

**This is an Extract from the Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Toronto Police Services Board that was held on January 22, 2020**

P9. City of Toronto Council Decision – 2017 Annual Statistical Report

The Board was in receipt of a report dated January 8, 2020 from Mark Saunders, Chief of Police, with regard to this matter.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Toronto Police Services Board (“the Board”) receive this report and forward to the City of Toronto Executive Committee.

Deputation: Derek Moran

**The Board received the deputation and the foregoing report.**

Moved by: U. Chandrasekera

Seconded by: M. Moliner

January 8, 2020

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Mark Saunders  
Chief of Police

**Subject: City of Toronto Council Decision – 2017 Annual Statistical Report**

**Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the Toronto Police Services Board (“the Board”) receive this report and forward to the City of Toronto Executive Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

**Background / Purpose:**

On May 30, 2019, the Board received a report from Chair Andy Pringle and recommended the Toronto Police Service (the Service) respond to a motion from the City of Toronto Council (City Council) to report back to the Executive Committee on the implementation of Toronto Police Service’s (the Service) Open Data Plan, including:

1. Provide its annual reports in a proper digital format;
2. Convert files currently provided in a portable document format (.pdf) on the Toronto Police Service Public Safety Data Portal; and
3. Share datasets on the City of Toronto Open Data Portal, including any issues around public privacy

**Discussion:**

The Toronto Police Service recognizes the value and importance of open data and has made substantial efforts to make relevant datasets, mapping applications, and dashboards available to the public through the Toronto Police Service Public Safety Data Portal.

This work has been central The Way Forward Recommendation #17 to increase public access to data and enhance transparency of public safety information. As a result of the Public Safety Data Portal development and public use, the Service has been recognized

as a global leader with a number of awards including a Special Achievement in GIS Award (ESRI Inc.), Partnership Award (StreetsTO), Science and Innovation Award (FBI NAA Charitable Foundation), Channel Innovation Award (IT World Canada).

Since the launch of the Public Safety Data Portal, the Service has released valuable crime and traffic open datasets along with interactive dashboards and web mapping applications for visualizing information. The Service held several public information sessions, internal trainings and presented at several conferences promoting the use and application of police open data. This outreach has increased awareness of the Service's open data program in the community. Open data has facilitated academic engagement leading to our continual participation in data competitions, hackathons, academic curriculum, internships, and co-op placements. Open data is widely used by residential communities, the media, neighbourhood watch groups, researchers, students and other special interest groups. The information on the Public Safety Data Portal is also regularly utilized in Community Police Liaison Committee meetings.

The Service will evaluate the information currently provided in its Annual Statistical Report (A.S.R) for release as open data beginning in 2020. Additionally, Toronto Police Service annual reports and datasets will also be continuously evaluated for potential release as open data where feasible. In cases where the release of historical open data is notably labour intensive, efforts will be focused on providing the information as open data on a go-forward basis. The Service will assess each point of data and evaluate the potential release of this information as open data in its most granular format. The datasets will be available for download in various standard data formats on the Service's Public Safety Data Portal, alongside a digital version (.pdf) of the report.

## **Open Data**

The A.S.R open data tables first available in 2020 through the Open Data section of the portal and will include, the following categories as currently included in the report:

- Reported Crime
- Persons Charged
- Victims of Crime
- Search of Persons
- Firearms
- Traffic
- Personnel & Budget
- Calls for Service
- Regulated Interactions
- Administrative

## **Data Visualization and Maps**

The A.S.R will include interactive dashboards with visual elements including charts, graphs, maps and infographics that will provide accessible ways to visualize the information.

Privacy and protection of personal identifying information is of the utmost importance in determining an appropriate level of detail to be provided. The Service will provide information at an appropriate level, optimizing its value for public consumption while protecting personal information.

The tentative release for the A.S.R and its accompanying open datasets is Q2 2020. Race-based data collection will commence on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 therefore, considerations for open data will be evaluated for annual release in 2021.

The Service is also currently working with the City of Toronto Open Data Team to make this information available on the City of Toronto Open Data Portal with datasets to be provided as early as Q2 2020 in preparation for release.

## **Conclusion:**

The Toronto Police Service understands the strategic value of providing annual statistical information available as open data that meets accepted industry standards and guidelines. The Service will evaluate the release of this information as a phased approach going forward. Considerations related to privacy of personal and confidential information will be assessed and guide the level of information that can be provided as open data. The Service will continue to work with the City of Toronto's Open Data team to make this information accessible through the City's Open Data Portal.

Ian Williams, Manager of Analytics & Innovation, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board members may have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Saunders, O.O.M.  
Chief of Police

