

TPSB JULY 2020 TOWN HALLS

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This graphic flipbook is a summary, organized by themes, of the voices of people in the community who answered the Toronto Police Services Board call to contribute to a Town Hall on current events triggered by anti-Black and systemic racism.



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TPSB JULY 2020 TOWN HALLS – VISUAL SUMMARY

DEFUND! DISMANTLE!
DISARM!

MENTAL
ILLNESS is a HEALTH
ISSUE **NOT** a POLICE
ISSUE!

REDUCE
the
POLICE
BUDGET!

END ANTI-BLACK RACISM

HOLD
POLICE
ACCOUNTABLE!

JUSTICE
FOR

JUSTICE
FOR

COMMUNITY
is the **FIRST WORD**
IN COMMUNITY
SAFETY!

SAY
THEIR
NAMES!

BODY WORN
CAMERAS
WON'T FIX
BAD
POLICING!

"I DON'T
WANT TO
DIE...
I JUST WANT
HELP FROM
THE RIGHT
PEOPLE"

THE SYSTEM
ISN'T BROKEN...
IT WAS BUILT
THIS WAY!

INDIGENOUS
LIVES
MATTER

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER

Toronto residents across the city are demanding change. This visual summary reflects themes that emerged from the voices of 150 residents who participated in the Town Halls held by the Toronto Police Services Board in July 2020.

BACKGROUND

In May 2020, George Floyd, a Black man, was murdered in Minneapolis when a white police officer knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

Mr. Floyd begged for his life repeatedly saying; "I can't breathe". Other officers stood by and did nothing. Mr. Floyd's death sparked global protests against anti-Black and systemic racism.

In Toronto, protesters gathered to demand police reform and to seek justice in the name of Regis Korchinski-Paquet and others who have died during police interactions in Canada.

The Toronto Police Services Board responded by holding a town hall to hear residents' views on policing in response to current events. Originally scheduled for a day in July, an overwhelming response to the call for speakers led to 4 days of meetings.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, these meetings were held virtually. Community activists, concerned citizens, disability advocates, filmmakers, lawyers, doctors, CEOs, psychiatrists, teachers, childcare workers, and many more, responded. The Board is grateful to each of the nearly 150 residents who took the time to speak and for the over 100 written, audio, and video submissions we received.

We heard bold ideas for reform and pragmatic recommendations. People spoke from their heart and often from their hurt. It was evident that people care deeply about Toronto and about policing. The Board heard repeatedly that residents want EVERYONE to feel safe and to receive the same level of service in this city they call home.

This booklet captures the major themes we heard from Town Hall participants.

CHAIR
JIM HART

VICE-CHAIR
MARIE MOLINER

MAYOR
JOHN TORY

UPPALA CHANDRASEKERA
MEMBER

COUNCILLOR
MICHAEL FORD

COUNCILLOR
FRANCES NUNZIATA

AINSWORTH M. MORGAN
MEMBER



PUBLIC FUNDING

TPSB Town Hall Voices, illustrated by a Ward 4 artist



POLICE REFORM

TPSB Town Hall Voices, illustrated by a Ward 11 artist

COURAGE **CHANGE** **ACTION**

BE BRAVE

REFORM!

IS NOT ENOUGH!
IT'S TIME TO

TRANSFORM

HAVE THE COURAGE TO ADMIT WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE
AND CHANGE IT!

"WE PLACE A HEAVY BURDEN ON POLICE, I DON'T BLAME THEM INDIVIDUALLY, THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING THAT THEY AREN'T EVEN TRAINED FOR. POLICE NEED TO SAY NO TO THIS WORK WHERE THEY ARE UNTRAINED & UNWELCOME. FOCUS POLICE ON SITUATIONS THAT MIGHT REQUIRE DEFENCE AGAINST THE REAL THREAT OF VIOLENCE."

