. P230/19, in the form attached as Appendix "A", regarding this matter is provided for information.



Toronto Police Services Board Report

October 31, 2019

To: Chair and Members
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Mark Saunders
Chief of Police

Subject: City of Toronto Council Decisions – Establish Places of Worship Security Task Force

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) receive this report for information; and
- 2) 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 Services Board (Board) requested that the Chief of Police report to the Board regarding the approach currently in place and utilized by the Toronto Police Service (Service) to address security and community safety issues concerning places of worship in Toronto, and whether from the Chief of Police's perspective, the establishment of a new Task Force would enhance the current approach (P162/19 refers).

Discussion:

The Service welcomes any opportunity to further develop collaborative partnerships with the community to create safer communities. The Service is also mindful that recent events across the globe have resulted in places of worship being the targets of extremist violence, and that these incidents have caused considerable anxiety within our communities.

There are a number of initiatives established within the Service to enhance information sharing, intelligence gathering and practices to connect persons and organizations with services, to increase community safety and reduce victimization in the community.

Hate Crime Unit - Intelligence Services

The Service has a Hate Crime Unit, which is a part of the Security Section of Intelligence Services.

Recognizing that hate crimes can often be a precursor to extremist behaviour and violence towards an identifiable group, including places of worship, the Security Section's mandate strategically includes investigation into extremism, counter-terrorism, and international assistance.

With regards to extremism and counter-terrorism, to which hate crimes are intrinsically linked, Intelligence Services has developed a robust liaison program with partner police agencies and intelligence partners.

The Service has members embedded within the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.), and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (C.S.I.S.). Having liaison officers strategically placed ensures direct, seamless communication and information sharing between these agencies.

The Service is also a member of the provincial Hate Crime and Extremism Investigative Team (H.C.E.I.T.). H.C.E.I.T. consists of members from fifteen Ontario police services that receive provincial funding for the joint collection and sharing of information, enforcement and education on hate crimes and extremism.

Lastly, Intelligence Services is a part of a global intelligence network that exchanges information pertaining to extremism trends at the provincial, national and international levels.

Information sharing within the Service

Intelligence Services takes the lead in disseminating information to front-line officers to ensure members are aware of religious holidays and events with the direction that officers pay particular attention to places of worship on significant dates.

In addition to specific dates and events, all members are provided access to an Intelligence Services web portal where intelligence such as bulletins, situation reports, academic and industry papers pertaining to hate crime and extremism is disseminated.

The foundation for the Service's response to hate crime is Procedure 05-16 "Hate Bias Crime". This procedure was updated in 2019 to reflect changes in governance and provides clear direction to police officers responding to reports of hate crimes, including notification of a supervisor, the Divisional/District Hate Crime Coordinator (D.H.C.C.) and Intelligence Services.

There are a number of processes in place to ensure the effectiveness of, and adherence to procedure 05-16 including: training, report notifications, meetings and regular discussions with divisional hate crime coordinators, and communications and comparisons with partner agencies. The key to effective hate crime investigation and response is hate crime identification and awareness.

The Ontario Police College (O.P.C.) provides hate crime training to all new recruits during Basic Constable Training as well as to investigators attending the Advanced Hate Crime Officers course. The main learning objectives include identifying and recognizing and understanding hate-motivated criminal offences, ensuring thorough investigations and an appropriate police response including victim support.

Additionally, Service members receive hate crime training within the Countering Violent Extremism module during the General Investigators course, the Youth Investigators course and Counter Terrorism Information Officer workshop. This training is offered at the Toronto Police College.

Under the direction of a Detective Sergeant, each Division/District has a designated D.H.C.C. who is responsible for tracking and assisting hate-motivated investigations within their respective Division/District.

The Hate Crime Unit communicates on a regular basis with D.H.C.C.'s and hosts a year-end annual meeting to review and discuss divisional hate crime cases, classification of hate motivated occurrences, current case law and other trends and issues relating to hate crimes.

