
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM38.25	ACTION			Ward: All
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Greater Action to Fight Auto Theft in Toronto - by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak

** 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 Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Toronto Police Services Board to engage with the Chief of Police to:
 - a. determine the resources required to re-establish a policing unit specifically dedicated to fighting the increasing problem of auto theft in Toronto; and
 - b. mandate the unit to conduct proactive investigations with partner agencies across Ontario, to ensure greater information sharing and coordination of investigations into high end auto thefts.
2. City Council requests Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to recognize the urgent need to work with and provide resources to the Toronto Police Service to combat this out control criminal activity that cannot be stopped without Provincial and Federal support.
3. City Council call on the Government of Ontario to join with the Toronto Police Service and other municipal police services in creating a Provincial/Municipal Auto Theft Task Force to combat this epidemic of auto theft.

Summary

Auto theft has reached unprecedented and epidemic levels in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area. The Toronto Police Service estimates that 5,347 cars have been stolen in the City so far this year. Auto theft is not a victimless crime but rather it is violent, dangerous and linked to various organized criminal activities. Cars are being stolen and carjacked right out of driveways, loaded into cargo containers and shipped out of Canadian ports to be sold overseas to help fund organized crime.

Auto theft does not respect municipal and provincial boundaries and according to analysis conducted by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, there were over 12,000 auto theft claims in

Ontario in 2020, an increase of 55 percent between 2016-2020.[1] The value of these claims totalled \$250.7 million, an increase of 149 percent over this same period. This costs all vehicle owners, especially in Toronto. A recent Toronto Star article estimates that auto insurance rates in Toronto are 13-15 percent higher than the rest of Ontario to pay for the high rate of vehicle theft in the City.

While auto thefts have been on the rise there is no longer a dedicated unit to address this issue in the Toronto Police Service and some other Ontario municipal police services. In an effort to address operational priorities and pressures the unit that previously existed to address issues such as high end auto thefts was disbanded and investigations of this nature are handled at the unit level.

Auto theft costs Canadians billions of dollars each year. Our local Toronto Police Service cannot deal with this significant criminal industry without Provincial and Federal support.

[1] Insurance Bureau of Canada analysis based on industry data from General Insurance Statistical Agency (GISA) exhibit AUTO7001-ON-2020.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM38.25

Communications (City Council)

- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Steve Koszylowsky (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Michael Lauber (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Greer Wright (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Jeffrey Stutz (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Marvyne Jenoff (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Laura Lamarche (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Shauna Corbin (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Brent McGaw (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Gail Axmith (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Harold B. Smith (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Stephen and Jill Kouri (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Patricia and William Clark (MM.Main)
- (December 8, 2021) E-mail from Terry Lobo (MM.Main)
- (December 9, 2021) E-mail from Michael Ringel (MM.Main)
- (December 9, 2021) E-mail from Roz Hobson (MM.Main)