



**Public Meeting**

**Thursday,  
November 23,  
2023 at 9:00AM**



**PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**  
**Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 9:00AM**  
**Livestreaming at**  
<https://youtube.com/live/seaTmZPuLLQ>

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Call to Order

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Declarations of Interest under the [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#).

Chief's Monthly Verbal Update

1. Confirmation of the Minutes from the regular public meeting held on [October 19, 2023](#).

Presentation

2. [Gun Violence and Bail Reform Presentation](#)

The following two reports are also attached to this item:

- [2022 Toronto Police Services Gun Violence and Bail Reform, June 2023](#)
- [Final Report: Toronto Police Service Community Engagement Meetings and Online Survey: Gun Violence and Bail, May 2023](#)

### Items for Consideration

3. November 9, 2023 from Dubi Kanengisser, Executive Director  
**Re: Toronto Police Services Board – 2024 Meeting Schedule**
  
4. November 1, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Request for Funds: Youth in Policing Luncheon and Awards**
  
5. October 6, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Request for Review of a Service Complaint Investigation – Professional Standards Case Number PRS-081443**
  
6. October 2, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Special Constable Appointments and Re-Appointments – November 2023**

### Consent Agenda

7. November 23, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Semi-Annual Report: Publication of Expenses – January 1 to June 30, 2023**
  
8. October 2, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Toronto Police Service 2022 Annual Statistical Report**
  
9. September 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Toronto Police Service Audit & Quality Assurance Annual Report**

## 10. Chief's Administrative Investigation Reports

- 10.1 October 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Alleged Sexual Assault of Complainant 2022.27**
- 10.2 October 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Custody Injury of Complainant 2023.03**
- 10.3 October 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Custody Injury of Complainant 2023.20**
- 10.4 October 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Vehicle Injury of Complainant 2023.21**
- 10.5 October 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Custody Death of Complainant 2023.23**
- 10.6 October 5, 2023 from Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police  
**Re: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Alleged Sexual Assault of Complainant 2023.26**

Board to convene in a Confidential meeting for the purpose of considering confidential items pertaining to legal and personnel matters in accordance with Section 35(4) of the *Police Services Act*

Adjournment

Next Meeting

### **Regular Board Meeting**

Thursday, December 19, 2023

Hybrid Board Meeting – at Police Headquarters, 40 College Street or virtually via WebEx

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**Members of the Toronto Police Services Board**

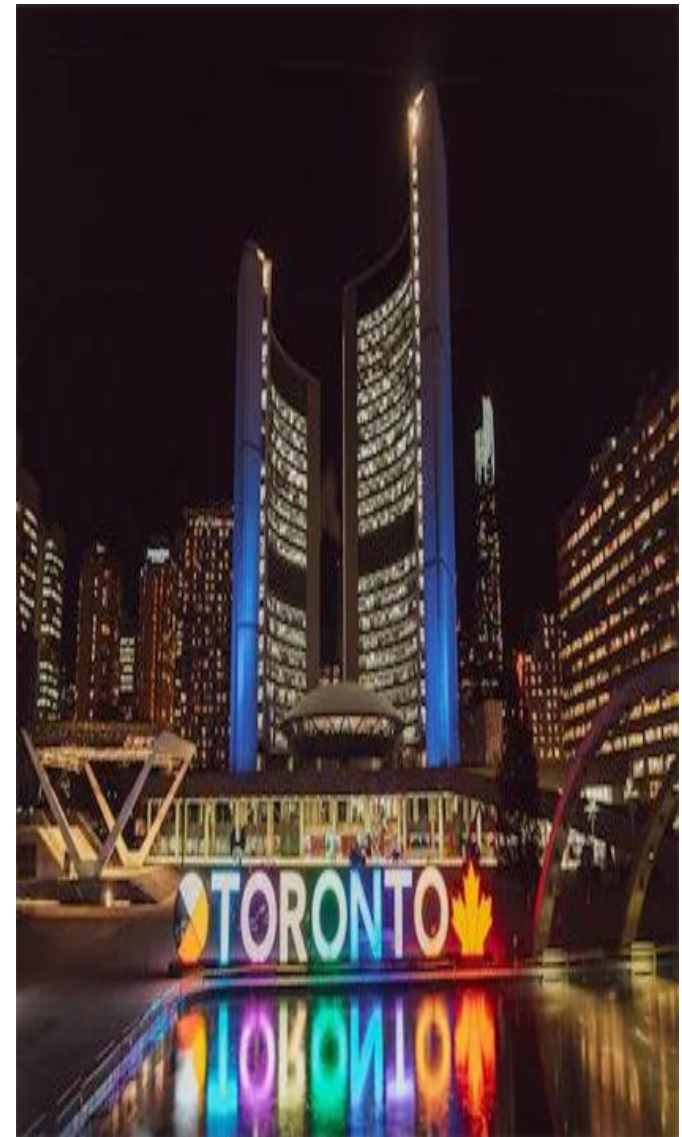
Ann Morgan, Chair  
Amber Morley, Deputy Mayor & Member  
Lily Cheng, Member & Councillor  
Nick Migliore, Board Member

Lisa Kostakis, Vice-Chair  
Nadine Spencer, Board Member  
Jon Burnside, Member & Councillor

# Toronto Police Service Gun Violence and Bail Reform



Results of Quantitative and Qualitative Study  
Regarding Community Sentiment on  
Gun Violence



The Toronto Police Services Board and the Toronto Police Service have partnered with the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG), City Councillors and the City of Toronto, with the objective of capturing and recording the impact of violent gun crimes on the communities of Toronto.

This is part of the bail reform initiative focused on efforts to enhance public safety and address gun violence in the City of Toronto.

This information will be presented by the Assistant Crown Attorney assigned to gun related cases in court at the appropriate stage of a proceeding.



# Community Sentiment Document - Methodology

## 3 Part Process:

- Obtain services from a third party vendor to conduct qualitative and quantitative Survey which included a community survey and in depth interviews with community members.
- 6 Community Meet and Greets with the assistance of NCOs and divisional resources to obtain the City of Toronto public's perceptions and opinions on gun violence and justice system as it relates to bail for persons charged with firearm-related offences.
- The creation of a document that reflects the public's sentiment and confidence in the Justice system in a manner that can be presented in court.





# Expert Research - Methodology



Purpose: Obtain the City of Toronto public's perceptions and opinions on gun violence and the justice system as it relates to bail for persons charged with firearm-related offences.

## Quantitative Research

Forum Research administered a quantitative study, which was conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Respondents were selected using random digit dialing.

A total of 1,003 Toronto residents 18 years of age and older were interviewed. The average duration of the questionnaire administered was 12 minutes. Fieldwork was conducted between Oct 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Qualitative Research

Prior to the telephone survey, Forum Research conducted a qualitative study using in-depth interviews to explore the experiences and feelings of Toronto residents on safety in the city, gun violence, and bail for individuals charged with firearm-related offences.

The qualitative study included four population segments: general population, LGBTQ2S+, Black, and Indigenous. A total of 27 interviews were conducted between September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and were approximately 60 minutes in length.

# Key Findings



- The majority of respondents (78%) think that the city of Toronto is safe.
- 2 in 3 (68%) do not feel it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into their neighbourhood if the person is charged with possessing a gun.
- 4 in 5 (84%) do not feel it reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into their neighbourhood if the person is charged with using a firearm to commit an offence.
- The majority of respondents (94%) think it is unreasonable for the courts to release a person in their neighbourhood on bail for a second time if the person has been charged with a firearm-related offence and has broken their bail conditions.
- In in-depth qualitative interviews, Toronto residents generally expressed that they felt that violence, including but not limited to gun violence, is increasing in Toronto.

# Gun-Related Violence in Toronto: Findings

- Within the in-depth interviews, perceptions on gun violence in the city varied widely between different population segments.
- Opinions tended to differ based on the level of media consumption, as those who believed gun violence on the rise also reported that they keep up with the news.
- Individuals who said they feel safe in Toronto also tended to express that they exercise caution in their behaviour and avoid threatening situations.
- Across all population segments, participants of in-depth interviews expressed that there is a need to address the underlying causes that lead others to crime and gun violence (i.e. socio-economic and material conditions).

