



December 11, 2021

To:

City Council: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

CC:

Mayor John Tory: mayor_tory@toronto.ca

Premier Doug Ford: Premier@ontario.ca

The Hon. Marco Mendicino, MP: Marco.Mendicino@parl.gc.ca

Robin Martin, MPP: robin.martin@pc.ola.org

Councillor Mike Colle: councillor_colle8@toronto.ca

Sheila Harrison, Bob Williams, Gary Langdon (SAHRA)

Re: MM38.25 Greater Action to Fight Auto Theft in Toronto – City Council December 15, 2021

The South Armour Heights Residents’ Association supports this motion.

The South Armour Heights Residents’ Association (SAHRA) is an incorporated non-profit association founded in 1988 that represents 850 households in Toronto in the area from Highway 401 in the north, south to Brooke Avenue, and Yonge Boulevard in the east to Avenue Road in the west.

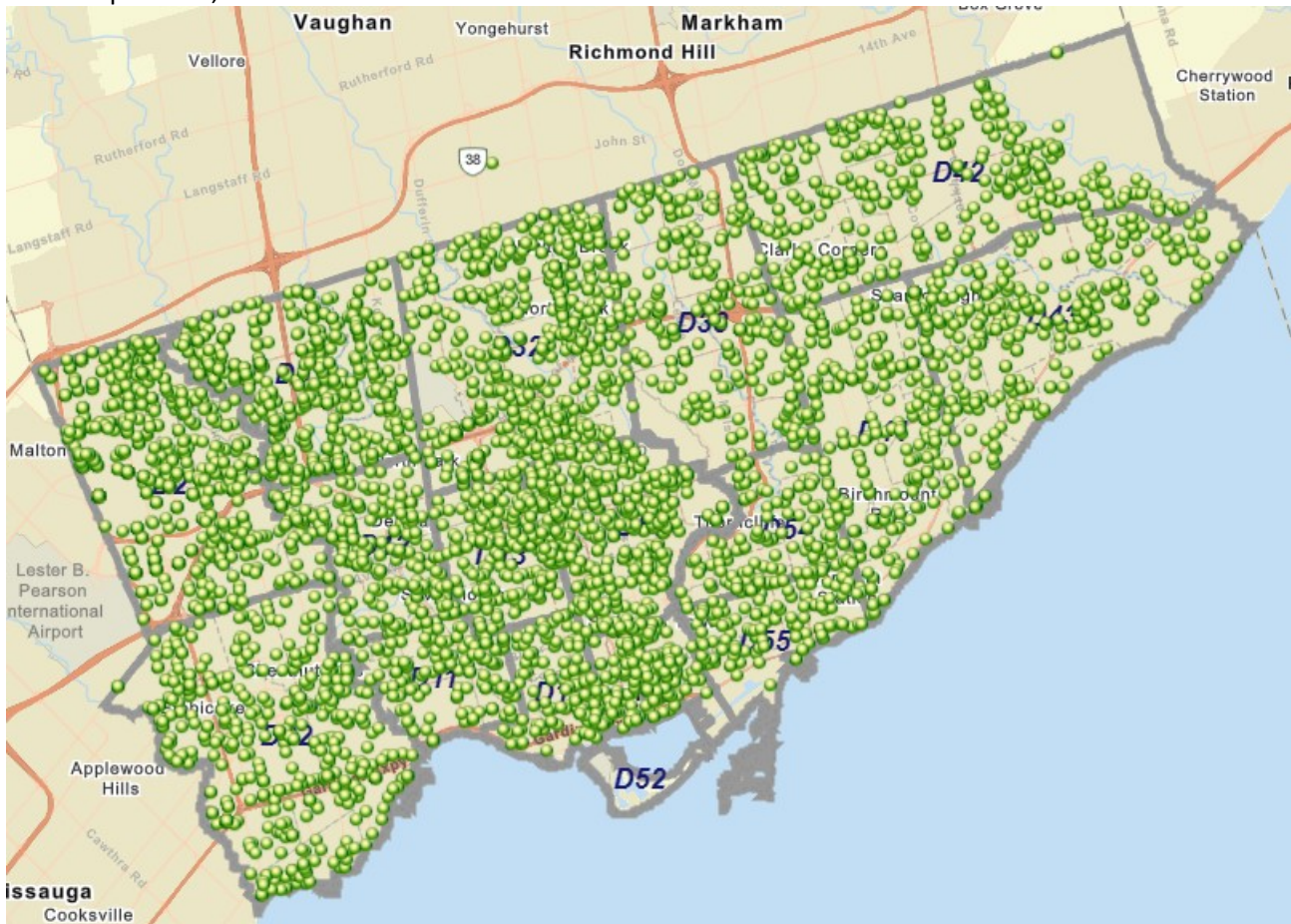
Our residents have been and continue to be directly impacted by auto thefts. As a residents’ association, we have educated our members to take action to reduce the risk of their vehicles being stolen. Despite this, the theft rate is high and only increasing. Data from Toronto Police Service’s (TPS) Open Data Portal show, for our fairly small geographic area:

Year	Auto Thefts
2014	4
2015	7
2016	4
2017	4
2018	10
2019	9
2020	11
2021 (to November 30)	12

During the Fall of 2020, TPS established a cross-divisional Auto Theft Suppression Team. In collaboration with York Region, it was successful in fighting auto-theft with many arrests being made and with a noted reduction of auto-thefts in SAHRA’s area over five months. Unfortunately, the team was disbanded in early 2021 due to resources being required on other priorities. Since then, auto thefts have surpassed previous rates.

Through the Community Police Liaison Committee and together with the Upper Avenue Community Association, we petitioned 32 Division of TPS to re-establish a local Auto Theft Suppression Team. Our voice was heard, and a Divisional team was created.

However, auto-theft is a GTA-wide problem. The issue in Toronto can be seen from the following map. Each green dot represents at least one auto theft since the beginning of 2021. As of December 5, the Open Data Portal reported 5,965 vehicles stolen in 2021.



We believe that there needs to be a Toronto-wide TPS team re-created to work with the surrounding Regions, the OPP, the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency. Only with a holistic plan of attack and persistent enforcement action will the issue be brought under control.

Auto theft is not a victimless crime. It causes insurance rates to rise. It supports organised crime which further victimises citizens both locally and around the world. SAHRA asks that you support the motion to fight auto theft.

Yours truly,

Jim Sadler
President