

Message from the Chief of Police and Chief Administrative Officer

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Toronto Police Service's 2022 operating budget.

We are coming out of another challenging year – much of it driven by the COVID-19 pandemic – and one that also saw significant gun violence and an increase in homicides in our city. Despite this reality, we are proud of the fact that the TPS has an impressive solve rate for homicides and shootings; a product of long hours, dedication, and professionalism by our members.

Toronto also continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in North America. The city is changing rapidly and it is reasonable to expect that Torontonians want their police service to change with it.

Throughout 2021, we heard firsthand from our communities about where they want our support the most, which includes having more police presence in vulnerable and priority neighbourhoods across the city. The vast majority of the people we serve recognize our TPS uniform as a symbol of safety.

This feedback has largely informed our priorities for 2022.

Our budget request will help provide the Service with some flexibility to redeploy resources and increase support for our Neighborhood Community Officer program. It will also help us increase our capacity to prevent and investigate hate crimes, respond to major crimes such as auto theft, and improve online reporting features.

Continuing to build on public trust and confidence in the Service is also crucial. Expanding our presence and strengthening our relationships with the communities we serve is critical to our success.

For example, in addition to the many well-established Community Consultative Committees, we have recently created the Service's first Jewish CCC, a collaborative group of Service members and Jewish community members who will advise us on how we can better serve their unique community. Under the direction of and in partnership with the Toronto Police Service's Board, we are also continuing to implement some of the most comprehensive police reform our organization has seen, as well as the recommendations from Judge Epstein's Missing and Missed Review which will assist in identifying serial offenders to reduce victimization.

We will also continue to invest in what we have always recognized to be our greatest asset – **our people**. This will include providing enhanced training to give our members the tools they need to best serve Toronto's diverse neighbourhoods, and the continued enhancement of our Wellness initiatives; recognizing that the physical and mental health of our members continues to be a top priority.

Further, we are committed to continuing to strengthen our response to people in crisis – an effort we began with the establishment of our Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams 20 years ago – by expanding the number of police officers who receive enhanced mental health training and finding new ways to work with community partners on various alternative service delivery models. This includes piloting initiatives to divert crisis calls that may not require the police, and supporting the City's upcoming initiative for alternative crisis response. These initiatives are

meant to further improve upon the excellent work our members did in responding to, and de-escalating, thousands of persons in crisis calls in 2021.

Finally, we are focused on supporting city council's Vision Zero initiative by ensuring we have the resources to make our roads safer for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists. Traffic volumes in Toronto decreased by 50 per cent during the pandemic, but speeding is up by more than 150 per cent and stunt driving by more than 186 per cent since 2019. The Service's Vision Zero team – a group of 18 officers fully dedicated to traffic enforcement – has issued more than 41,000 traffic tickets in 2021 alone, with the goal of changing driver behaviour.

Improvements in the areas Torontonians have outlined as important to them will require a modest additional investment. Our request for a 2.3 per cent increase comes after having a zero-based budget for three of the previous five years. This proposed amount is below inflation and, respecting the City of Toronto's other service priorities, does not require a larger portion of the City's budget.

It will allow us to properly serve this growing city and provide policing services that Torontonians want and deserve.

We really value your feedback – it drives a lot of what we do. If you have any questions or need clarification on our 2022 budget, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

yourtpsbudget@torontopolice.on.ca.



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