# Release on Bail: Overall Opinions – Findings

- From the in-depth interviews, most participants felt that bail represents an opportunity for rehabilitation rather than punishment.
- Many participants felt that if strict bail conditions are broken, the individual charged has not changed their behaviour and would be likely to commit the same or a similar offence.
- Some mentioned that their opinion depends on the severity of the bail-breaking offence, where possessing a firearm again would be more cause for concern than missing a curfew.
- As well, some expressed that if the individual on bail was returning to the same conditions they were previously living in, it would only lead to the same outcome.
- Respondents felt that individuals on bail could need significant support to change their conditions, rather than simply returning that person to the community.

# Non Scientific Research – Methodology



Purpose: Building on research conducted by Forum Research. We sought out to obtain public perceptions in specific communities and their opinions on gun violence and the justice system as it relates to bail for persons charged with firearm-related offences.

## Qualitative Research

6 Meet and Greets in communities that experience high and low gun related crimes.

Data tabulated by Analytics and Innovation through Toronto Police Databases for 2021:

- Firearm Arrests
- Firearm Seized
- Number of Shootings
- Firearm Discharge

## Selected Divisions

### **High instances of reported gun related offences\***

- 43 Division
- 23 Division
- 12 Division

### **Low instances of reported gun related offences\***

- 11 Division
- 13 Division
- 53 Division

*\* Statistics based on tabulation of: Firearm Arrest, Firearm Seized, Number of Shootings and Firearm Discharges in 2021. Raw numbers used to determine level of impact for each Division and does not provide a ratio to population density*



- East York - Thorncliffe Park (D53)
- Etobicoke – West Humber – Claireville (D23)
- North York – Weston (D12)
- Scarborough – Woburn North (D43)
- Toronto – Oakwood Village (D13)
- Toronto – Weston – Pelham Park (D11)

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**

MONDAY - FEB 13TH, 2023

THE COMMUNITY  
1755 WILSON AVE  
5:30 PM  
WWW.ENGAGE416.CA

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**

Thursday February 23, 2023  
5:30 to 7:30pm

St. Clair/Silverthorn  
1748 St. Clair Ave. East  
Entire 2nd Floor  
WWW.ENGAGE416.CA

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**

TUESDAY - FEB 21st, 2023

5:30 to 8:00pm  
Global Kingdom Ministries  
1250 Markham Road  
WWW.ENGAGE416.CA

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**

Monday February 27, 2023

8:00 to 9:00pm

Rexdale Community Centre  
21 Panorama Court  
Etobicoke, ON  
WWW.ENGAGE416.CA

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**

Thursday March 2, 2023

5:30 to 8:30pm

Maria A. Shchuka Library  
1745 Eglinton Avenue West,  
Toronto  
WWW.ENGAGE416.CA

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**

Monday March 6, 2023

5:30 to 8:30pm

Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre  
48 Thorncliffe Park Drive,  
East York  
WWW.ENGAGE416.CA

**POLICE**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER**

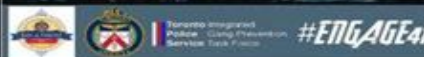
**LIGHT SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SAFETY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AS IT RELATES TO GUN VIOLENCE?

DO YOU THINK THAT THE COURTS ARE DEALING WITH INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH GUN RELATED OFFENCES PROPERLY?

IF YOU COULD TELL THE COURTS YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT GUNS IN THE COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?



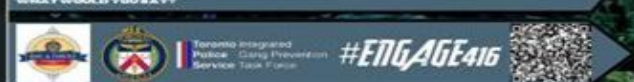
**LIGHT SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SAFETY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AS IT RELATES TO GUN VIOLENCE?

DO YOU THINK THAT THE COURTS ARE DEALING WITH INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH GUN RELATED OFFENCES PROPERLY?

IF YOU COULD TELL THE COURTS YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT GUNS IN THE COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?



# Community Meet & Greet - Methodology



## Recruitment

- Recruitment was done by the identified divisions, with the assistance of Engage416 and SafeTO. Methodology was the same for each Division.
- QR codes with certain control measures were also made available with a link to an online questionnaire for community members unable to attend the Meet and Greet and expressed an interest in contributing.
- Meetings took place in Community Centres, libraries and a local Church.
- All Meet and Greets were moderated by Ann Wallington, an academic who has worked closely with Engage416 in the past.
- TPS scribes as well Seneca College Students and a Professor assisted with note taking and recording of community responses.



# Community Meet & Greet - Methodology



Meet and Greets followed the same format

- Introduction/purpose
- PowerPoint reviewing laws as it pertains to Bail
- 4 questions asked
  - Do you think gun violence is a serious issue in your neighbourhood?
  - In terms of release on bail, do you think that the courts are dealing with individuals charged with gun-related offences properly?
  - If a person is already on bail for a gun crime and they commit another gun crime while on bail, how should the courts deal with this person?
  - If you could tell the courts your concerns about guns in the community, what would you say?



# Key Findings



There were 309 participants/respondents.

Several of the same themes emerged across all questions: the negative impact gun violence has on youth; gun violence leads to reduced quality of life for the community; and community desire for restrictions on bail for gun crimes.

There was a pronounced concern about gun violence/crimes in schools.

# Community Meet & Greet - In Person Attendee Quotations



"My 13 year old son was able to purchase a gun on Facebook.."

"I am petrified to allow my kids to go and play in the stairwell of my building ever since my nephew was shot a year ago."

"I am scared to live in the area and scared to support locally. I drive to Vaughan to visit playgrounds because Weston is not safe"

"Older gang members pick up younger kids to do their 'dirty work.'"

"The moment you see the person back on the street the next day, the confidence in the justice system goes to zero"

## Community Meet & Greet – Online Respondent Quotations



"The revolving bail door for youth delegitimizes the courts and erodes our social contract."

"There is no need for guns in the community so courts need to show no leniency."

"Sureties are not doing what they are supposed to. They should be held responsible if the person who they signed for gets arrested again."

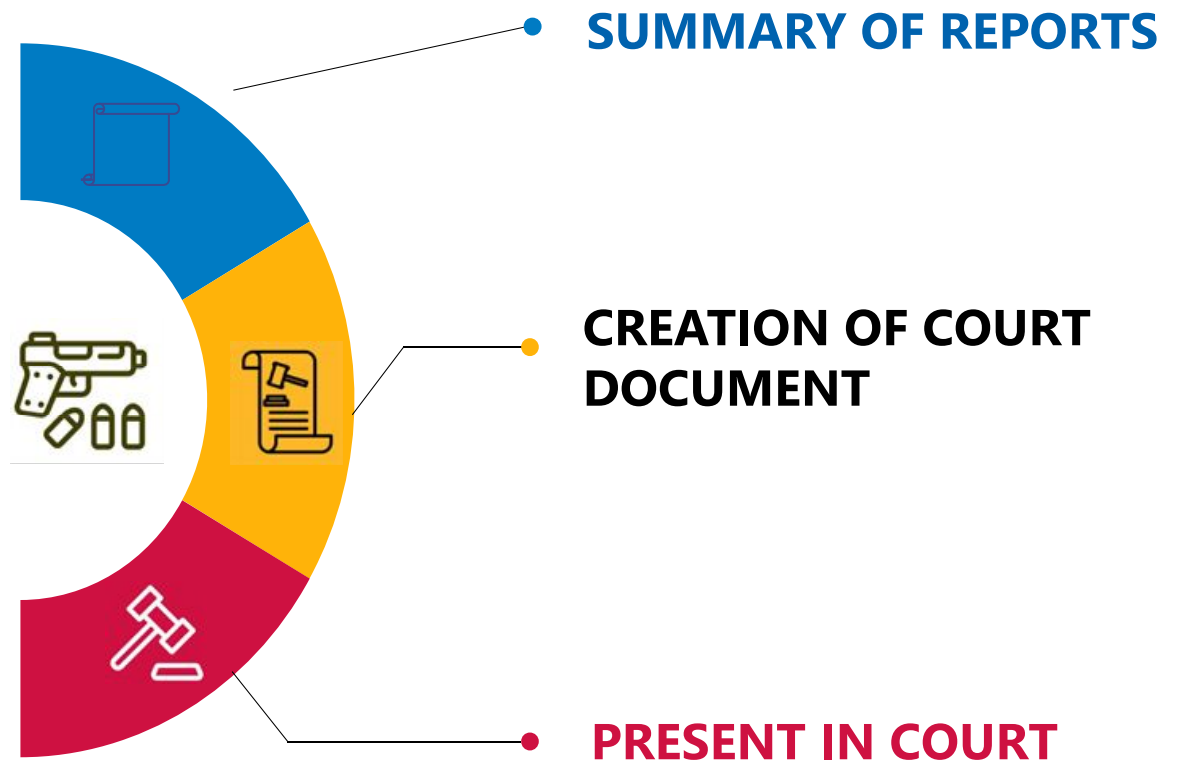
"A 15 year old was shot in the chest at my high school. This was not the first shooting and it won't be the last."

