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## 2023 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Police Officers Per Capita: Comparison to Other Jurisdictions

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#### Issue/Background:

- On January 13, 2023, the Budget Committee requested the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and the City Manager to consult with the Chief of Toronto Police Service (the Service) and provide a briefing note on the required resources, in terms of additional uniformed officers and additional City funding required, for the Toronto Police Service to reach the same level of police officers per capita as each of Vancouver, Montreal, London (UK), and New York, respectively.

#### Key Points:

- By the end of 2023, the Toronto Police Service (TPS) is anticipated to have 5,127 officers or 163 officers per 100,000 population in Toronto. The table below outlines the number of additional officers and annual funding that would be required in order for Toronto to reach the same level of police officers per capita as each of Vancouver, Montreal, London (UK) and New York. These officers would be required in addition to the 5,127 officers.

Location	Officers per 100,000 (2021)	Additional TPS Officers Required to Match Ratio	Annual Funding for Additional Officers (\$M)
Vancouver	189	741	\$ 109.5
Montreal	204	1,210	\$ 178.8
London (UK)	376	6,534	\$ 965.8
New York City	414	7,701	\$ 1,138.4

Note: The table reflects the ratio of officers per 100,000 for 2021 since this is the last year for which the information is available for other jurisdictions and so the additional officers shown are to bring the number of Toronto officers per capita in 2023 to the 2021 per capita levels of these other jurisdictions. In 2021, the Service had 167 officers per 100,000 population. Please see sources at the end of the briefing note.

- Toronto is growing at an exceptional pace and is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada and the U.S. According to Statistics Canada, by 2023 Toronto's population will be close to 3.1 million people or about 316,000 more than in 2015. This growth is the equivalent to adding the City of Windsor over an 8 year time period.
- Also, according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, last year Canada welcomed over 405,000 newcomers, which is the most Canada has ever welcomed in a single year. The Federal Government plans to continue this ambition by setting a target of welcoming 465,000 permanent residents in 2023, 485,000 in 2024 and 500,000 in 2025. Each year tens of thousands of newcomers choose Toronto as their new home.
- A rising population drives workload demands including greater calls for service, increased traffic, more crime potential and city events. With rising workload demands, investment in resources is required to maintain or prevent further degradation of service levels and to ensure adequate and effective policing services are provided (a legal obligation under the *Police Services Act*).
- In 2021, Toronto had the lowest police per capita levels when compared to similar jurisdictions with 167 officers serving 100,000 people in Toronto, compared to 189 in Vancouver, 204 in Montreal, 376 in London (UK) and 414 in New York City.
- The latest data indicates that the number of officers serving 100,000 people in Toronto has decreased from 167 in 2021 to 161 in 2022. However, with additional staffing reflected in the 2023 Operating Budget, the number of officers per 100,000 people is expected to increase to 163 in 2023 and 166 in 2024.
- To reach the same level of police officers per capita as Vancouver and Montreal would require an additional 741 or 1,210 officers in Toronto, respectively. This would cost an additional \$109M to \$178M. Reaching the same number officers per capita as London (U.K.) and New York City would require a significantly more substantial investment in officers and funding with over 6,500 additional officers and over \$965M in funding required.
- In addition to funding for additional officers, there are other ongoing and one-time costs associated with hiring a police officer. The ongoing costs are estimated at \$53,000 per officer per year, while the one-time costs are approximately \$105,000 and are incurred in the first year the officer is hired. Ongoing annual costs include such items as training, fleet related costs (e.g., vehicle, gas and insurance), premium pay and overhead costs (e.g., IT, payroll, benefits administration, human resources, finance, etc.). One-time costs include recruitment and hiring, in-class training, uniform, outfitting and on-the-road training.

#### **Data Sources:**

**Toronto number of officers 2021:** *Toronto Police Service Average Deployed Uniform Data*

**Toronto Population 2023:** *Ontario Ministry of Finance Projections Data*

**Montreal, Vancouver number of officers 2021:** *Statistics Canada. Table 35-10-0077-01 Police personnel and selected crime statistics, municipal police services. Updated August 16, 2022*

**London (UK) number of officers 2021:** *Total sworn officers, Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021; Office for National Statistics (O.N.S.)*

**New York City number of officers 2021:** *Federal Bureau of Investigations Crime Data Explorer, Participation and Population Data 2021*

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