



Message from the Chief of Police and Interim Chief Administrative Officer

On behalf of Toronto Police Service (“the Service”), thank you for your interest in our 2023 operating budget request.

On December 19, 2022, the following Service priorities were identified:

- 1) Improving Trust in and within the Service
- 2) Accelerating Police Reform and Professionalization
- 3) Supporting Safer Communities.

Our 2023 budget request supports this approach. It is about being responsive to the public, focusing on delivering our core services and improving our response times. Our proposal includes a multi-year plan to add capacity through people, technology and reforms in order to address the growing and complex safety needs of our communities. This budget request includes a hiring plan that, if approved, will see an increase of 200 uniform officers to our team by the end of 2023, 90 Special Constables and 20 more 9-1-1 communications operators.

The City of Toronto continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in North America and the Service has been modernizing for the last decade to respond to the increase in demand and complex needs of the communities we serve. The Service has been diligent in implementing cost containment, hiring freezes, reallocations and reprioritizing resources to meet the most pressing needs. As a result, today, our overall staffing level is 400 less compared to 2010, and the number of uniform officers is 600 less than what it was in the same period. Our officer per residents served also remains significantly lower in comparison to large police services in Canada and abroad. In 2011 there was one officer for every 468 residents and in 2021, there was one police officer for approximately every 600 residents.

The Service also continues to represent a declining share of the City's overall budget and over the last six years the average annual budget increase has been 1.8% cumulatively, which is well below the rate of inflation, including 0% budgets in three of these years.

As a result of these cost savings we have less operational flexibility, increased concerns surrounding member wellness, and ultimately, a degradation of service levels for emergency response and other core services.

This conclusion has also been drawn through the key findings from Toronto's Auditor General, Beverly Romeo-Beehler's most recent audit of the Service, which concluded that our response times to all calls, but particularly Priority 1 calls, were not acceptable. Our ability to be there for Torontonians when they need us the most is central to our service to communities and their trust, and we thank the Auditor General for her work and recommendations, which will help move us forward.

Public consultation is an integral part of the budget development process. In many aspects, this budget is a reflection of the feedback we received from communities across the city. Through this process, we found the majority of individuals who participated believed that greater resources were needed in the following areas: 9-1-1 response; patrol; crime prevention; and investigations and victim support. These consultations also highlighted resounding support for our Neighbourhood Community Officer Program.

In addition to public input, we are guided by direction provided by several reports and initiatives, as well as direction from the Toronto Police Services Board. For example, we continue to work on implementing the 151 recommendations from The Honourable Gloria J. Epstein's Missing and Missed Review as well as other recommendations made by the Anti-Racism Advisory Panel, Mental Health & Addictions Advisory Panel, and the Police and Community Engagement Review.

The Service is also advancing its modernization efforts through investments in technology. These investments will allow us to move away over time from outdated, time-consuming processes, creating capacity to accommodate growth, and enabling officers to spend more of their time in communities.

Our partnership with the Gerstein Crisis Centre remains an important one. As we look to expand our alternative service delivery methods, we have extended the Crisis Call Diversion Program, which has successfully been involved with almost 1,000 cases over the past year. We also will be actively participating and collaborating with the City on other call diversion measures as part of implementing SafeTO: A Community Safety & Well-being plan.

As we take action to build capacity at the Service, we are equally invested in supporting our Members who work to keep our communities safe each and every day. The Service is committed to ensuring its officers are the best trained in North America, while also having the right supports and work environment in place to deal with the extraordinary demands of the job.


The funds allocated to delivering public safety services must be calibrated to serve the evolving needs of a growing population and the changing complexity of crime. At the same time, those that deliver the service must be challenged to deliver them more efficiently and effectively, leveraging new approaches, technology and other practices to do as much as possible within the means provided. This 2023 budget represents a multi-year plan to achieve the right balance of financial investment, increasing technological capability and changing the way we operate in order to most effectively address the needs of the communities we serve, in a equitable, ethical, and transparent manner with the goal of enhancing public trust and confidence.

For news and detailed information on our 2023 Budget, please visit the TPS website at www.tps.ca/budget/2023-budget/

Chief of Police Myron Demkiw

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Chief Administrative Officer Svina Dhaliwal

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