"I am scared.....there are too many guns and gang violence is insane."

# Next Steps

We are working with MAG to summarize the reports.

It is anticipated that this will be an ongoing project to ensure information is current and relevant.



# Thank You

Inspector Ken Taylor  
Inspector Maher Abdel-Malik  
Detective Rob Barnett  
OCE- ROPE/Fugitive Squad/Bail & Parole/Firearm Bail Support Unit  
Civilian Peter Koutsovasilis Senior Planning Analyst  
Strategy Management Unit  
Toronto Police Service

*Acknowledgements:*

Toronto Police Services Board  
Safe TO  
Engage 416  
Ann Wallington  
Glenn Barenthin



**“I am petrified to allow my kids to go and play in the stairwell of my building ever since my nephew was shot a year ago.”**

**(Toronto community member)**

# **2022 Toronto Police Services Gun Violence and Bail Reform**

Prepared by Forum Research Inc.

June 2023

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# Executive Summary

## Research Objective

The purpose of this research project is to obtain the City of Toronto public's perceptions and opinions on gun violence and the justice system as it relates to bail for persons charged with firearm-related offences.

## Methodology

Forum Research administered a quantitative study, which was conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Respondents were selected using random digit dialing. A total of 1,003 Toronto residents 18 years of age and older were interviewed. The average duration of the questionnaire administered was 12 minutes. Fieldwork was conducted between Oct 11<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The margin of error (at the 95% confidence interval) for the full sample is +/- 3.1%.

Prior to the telephone survey, Forum Research conducted a qualitative study using in-depth interviews to explore the experiences and feelings of Toronto residents on safety in the city, gun violence, and bail for individuals charged with firearm-related offences.

The qualitative study included four population segments: general population, LGBTQ+, Black, and Indigenous. Interviews were approximately 60 minutes in length and were conducted between September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The full qualitative study report is included as an appendix.

## Key Findings

- ❖ The majority of respondents (78%) think that the city of Toronto is safe (Figure 1).
- ❖ 2 in 3 (68%) do not feel it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into their neighbourhood if the person is charged with possessing a gun (Figure 8).
- ❖ 4 in 5 (84%) do not feel it reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into their neighbourhood if the person is charged with using a firearm to commit an offence (Figure 9).
- ❖ The majority of respondents (94%) think it is unreasonable for the courts to release a person in their neighbourhood on bail for a second time if the person has been charged with a firearm-related offence and has broken their bail conditions (Figure 15).

## **Analysis and Approach**

This report includes an analysis of overall survey results. Data have been weighted by age and sex, based on the 2021 Census of Population published by Statistics Canada. This is to mitigate the effects of any imbalances between the survey sample and the census population, thus reducing the sample bias.

This report analyzes survey results in two ways for each question. First, the report will visualize and state the overall frequencies for the question. Then, it will add additional commentary on notable trends in the data across demographic groups. For example, if there is a statistically significant difference between male and female responses to a question, the report will note that in the text.

Where there are no statistically significant differences, the report will generally not note. Detailed results by racialization have been included where possible throughout the report, but differences should not be considered statistically significant unless mentioned in the body of the report.

Insights from the qualitative study have been included in the discussion of the quantitative results where applicable.

## **Interpreting this report**

Top 2 (TOP2) and bottom 2 (BTM2) reference the collective TOP2 positive and BTM2 negative responses, where applicable. For example, a TOP2 grouping referred to as “agree” may be the combined result of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree,” where a grouping of “disagree” (BTM2) may be the combined result of “strongly disagree” and “somewhat disagree”.

Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up to the totals provided. For example, in some cases, the sum of all question values may add up to 99% or 101% instead of 100%. Similar logic applies to TOP2 and BTM2 groupings, where the TOP2 or BTM2 figure may not match the sum of the component figures included in a visualization.

Visualizations may exclude “don’t know” or “prefer not to say” responses i.e., only those choosing to indicate an opinion have been included in the indicated results. Notes are provided with each figure to clarify the group of respondents being visualized.

References to “racialization status,” “racialized,” or “non-racialized” reflect respondent groupings based on their responses to the question “Do you consider yourself a member of a racialized group?”, whereas references to “racial groups” reflect responses to “Please tell us what group or groups you consider yourself a member of.”

Any results with sample sizes of less than 30 should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size.

# Detailed Findings

## Safety of Toronto

- The quantitative survey found that **the majority of residents (78%) feel that in general, Toronto is safe**. This includes more than 3 in 5 (62%) who feel Toronto is “reasonably safe” and nearly 1 in 5 (17%) who feel that Toronto is “very safe.”

**Figure 1: General Opinion of Safety in Toronto**

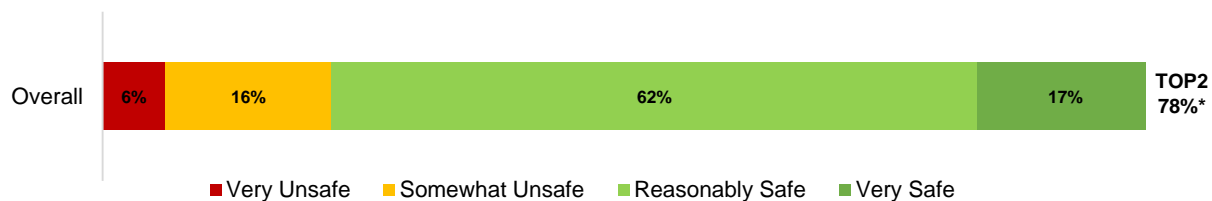


Figure 1 | Question 1: In general, how safe do you feel the City of Toronto is? Is it...  
Sample size: 995

Framework: All respondents, excluding “Don’t Know”

\*Chart figures have been rounded for visual representation. TOP2 total corresponds to the sum of the unrounded figures.

## Qualitative Findings

In in-depth qualitative interviews, Toronto residents generally expressed that they felt that violence, including but not limited to gun violence, is increasing in Toronto. Participants expressed that some areas of the city are less safe than others, and that they feel less safe at night. Among female respondents, some mentioned not going unaccompanied in certain areas or at certain times of night. However, overall safety is generally perceived as adequate as long as individuals avoid dangerous areas and are not involved with dangerous people. Many also expressed that they consider Toronto to be a safe city compared to other cities of similar sizes.

Indigenous participants in the interviews described a more permanent feeling of lacking safety due to prejudice and generational trauma, with gun violence as a constant concern that is felt often. Experiences of racism also contribute to feeling less safe than others including verbal attacks and sometimes physical assaults from non-Indigenous aggressors.

Additionally, among Black and Indigenous participants, there was a greater feeling that guns are present in their communities and need more regulation. There was an emphasis from all marginalized communities (LGBTQ+ and BIPOC) on the need for a non-confrontational police presence in Toronto to establish trust with the community and address matters of safety.

LGBTQ+ participants generally viewed the city as safe but feared being a target of hate, particularly outside the gay village. Homelessness and news coverage of crimes were identified as factors influencing perceived safety.

## Gun Violence in Toronto

While the majority of quantitative survey respondents agree that there is a serious gun problem in Toronto (TOP2: 79%) and they avoid going to certain areas of Toronto because of gun violence (TOP2: 64%), **less than half are afraid of falling victim to gun violence** (TOP2: 47%).