"IGNORING THE VOICES OF BIPOC AND THEIR ALLIES MEANS WE ARE ONLY FOCUSING ON THE SAFETY OF WHITE PEOPLE, & WE ARE CONTINUING THE SYSTEMIC ISSUES THAT CREATED THESE ISSUES IN THE FIRST PLACE."



WHO HOLDS THE POLICE ACCOUNTABLE?

THE SIU IS MOSTLY POLICE OFFICERS

THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE NEEDS TO REVAMP CULTURE, DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY, CHALLENGE, INVESTIGATE & ACKNOWLEDGE SYSTEMIC RACISM!



FORM A TORONTO POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY COALITION!

ACCOUNTABILITY



RACISM BRUTALITY & MISCONDUCT
NEED CONSEQUENCES
POLICE OFFICERS ARE ALSO CITIZENS AND SUBJECT TO THE LAW!

DE-ESCALATION!

PRIMARY GOAL!

PROTECT and RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

DIVERSITY

ON POLICE FORCE and BOARD



THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO FEEL REPRESENTED BY and HAVE INPUT INTO THE NEW CHIEF OF POLICE!

ACCESSIBILITY!

THE BOARD NEEDS TO BE RESPECTFUL OF HOW ALL COMMUNITIES ENGAGE!



CULTURE

INDIGENOUS LAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF:

RECONCILIATION

HOW IS THE BOARD MOVING FORWARD WITH THIS?

DON'T JUST READ IT!

ACTION
MUST BE TAKEN AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE!

FAIR & EQUITABLE POLICING NEEDS TO BE THE PRIORITY OF THE BOARD!

STOP KILLING US!

TRANSPARENT & OPEN DATA



MEASURABLE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES IN PLACE!

TRANSPARENCY

RACE BASED DATA

EASY PUBLIC ACCESS

COMPLAINTS DATA

WILL BE POSTED WITH MORE TRANSPARENCY THAN EVER BEFORE!

COMMUNITY SAFETY

TPSB Town Hall Voices, illustrated by a Ward 9 artist



KEY ISSUE

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES are CAUSED by **POVERTY, RACISM** & LACK of SOCIAL SERVICES

EMPATHY
UNDERSTANDING
HOPE



COVID-19 HAS SHOWN US HOW QUICKLY WE CAN MOBILIZE!

IT'S TIME to MOBILIZE and PRIORITIZE MENTAL HEALTH as a CRISIS in the GTA!

TRAINED COUNSELLORS

MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS



REMOVE POLICE OFFICERS entirely from MENTAL HEALTH CALLS and LEAVE IT TO TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

guns/tasers/sprays
REMOVE armed POLICE WHERE they ARE NOT REQUIRED

Situations ESCALATE with Police presence... the vulnerable are often fearful of them
Police should be AN ESCORT to Mental Health professionals

CRISIS INTERVENTION



Whether home or on the street, teams dealing with Mental Health issues need to be **FUNDED** and **MOBILIZED**

Mental Health workers as First Responders

WELLNESS CHECKS

to be PERFORMED by trained counsellors and MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



TASK FORCES WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

Victims of domestic violence or sexual assault need their own task force

LOOK at OTHER COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE HAD SUCCESS...



STOCKHOLM MENTAL HEALTH AMBULANCE

INVOLVE FAMILIES

A NURSE OR SOCIAL WORKER SHOULD ALWAYS BE PRESENT



PARTNERING

camh SHOULD BE A PARTNER in Mental Health



ALTERNATIVE 911 IDEAS. Many calls are mental health related
CREATE A MENTAL HEALTH LINE

TRIAGE 911 Calls

- Police
- Fire
- Mental Health



→ Mental Health Professionals can determine whether to include police

PCU Primary Response Unit

in conjunction with

MCIT Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams

VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY needs to be **USER FRIENDLY** and **USEFUL!**
→ have a GTA registry to avoid duplication
→ created by and for people with special needs



FAMILIES should be able to ask for the team they think is **BEST** suited to help them

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

ARE OFTEN LEFT OUT of the CONVERSATION