Procedure 05-16 "Hate/Bias Crime" requires all front-line officers to notify a Supervisor when responding to hate-motivated incidents and flag the occurrence accordingly in the Versadex – Canadian Centre of Justice Statistics study box.

The Hate Crime Unit receives an automated notification of each occurrence flagged as a hate-motivated crime or a suspected hate-motivated crime. These automated notifications ensure that the Hate Crime Unit is aware of the report and prompts communication between the D.H.C.C. and the Hate Crime Unit. The Hate Crime Unit will provide investigative support and expertise to the division, training and community resources as required.

In addition to the automated Versadex notifications, the HCU conducts a manual “year to date” query at intervals throughout the year to confirm identified occurrences with the respective D.H.C.C. to ensure proper classification and investigative integrity.

The statistical data collected by the Hate Crime Unit is shared with the Province and the Federal government for several reasons including comparing trends, data, identifying concerns, and developing training and resources.

Emergency Management and Public Order

Emergency Management and Public Order (E.M.P.O.) delivers Active Attacker Awareness and Lockdown training to members internally, as well as to private partners in several sectors in the community including hospitals, government agencies, housing corporations, law enforcement, security partners and places of worship.

Training seminars have been delivered to the following community and private partners/agencies and personnel:

- Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Danforth Business Improvement Area
- Humber River Hospital
- Malton Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Office of the Independent Police Review Director
- Responsible Distribution Canada Conference – Emergency Management Staff
- Rogers Communication Inc.
- Sunnybrook Health Services Center
- Toronto Grace Health Center
- Toronto International Film Festival
- Toronto Jazz Festival
- Workplace Safety Insurance Board
- York University

In recent months, due to an increased demand for the seminars, key members in divisions have received the “train-the trainer” Active Attacker Awareness and Lockdown training. In addition, Divisional Community Response Unit and Primary Response officers participate in all Level 3 – live exercises and drills which E.M.P.O. organizes with private partners including Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center and Toronto Grace Health Center. This training increases the member’s

awareness and enhances their readiness in active attacker or extreme event response.

Furthermore, E.M.P.O. has delivered Active Attacker Awareness and Lockdown training to Headquarters personnel.

Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit

The Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit (C.P.E.U.) is a community support unit which engages with all communities and welcomes opportunities to build new partnerships and collaborations.

The Service has eight Race/Ethnic based Community Consultative Committees. These committees currently include the:

- Aboriginal Peacekeeping Consultative Committee
- Asia Pacific Consultative Committee
- Black Consultative Committee
- Chinese Consultative Committee
- French Consultative Committee
- LGBTQ2S Consultative Committee
- Muslim Consultative Committee
- South and West Asian Consultative Committee

Members of the Israeli and Jewish community are currently represented within the South and West Asian Consultative Committee. The South and West Asian Liaison officer has established community contacts and positive working relationships with members of the Jewish Community Center, the United Jewish Appeal Federation of Greater Toronto, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, and the Consulate General of Israel.

In addition to the South and West Asian Consultative Committee liaison officer, C.P.E.U. has a designated a member to be a liaison to the Jewish community.

With regards to places of worship, C.P.E.U. leverages existing Community Consultative Committees (C.C.C.), facilitated by the Community Officers, to address concerns and enhance communication with places of worship.

Furthermore, the Neighbourhood Officer will be an embedded and trusted police officer who is connected with a community, including places of worship, in the neighbourhoods.

The Neighbourhood Officer will collaborate with the community and identify potential information or awareness gaps and facilitate services to enhance safety and reduce victimization.

Conclusion:

This report provides the Board with an overview of initiatives and procedures already established to address incidents of hate crime and extremism, including incidents at places of worship.

The report also highlights the collaborative network the Service has developed with police and intelligence partners to ensure clear and seamless information sharing with respect to hate crime and extremist incidents and trends that may have an adverse effect on the City of Toronto.

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