**Figure 2: Opinions of Gun Violence in Toronto**

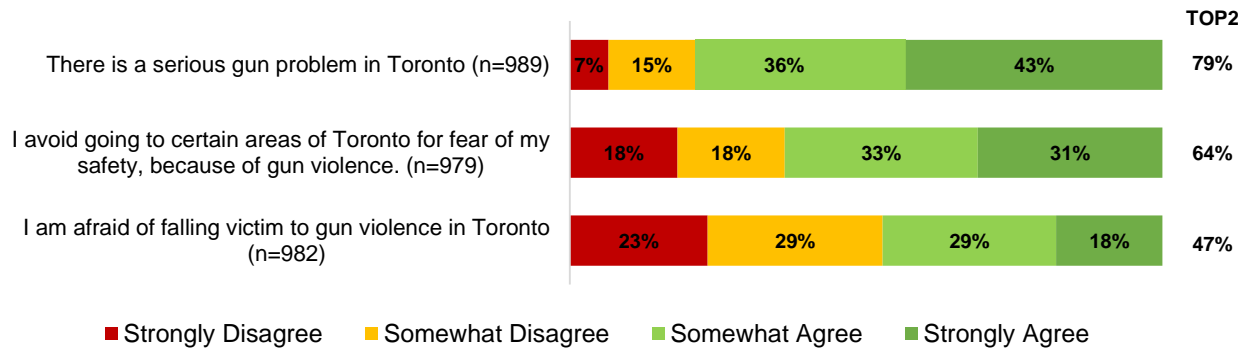


Figure 2 | Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
 Sample size: varies for each statement, shown in chart  
 Framework: All respondents, excluding "Don't Know"

## Qualitative Findings

In in-depth interviews, perceptions on gun violence in the city varied widely between different population segments. Across all population segments, participants of in-depth interviews expressed a need to address the underlying causes that lead others to crime and gun violence (i.e. socio-economic and material conditions). Many expressed frustration about how illegal firearms are getting into the country. However, participants also generally agreed that while the problem of gun violence in Toronto is serious, it is not worse than Canada as a whole or the USA.

Among respondents from the general population, most expressed being unaware of gun violence as an issue in Toronto. Many expressed that gun violence seemed to be a rare or targeted occurrence, reporting that it does not impact their personal feelings of safety. Opinions tended to differ based on the level of media consumption, as those who believed gun violence on the rise also reported that they keep up with the news. Individuals who feel safe in Toronto also tended to express that they exercise caution in their behaviour and avoid threatening situations.

Toronto residents from marginalized communities indicated a perception that gun violence is increasing overall, while becoming less targeted and more random, citing examples such as random attacks on the subway and shootings across neighbourhoods. Black participants and Indigenous participants were more likely to have direct experience of the impacts of gun violence and to speak as if guns are currently in their community, compared to LGBTQ+ residents and the general population who felt distant from the violence. Black participants and Indigenous participants tended to express that gun violence in Toronto has gotten worse in recent years, particularly among youth. Some believe that Toronto could do a better job in dealing with gun violence, but also that Canada is doing well compared to the United States.

### Safety in Neighbourhood

- **Most residents of Toronto (TOP2: 87%) feel safe in their own neighbourhoods.**
- Across all racial groups, the majority of respondents feel safe in their neighbourhoods.
- Those with higher household income (\$100k+, TOP2: 90%) are more likely to say their neighbourhood is safe than those with lower household income (<\$25k, TOP2: 79%)

**Table 1: Feeling of safety in neighbourhood, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Very Safe	40%	43%	34%	31%	34%	35%	58%	31%	36%	36%
Reasonably Safe	47%	46%	52%	50%	54%	57%	30%	50%	58%	50%
Somewhat Unsafe	11%	9%	11%	15%	7%	9%	12%	19%	7%	14%
Very Unsafe	2%	2%	3%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 1 | Question 3: Now, I'd like to ask you about your own neighbourhood. How safe do you feel in your neighbourhood? Is it...  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Figure 3: Feeling of safety in neighbourhood, by income**

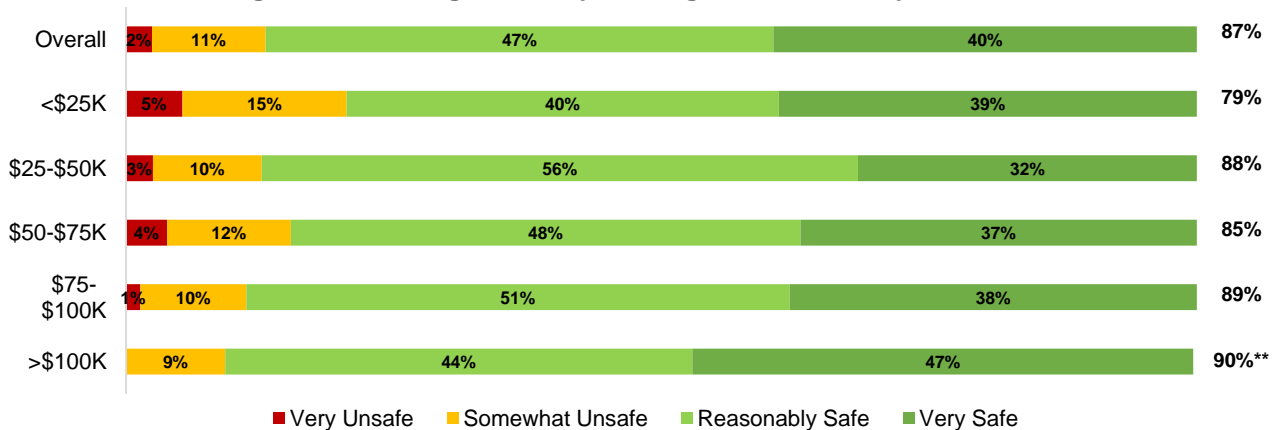


Figure 3 | Question 3: Now, I'd like to ask you about your own neighbourhood. How safe do you feel in your neighbourhood? Is it...  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: Overall 1003 | Income 853  
 \*\*Chart figures have been rounded for visual representation. TOP2 total corresponds to the sum of the unrounded figures.

### Sound of Gunfire in Neighbourhood

- About one in six (17%) have heard gunfire in their neighbourhood in the past year.
- Females (19%) and those with lower household income (<\$50k, 23%-27%) are more likely to have heard the sound of gunfire than males (14%) and those with higher household income (>\$75k, 9%-13%).
- Among those who had heard gunfire in the past year, 4 in 5 (83%) had only heard it once in a while.

**Table 2: Incidence of hearing gunfire in the past year, by gender and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	476	507	105	173	163	135	278
Yes	17%	14%	19%	27%	23%	14%	9%	13%
No	81%	85%	77%	69%	75%	82%	89%	86%
Don't Know	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%

Table 2 | Question 4: In the past year, have you heard the sound of gunfire in your neighbourhood?  
Framework: All respondents

**Table 3: Frequency of hearing gunfire in the past year, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	170	108	50	17*	13*	1*	1*	2*	9*	8*
Once in a while	83%	83%	84%	83%	78%	100%	100%	100%	88%	88%
Monthly	12%	12%	14%	17%	22%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%
Weekly	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%
Daily	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 3 | Question 5: How often have you heard the sound of gunfire in your neighbourhood?  
Framework: Those who had heard the sound of gunfire in their neighbourhood in the last year  
\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

### Qualitative Findings

In qualitative interviews, participants from the general population reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood whether they had first-hand experience of hearing gunshots or not. Those who had heard gunshots in their neighbourhood tended to disbelieve that what they heard was a gunshot, feeling at first that it could be fireworks or traffic. Even after hearing a gunshot, most people reported still feeling safe and secure due to the infrequency of hearing gunshots.

