



NEWS RELEASE

Toronto Police Association Supports Toronto Police Service's 2023 Budget Request

Toronto, ON, February 14, 2023 – The Toronto Police Association is asking all members of City Council to approve the City of Toronto's 2023 Budget, including a 4.3% increase for the Toronto Police Service, at its special budget meeting tomorrow.

"This is not a frivolous budget request from the Toronto Police Service," said Jon Reid, President of the Toronto Police Association. "Our communities want calls for service to be answered in a timely and effective way and they want a stable police presence that doesn't ebb and flow with crime rates."

Since 2010 the Toronto Police Service has lost more than 600 police officers, the effects of which are felt the most on the frontline. As reported by the Auditor General in her review of 911 Communications in 2021, calls for Priority 1 service increased 19% between 2017-2019 while current response times have increased to 21 minutes for high priority calls.

"A properly resourced police service allows our members to spend time proactively engaging with communities, building trust and respect, and fostering relationships," Reid continued. "Without this investment, Torontonians will wait longer for police services and fewer cars will patrol our neighbourhoods, despite raising crime rates in 90% of neighbourhoods.

"The city deserves a police service that is resourced, trained, and supported to serve all communities. While some may see this as an opportunity to revisit a discussion around defunding the police, we would hope the greater good of the city will come first. As the Auditor General stated in her report '*there is no quick fix and simply moving funding for call for service response from TPS to other areas of the City will not be effective and it is not enough*'. Now is not the time to play politics with public safety and we would encourage all members of City Council to approve the budget, as is."



The Toronto Police Association represents almost 8,000 police and civilian members of the Toronto Police Service. We are a professional organization dedicated to advancing the interests of our members through education, political action, and legislative advocacy. We operate in an open, ethical, and professional manner and strive to promote professionalism and accountability within the ranks of our members. Our foremost priority is the wellbeing of our members and the community we serve.

For More Information:

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Budget Background & Quick Facts

- The Service's budgets have consistently represented a declining share of the City's overall budgets and **costs per capita have decreased over the last 12 years to \$1 per day.**
- In 2011 there was one Toronto Police officer for every 468 residents and **in 2021, there was one police officer for every 617 residents,** more than most major cities in Canada and the United States.
- **Response times for high priority calls for service are currently 21 minutes,** this includes calls that require immediate emergency assistance such as danger to life, potential danger and/or injury is present or imminent.
- The NENA (National Emergency Number Association) standard states that **90% of 911 calls shall be answered within 15 seconds and 95% shall be answered within 20 seconds. That standard was met 3% of the time in 2021.**



- Since 2021, **major crime indicators have gone up in every category** except homicides:
 - Assaults, up **9%**
 - Auto Thefts, up **42%**
 - Break and enters, up **4%**
 - Robbery, up **32%**
 - Thefts, up **34%**
- Of the city's **158 neighbourhoods, 141 – almost 90% - have experienced these increases in crime, 47 of which have seen increases of more than 30%**. [For a list of neighbourhoods, click here.](#)
- Between 2015-2022, **shootings have increased by 31%** and in the last year, **carjackings have increased by 288%**.
- This budget will allow the Service to add:
 - **200 uniform officers**, including **162** priority response officers of which **25** will be deployed to support community safety in the downtown core;
 - **22 major case management** personnel, to fulfil recommendations made by Justice Gloria Epstein in the Missing & Missed Report;
 - **90 Special Constable** positions; and
 - **20 9-1-1 communication operators**.
- An additional **16 Neighbourhood Community officers (NCO) for four new neighbourhoods** will be added; pre-budget consultations indicate:
 - **86%** believe it's important to have an NCO assigned to their community
 - **92% believe NCOs prevent crime**
 - **90% said they feel safer with NCOs in their community**
 - **93%** said NCOs are important members of their community