

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between

TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD (“Board”)

and

MIDAYNTA COMMUNITY SERVICES (“Midaynta”)

## 1. PURPOSE

On July 31, 2019, a group of mothers provided a presentation to the Board on “A Crack in the Sky” (MCIS). The presentation was based on a Somali proverb that states that “if people come together, they can even mend a crack in the sky.” This sentiment is the basis of a community led action plan to address the alarming rates of youth violence among Somali-Canadians, which violence has increased community trauma and fragmentation.

In their presentation, the group highlighted three core elements that they wanted to directly collaborate with the Board on: Transparency, Building Trust, and Community Safety.

The Board received the presentation and agreed to pursue opportunities for partnership with Midaynta to improve community safety in the Somali-Canadian community in the City of Toronto.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of both Parties in this partnership.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

“Divisions” means 12, 13, 22, 23, 31, and 32 of the TPS.

“Midaynta Community Services” or “Midaynta” means the registered Canadian charitable organization that provides settlement services and other programs that advances education by providing courses, seminars, meetings, counseling and other support services for refugees, immigrants and youths in need. Midaynta is a social and settlement services agency, working to improve the quality of life of newcomers in Toronto and vicinity. For the purpose of this MOU, Midaynta will act as a representative of the group of mothers from Toronto’s Somali community who form the MCIS initiative.

“Neighbourhood Community Officers” or “NCO” means members of the TPS who act as ambassadors for the TPS and who work in partnership with local residents and community-based organizations to address crime, disorder and community safety issues.

“Parties” means the Board and Midaynta and “Party” means either the Board or Midaynta.

“Toronto Police Services Board” or “Board” means the seven member civilian body, comprised of provincial and municipal appointees, that is responsible for the provision of adequate and effective police services in the City of Toronto pursuant to *Police Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990 Chap. P-15 (PSA), setting priorities and objectives for the TPS, approving the annual police budget and selecting the Chief of Police (Chief).

“Toronto Police Service” or “TPS” means the organization that delivers police services to the City of Toronto in accordance with the PSA.

### **3. TERM**

The term of this MOU is from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022. At the expiration of this term, the parties to this agreement will meet to discuss the next steps, including expanding, extending, or concluding this agreement.

Either Party may terminate or renew this MOU upon thirty (60) days written notice to the other Party.

### **4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Based on the three core elements presented to the Board, the Parties agree as follows:

#### ***A. Core Element One: Increasing Transparency and Understanding through the Service’s Implementation of the Scorecard Initiative***

The development of a community-focused scorecard based on *The Way Forward* model, as an effective avenue for collaboration on community safety and a deeper engagement by community members with respect to policing initiatives and modernization initiatives that are occurring.

The TPSB agrees to direct the Chief to:

- a) produce a community facing scorecard at the Neighbourhood level that includes relevant socio-economic and demographic groups, including but not necessarily exclusive to the Somali group in any area.
- b) meet with representatives from Midaynta to:
  - a. understand what they would like included on the scorecard;
  - b. explain the process of how TPS surveys are developed and implemented;

- c. explain how the data is gathered (ie. telephone survey, focus groups, etc.);
- d. explain how the questions and answers received from the survey are populated into the scorecard.
- c) develop a survey relevant for identified neighbourhoods and Divisions across the City of Toronto.
- d) populate the information collected from the survey, into a scorecard, at a frequency associated with the data collection and synthesis.
- e) meet with representatives from Midaynta to discuss and explain the scorecard results.

Midaynta agrees to:

- a) identify representatives who will meet with the TPS and act as points of contact;
- b) participate in the development of the questions for survey;
- c) work with the TPS on the communication of the survey and scorecard, in particular to the Somali Community.

**B) *Core Element Two: Building Trust through Integrated Collaboration with Divisions and Neighbourhood Community Officers (NCOs)***

To continue to build trust with the TPS and its members, and to drive proactive and vital collaboration between members of Toronto's Somali community and the TPS, the Parties agree to take the steps to develop a close working relationship with particular TPS Divisions

The TPSB agrees to direct the Chief to:

- a) meet with members of the Somali community and explain the role of an NCO.
- b) facilitate connection with local TPS Division Commanders and the TPS' Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit.
- c) affirm for the community that while this partnership is not premised on intelligence gathering, it is understood by both parties that improved community engagement and trust will result in safer communities.

Midaynta agrees to:

- a) meet with members of the TPS and Neighbourhood Community Officers.
- b) build a direct relationship with the TPS' Neighbourhood Community Officer Program and local Neighbourhood Community Officers.

**C. *Core Element Three: Enhancing Community Safety through the Implementation of the Mothers Outreach Worker (MOW) Program***

Midaynta is requesting support from the Board for Midaynta's MOW Program which connects mothers who have lost their children and loved ones to other mothers from the Somali community who will support them, using the peer and crisis support models and a variety of

proactive institutional and community resources which focus on gun and gang violence prevention, awareness, and education.

The TPSB agrees to direct the Chief to:

- a) meet with Midaynta and the MOWs to understand what type of presentations they would like to receive and how the TPS can most effectively deliver these presentations that aim to provide education and awareness in a variety of crime prevention initiatives and victim/witness supports.

Midaynta agrees to:

- a) consult with the MOWs to understand what type of presentations they would like to receive from the TPS.
- b) provide input to the TPS on what information the MOWs would like to see at the public information sessions.

## **5. BOARD SUPPORT**

The Board is committed to lending its organizational support (ie. writing supportive letters, convening meetings, connecting key stakeholders, etc), and where feasible for the Board, lending its administrative support in the implementation of this MOU.

## **6. REPORTING AND EVALUATION**

Midaynta and the Board shall meet semi-annually to discuss the implementation and success of this MOU, any challenges identified and recommendations to address those challenges.

## **8. MODIFICATION**

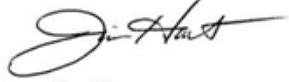
Any changes to this MOU shall be by written amendment signed by the Parties' authorized representatives. No changes shall be effective or shall be carried out in the absence of such an amendment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this MOU as of the dates written below.

TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD

MIDAYNTA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Per:



Per:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hart  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mahad Yusuf  
Executive Director

Date: October 19, 2020

Date: \_\_\_\_\_