**Fear due to shooting in neighbourhood: adults**

- 1 in 5 (22%) have experienced fear as a result of a shooting in their neighbourhood
- Those aged 25-64 are more likely (23%-29%) to experience fear than younger (18-24: 14%) or older respondents (age 65+: 13%)

**Figure 4: Fear due to shooting in neighbourhood, adults**

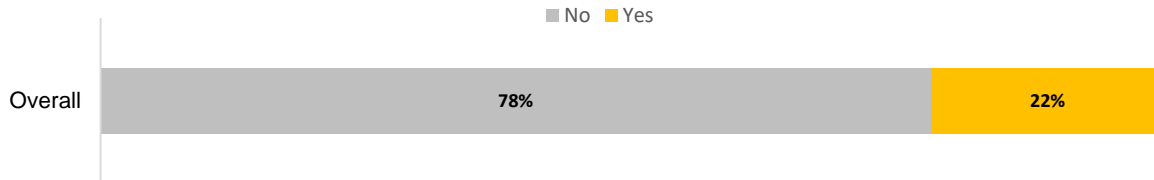


Figure 4 | Question 7: Have you experienced fear as a result of a shooting in your neighbourhood?  
Framework: All respondents

**Table 4: Fear due to shooting in neighbourhood, adults – by gender and age**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203
Yes	22%	15%	27%	14%	29%	24%	25%	23%	13%
No	78%	85%	73%	86%	71%	76%	75%	77%	87%

Table 4 | Question 7: Have you experienced fear as a result of a shooting in your neighbourhood?  
Framework: All respondents

**Table 5: Fear due to shooting in neighbourhood, adults – by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Yes	22%	20%	25%	26%	24%	22%	28%	18%	30%	22%
No	78%	80%	75%	74%	76%	78%	72%	82%	70%	78%

Table 5 | Question 7: Have you experienced fear as a result of a shooting in your neighbourhood?  
Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution



**Fear due to hearing gunfire in neighbourhood: children**

- Nearly 1 in 10 (9%) of those who have children say their children have expressed fear because of hearing gunfire in their neighbourhood

**Figure 5: Fear due to hearing gunfire in neighbourhood, children**

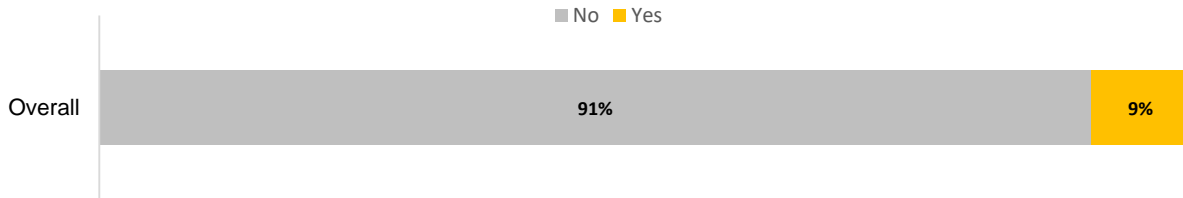


Figure 5 | Question 6: Have your children ever expressed fear to you because of hearing gunfire in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: Respondents who have children  
 Sample size: 568

- Female parents/guardians are more likely (12%) to say their children have expressed fear because of hearing gunfire in their neighbourhood than males (5%)

**Table 6: Fear due to hearing gunfire in neighbourhood, children – by gender and racialization of parent/guardian**

	Overall	Male	Female	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	568	469	514	387	149	44	32	4*	5*	9*	29*	32
Yes	9%	5%	12%	9%	9%	12%	3%	0%	18%	10%	15%	3%
No	91%	95%	88%	91%	91%	88%	97%	100%	82%	90%	85%	97%

Table 6 | Question 6: Have your children ever expressed fear to you because of hearing gunfire in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: Respondents who have children  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Worried about children’s safety**

- 29% of those who have children worry about their child's safety because of gun violence
- Females are more likely (34%) to worry than males (24%)
- Those with lower household income (<\$25k: 57%) are more likely to worry than those with higher household income (\$25k+: 17%-38%).

**Figure 6: Worry about children's safety due to gun violence, by parent/guardian gender and income**

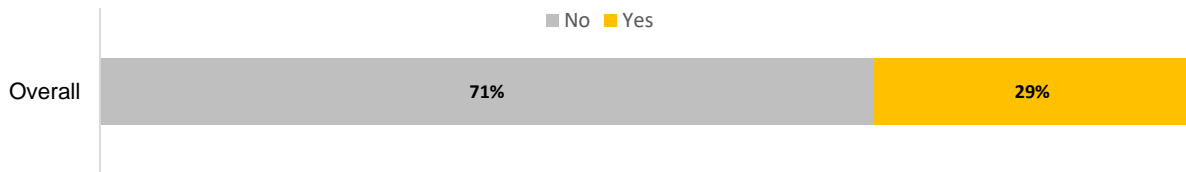


Figure 6 | Question 8: Do you worry about your child's safety in your neighbourhood because of gun violence such as walking to school or playing in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: Respondents who have children, excluding those who answered not applicable  
 Sample size: Overall 496 | Income 417

**Table 7: Worry about children’s safety due to gun violence, by parent/guardian gender and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	496	223	261	47	91	70	64	145
Yes	29%	24%	34%	57%	38%	31%	27%	17%
No	71%	76%	66%	43%	62%	69%	73%	83%

Table 7 | Question 8: Do you worry about your child's safety in your neighbourhood because of gun violence such as walking to school or playing in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: Respondents who have children, excluding those who answered not applicable

**Table 8: Worry about children’s safety due to gun violence, by parent/guardian racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	496	326	140	42	29*	3*	4*	8*	28*	31
Yes	29%	26%	34%	40%	47%	35%	23%	11%	31%	23%
No	71%	74%	66%	60%	53%	65%	77%	89%	69%	77%

Table 8 | Question 8: Do you worry about your child's safety in your neighbourhood because of gun violence such as walking to school or playing in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: Respondents who have children, excluding those who answered not applicable  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Release of a Person on Strict Bail Conditions

- 2 in 3 (68%) do not feel it is reasonable to release a person on bail into their neighbourhood if the person has been charged with possessing a gun; 4 in 5 (84%) if the person has been charged with using a firearm to commit an offence

**Figure 7: Opinions on reasonableness of releasing a person on bail, by type of charge**

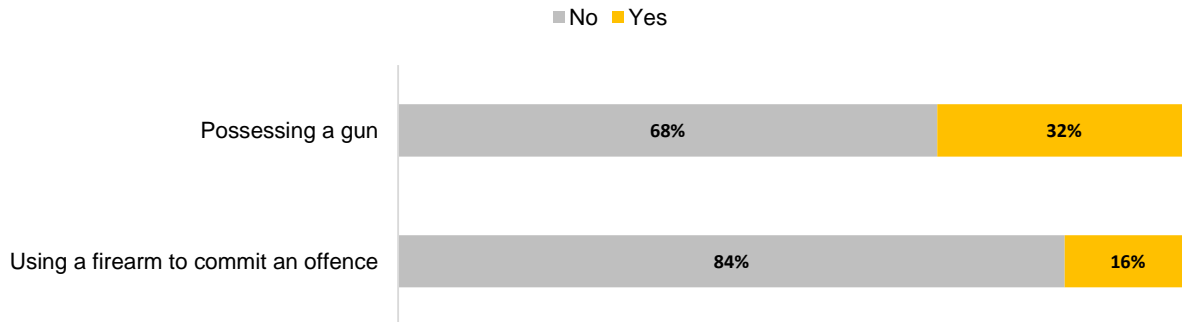


Figure 7 | Question 9A & 9B: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with:  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: 1003

## Qualitative Findings

In in-depth interviews, most participants felt that bail represents an opportunity for rehabilitation rather than punishment. Many participants felt that if strict bail conditions are broken, the individual charged has not changed their behaviour and would be likely to commit the same or a similar offence. Some mentioned that their opinion depends on the severity of the bail-breaking offence, where possessing a firearm again would be more cause for concern than missing a curfew. As well, some expressed that if the individual on bail was returning to the same conditions they were previously living in, it would only lead to the same outcome. Respondents felt that individuals on bail could need significant support to change their conditions, rather than simply returning that person to the community.

When interviewed, participants from the Black community considered it reasonable to allow bail for possessing a firearm, but less reasonable if the individual had been charged with discharging, pointing, or threatening with a gun. Similarly, Indigenous participants tended to oppose releasing a person who had used a firearm to commit a crime, citing concern for the victim and community.

**Reasonableness of release on bail: Charged with possessing a gun**

- 2 in 3 (68%) do not feel it is reasonable to release someone charged with possessing a gun on bail into their neighbourhood

**Figure 8: Opinion on reasonableness of bail if charged with possessing a gun**



Figure 8 | Question 9A: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with: possessing a gun  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: 1003

**Table 9: Opinion on reasonableness of bail if charged with possessing a gun, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Yes	32%	33%	32%	41%	19%	91%	30%	39%	23%	38%
No	68%	67%	68%	59%	81%	9%	70%	61%	77%	62%

Table 9 | Question 9A: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with: possessing a gun  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

- Younger respondents (aged 18-44: 38%-40%), those with higher household income (\$100k+: 42%) and males (36%) are more likely to think it is reasonable if the person has been charged with possessing a gun than older respondents (aged 55+: 21%-24%), those with lower household income (<\$50k, 18%-29%) and females (28%).

**Table 10: Opinions on reasonableness of bail if charged with possessing a gun, by gender, age, and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Yes	32%	36%	28%	39%	40%	38%	32%	21%	24%	18%	29%	34%	32%	42%
No	68%	64%	72%	61%	60%	62%	68%	79%	76%	82%	71%	66%	68%	58%

Table 10 | Question 9A: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with: possessing a gun  
 Framework: All respondents; \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Reasonableness of release on bail: Using a firearm to commit an offence**

- 4 in 5 (84%) do not feel it is reasonable to release someone on bail into their neighbourhood if the person has been charged with using a firearm to commit an offence

**Figure 9: Opinions on reasonableness of bail if charged with using a firearm to commit an offence**

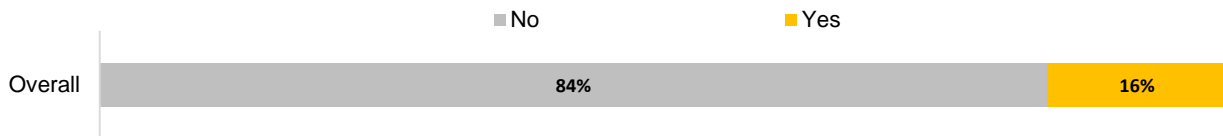


Figure 9 | Question 9B: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with: Using a firearm to commit an offence, such as pointing or discharging the firearm, or robbing someone  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: 1003

**Table 11: Opinions on reasonableness of bail if charged with using a firearm to commit an offence, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Yes	16%	17%	15%	27%	10%	44%	15%	0%	4%	16%
No	84%	83%	85%	73%	90%	56%	85%	100%	96%	84%

Table 11 | Question 9B: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with: Using a firearm to commit an offence, such as pointing or discharging the firearm, or robbing someone  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

- Males (20%) are more likely than females (13%) to say they feel bail is reasonable if the person has been charged with using a firearm to commit an offence

**Table 12: Opinions on reasonableness of bail if charged with using a firearm to commit an offence, by gender, age, and income**

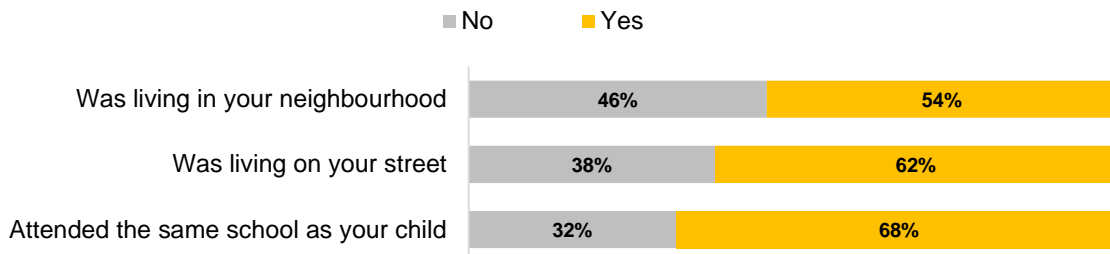
	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Yes	16%	20%	13%	16%	23%	16%	18%	10%	12%	15%	13%	20%	15%	20%
No	84%	80%	87%	84%	77%	84%	82%	90%	88%	85%	87%	80%	85%	80%

Table 12 | Question 9B: Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on strict bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with: Using a firearm to commit an offence, such as pointing or discharging the firearm, or robbing someone  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Change of Daily Behaviours

- The majority of respondents would change their daily behaviours if they learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail within their community.

**Figure 10: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail in the community**



*Figure 10 | Question 10ABC: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: ...  
Sample size/Framework: Q10A, B 1003 / All respondents | Q10C 589 / Those who have children*

**Change in daily behaviours: if person on bail lives in the same neighbourhood**

- 54% would change daily behaviours if they learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living in their neighbourhood

**Figure 11: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living in the same neighbourhood**



Figure 11 | Question 10A: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: was living in your neighbourhood  
Sample size: 1003 | Framework: All respondents

- Those who consider themselves to be a member of a racialized group are more likely (58%) than those who do not identify as racialized (50%) to change their behaviour if the bailed person was living in their neighbourhood

**Table 13: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living in the same neighbourhood, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16	57	61
Yes	54%	50%	58%	51%	62%	10%	42%	75%	66%	58%
No	46%	50%	42%	49%	38%	90%	58%	25%	34%	42%

**Table 14: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living in respondent’s neighbourhood, by gender, age, and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Yes	54%	49%	58%	61%	55%	54%	54%	54%	48%	63%	56%	54%	53%	47%
No	46%	51%	42%	39%	45%	46%	46%	46%	52%	37%	44%	46%	47%	53%

- Those with lower household income (<\$25k, 63%) are more likely to say they would change their daily behaviours if the bailed person was living in their neighbourhood than those with higher household income (\$100k+, 47%)

Table 13 & 14 | Question 10A: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: was living in your neighbourhood  
\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Change in daily behaviours: if person on bail lives on the same street**

- 62% would change daily behaviours if they learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences was living on their street

**Figure 12: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living on the same street**



Figure 12 | Question 10B: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: was living on your street  
 Sample size: 1003  
 Framework: All respondents

**Table 15: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living on the same street, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16	57	61
Yes	62%	59%	66%	54%	71%	19%	57%	82%	81%	66%
No	38%	41%	34%	46%	29%	81%	43%	18%	19%	34%

- Those with lower household income (<\$25k, 71%) are more likely to say they would change their daily behaviours if the bailed person was living on their street than those with higher household income (\$100k+, 57%)
- Female respondents were more likely (68%) to say they would change their daily behaviours if the bailed person was living on their street than males (56%)

**Table 16: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and living on the same street, by gender, age, and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Yes	62%	56%	68%	57%	64%	62%	66%	64%	58%	71%	62%	63%	62%	57%
No	38%	44%	32%	43%	36%	38%	34%	36%	42%	29%	38%	37%	38%	43%

Table 15 & 16 | Question 10B: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: was living on your street  
 Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution



**Change in daily behaviours: if person on bail is attending the same school as their child**

- 68% would change daily behaviours if they learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences attends the same school as their child

**Figure 13: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and attending the same school as their child**



Figure 13 | Question 10C: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: attended the same school as your child  
 Framework: Respondents who have children  
 Sample size: 568

**Table 17: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and attending the same school as their child, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	568	387	149	44	32	4*	5*	9*	29*	32
Yes	68%	66%	71%	64%	77%	0%	58%	61%	86%	78%
No	32%	34%	29%	36%	23%	100%	42%	39%	14%	22%

- Female respondents were more likely (72%) to say they would change their daily behaviours if the bailed person was living on their street than males (64%)

**Table 18: Potential to change daily behaviour if a person charged with firearm-related offences is on bail and attending the same school as the respondent's child, by age, gender, and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	568	253	302	38	74	113	108	104	118	51	101	82	74	166
Yes	68%	64%	72%	74%	79%	69%	69%	68%	59%	59%	72%	69%	72%	69%
No	32%	36%	28%	26%	21%	31%	31%	32%	41%	41%	28%	31%	28%	31%

Table 18 | Question 10C: Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and: attended the same school as your child  
 Framework: Respondents who have children  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## How Daily Behaviour Would Change

- Of those who said they would change their daily behaviours if they learned a person charged with firearm-related offences was on bail and living in their neighbourhood, living on their street, or attending the same school as their child, the most common responses for how they would change their behaviour were:
  - Being more aware of danger / cautious / vigilant/ watchful (41%)
  - Stay in at night / spend less time outside (32%)
  - Keep watch over their kids (15%)

**Figure 14: Daily behaviours that respondents would change if a person charged with firearm-related offences was on bail in the respondent's community**

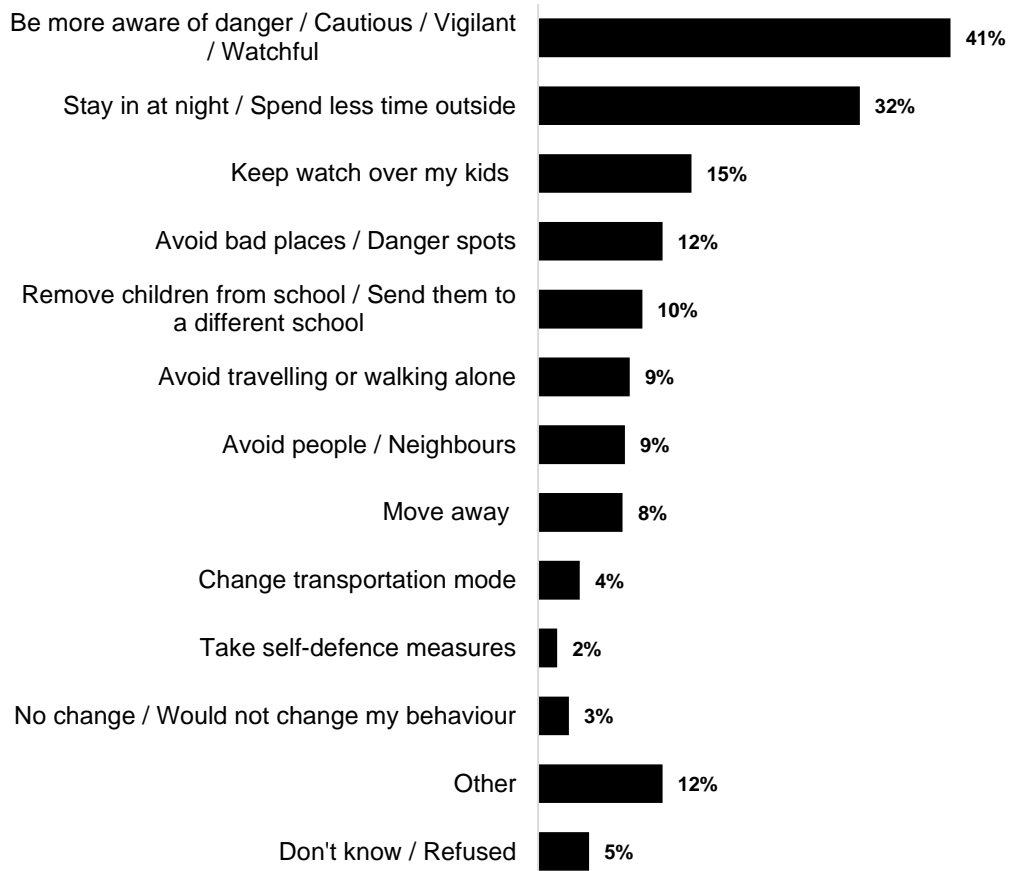


Figure 14 | Question 11: Please tell us how you would change your behaviour:  
 Framework: Those who would change their daily behaviours  
 Sample size: 718

Notes: Percentages add to over 100% as multiple responses were permitted. The total count of answers to the question was greater than the number of respondents who answered the question. Open-ended responses from survey respondents have been categorized into themes for the purpose of analysis. "Other" represents miscellaneous responses that were not mentioned frequently enough to be categorized.

## How Daily Behaviour Would Change

- Those who consider themselves a member of a racialized group were more likely (12%) to say they would move away than those who are non-racialized (6%)

**Table 19: Potential changes in daily behaviour, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	718	451	224	53	65	2*	5*	13*	49	48
Be more aware of danger / Cautious / Vigilant / Watchful	41%	41%	44%	29%	57%	45%	18%	35%	54%	43%
Stay in at night / Spend less time outside	32%	30%	34%	30%	26%	100%	64%	70%	33%	33%
Keep watch over my kids (e.g. when playing outside, going to/from school, etc.)	15%	17%	14%	12%	11%	0%	0%	33%	20%	14%
Avoid bad places / Danger spots	12%	12%	14%	13%	16%	45%	22%	13%	13%	9%
Remove children from school / Send them to a different school	10%	10%	9%	17%	2%	0%	0%	20%	4%	13%
Avoid travelling or walking alone	9%	8%	11%	12%	11%	0%	0%	22%	6%	13%
Avoid people / Neighbours	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%	11%	12%
Move away	8%	6%	12%	11%	19%	0%	18%	14%	6%	8%
Change transportation mode	4%	4%	5%	6%	3%	0%	22%	13%	4%	5%
Take self-defence measures (e.g. learn self-defence, carry a weapon, etc.)	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
No change / Would not change my behaviour	3%	3%	3%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%
Don't know / Refused	5%	5%	6%	7%	5%	0%	0%	0%	6%	7%
Other	12%	14%	9%	5%	9%	0%	18%	7%	8%	15%

Table 19 | Question 11: Please tell us how you would change your behaviour:

Framework: Those who would change their daily behaviours

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

Notes: Percentages add to over 100% as multiple responses were permitted. The total count of answers to the question was greater than the number of respondents who answered the question. Open-ended responses from survey respondents have been categorized into themes for the purpose of analysis. “Other” represents miscellaneous responses that were not mentioned frequently enough to be categorized.

## How Daily Behaviour Would Change

- Female respondents were more likely to say they would avoid travelling or walking alone (12%) than male respondents (6%)
- Female respondents were also more likely to say they would move away (12%) than male respondents (5%)

Table 20: Potential changes in daily behaviour, by gender, age and income

	Overall	Male	Female	18 -24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 -54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	718	308	398	71	150	116	118	116	136	80	125	115	96	190
Be more aware of danger / Cautious / Vigilant / Watchful	41%	45%	38%	44%	50%	37%	36%	39%	39%	40%	40%	42%	41%	40%
Stay in at night / Spend less time outside	32%	31%	33%	47%	38%	30%	31%	22%	29%	34%	36%	30%	37%	29%
Keep watch over my kids (e.g. when playing outside, going to/from school, etc.)	15%	14%	17%	11%	13%	18%	25%	15%	10%	6%	16%	14%	21%	19%
Avoid bad places / Danger spots	12%	12%	13%	17%	12%	8%	11%	18%	10%	17%	9%	12%	14%	12%
Remove children from school / Send them to a different school	10%	9%	11%	6%	8%	14%	11%	15%	8%	5%	11%	7%	12%	11%
Avoid travelling or walking alone	9%	6%	12%	8%	13%	11%	9%	6%	7%	9%	9%	10%	8%	11%
Avoid people / Neighbours	9%	7%	10%	3%	8%	13%	8%	13%	7%	8%	6%	9%	12%	10%
Move away	8%	5%	12%	6%	12%	9%	11%	10%	4%	11%	10%	9%	5%	7%
Change transportation mode	4%	4%	4%	3%	6%	5%	2%	6%	2%	6%	2%	5%	7%	3%
Take self-defence measures (e.g. learn self-defence, carry a weapon, etc.)	2%	2%	2%	6%	1%	3%	2%	2%	0%	3%	2%	4%	1%	2%
No change / Would not change my behaviour	3%	3%	3%	0%	3%	2%	6%	2%	4%	1%	5%	4%	1%	4%
Don't know / Refused	5%	4%	6%	3%	6%	7%	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Other	12%	12%	13%	11%	4%	16%	15%	12%	19%	3%	8%	21%	9%	15%

Table 20 | Question 11: Please tell us how you would change your behaviour:  
 Framework: Those who would change their daily behaviours

Notes: Percentages add to over 100% as multiple responses were permitted. The total count of answers to the question was greater than the number of respondents who answered the question. Open-ended responses from survey respondents have been categorized into themes for the purpose of analysis. "Other" represents miscellaneous responses that were not mentioned frequently enough to be categorized.

## Opinions on Second Bail

- The majority of respondents (94%) do not think it is reasonable for the courts to release a person in their neighbourhood on bail for a second time if the person has been charged with a firearm-related offence and is breaking their bail conditions

**Figure 15: Opinion on reasonableness of second bail if a person is breaking their bail conditions**

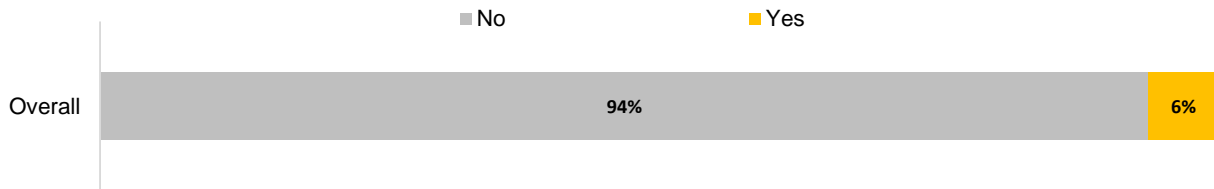


Figure 15 | Question 12: If an accused person released in your neighbourhood after being charged with a firearm-related offence is found to be breaking their bail conditions, do you feel it is reasonable for the courts to release them for a second time on strict bail conditions in your neighbourhood?

Framework: All respondents

Sample size: 1003

**Table 21: Opinion on second bail if a person is breaking their bail conditions, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>8*</b>	<b>7*</b>	<b>16*</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Yes</b>	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%	0%	14%	0%	5%	3%
<b>No</b>	94%	93%	95%	95%	94%	100%	86%	100%	95%	97%

Table 21 | Opinion on second bail, by racialization

Table 21 | Question 12: If an accused person released in your neighbourhood after being charged with a firearm-related offence is found to be breaking their bail conditions, do you feel it is reasonable for the courts to release them for a second time on strict bail conditions in your neighbourhood?

Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Opinions on Second Bail

- Those with household incomes over \$75,000 are more likely (95-96%) than those with incomes of \$25,000 to just under \$50,000 (89%) to think it is not reasonable to release someone on bail for a second time if the person has been charged with a firearm-related offence and is found to be breaking their bail conditions

**Table 22: Opinion on second bail if a person is breaking their bail conditions, by age, gender and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Yes	6%	7%	6%	8%	9%	7%	6%	3%	4%	7%	11%	8%	5%	4%
No	94%	93%	94%	92%	91%	93%	94%	97%	96%	93%	89%	92%	95%	96%

Table 22 | Question 12: If an accused person released in your neighbourhood after being charged with a firearm-related offence is found to be breaking their bail conditions, do you feel it is reasonable for the courts to release them for a second time on strict bail conditions in your neighbourhood?

Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Qualitative Findings

In in-depth interviews, participants tended to consider second bail unreasonable. Most participants indicated that release for a second time would lead to feelings of danger and a general lack of safety. Several people felt that if an individual had broken bail once, they would break it again and remain a risk to the community.

**Impact on Level of Confidence in the Justice System**

- Three in four (75%) say that their level of confidence in the justice system would go down if an accused person is released for a second time

**Figure 16: Impact of second bail on confidence in justice system**

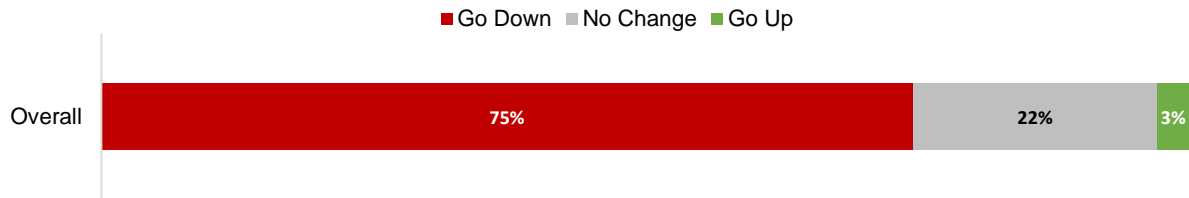


Figure 16 | Question 13: If an accused person was released for a second time, would this impact your level of confidence in the justice system?  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: 1003

**Table 23: Impact of second bail on confidence in justice system, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Confidence would go down	75%	75%	73%	62%	74%	55%	86%	94%	74%	82%
No Change	22%	22%	23%	34%	26%	45%	0%	6%	18%	16%
Confidence would go up	3%	3%	3%	4%	0%	0%	14%	0%	7%	2%

Table 23 | Question 13: If an accused person was released for a second time, would this impact your level of confidence in the justice system?  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Impact on Level of Confidence in the Justice System**

- Those with higher household income (\$75k+: 78%-80%) and older respondents (aged 45+: 76%-81%) are more likely to say their level of confidence in the justice system would go down than those with lower household income (<\$50k: 63%-66%) and younger respondents (aged 18-24: 59%).
- Those aged 18-24 were more likely (37%) to say their level of confidence would not change than those aged 45+ (16%-21%)
- Male respondents were more likely (25%) to say their level of confidence would not change than female respondents (19%)

**Table 24: Impact of second bail on confidence in justice system, by gender, age, and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Confidence would go down	75%	72%	77%	59%	74%	74%	76%	81%	77%	63%	66%	74%	80%	78%
No Change	22%	25%	19%	37%	24%	23%	20%	16%	21%	30%	29%	24%	16%	21%
Confidence would go up	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	2%	6%	5%	2%	3%	1%

Table 24 | Question 13: If an accused person was released for a second time, would this impact your level of confidence in the justice system?

Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Qualitative Findings**

In in-depth interviews, Black and Indigenous participants emphasized that when forming their opinion of the justice system, they preferred to consider cases individually rather than in response to general actions. Due to an overall mistrust of the justice system, some participants said that their opinions wouldn't be heavily impacted by whether or not an individual had been released for a second time.

In contrast, participants from the general population and those that identified as LGBTQ+ tended to say they would consider it a failure of the justice system to release someone charged with firearm offences. Several participants from the general population expressed that their trust in the justice system would be diminished if someone was released on bail twice. Others expressed that their opinions would differ depending on the bail condition that was broken, but they would feel less safe in their communities overall.



**Impact on Feeling of Safety in the Neighbourhood**

- 72% say that their feeling of safety in their neighbourhood would go down if an accused person was released for a second time

**Figure 17 | Impact of second bail on feeling of safety in neighbourhood**

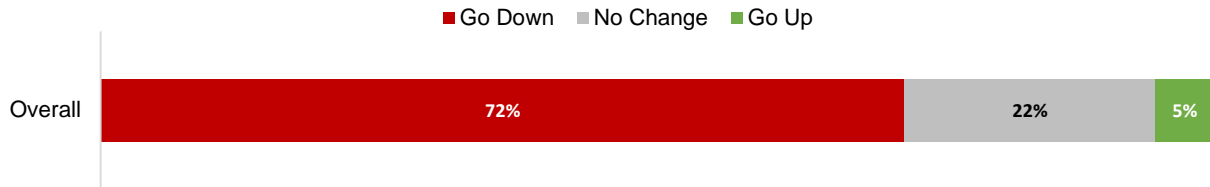


Figure 17 | Question 14: If an accused person was released for a second time, would it impact your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: 1003

**Table 25: Impact of second bail on feeling of safety in neighbourhood, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Feeling of safety would go down	72%	71%	73%	58%	79%	44%	55%	94%	79%	86%
No Change	22%	23%	22%	34%	17%	56%	30%	6%	18%	11%
Feeling of safety would go up	5%	5%	5%	8%	4%	0%	14%	0%	4%	3%

Table 25 | Question 14: If an accused person was released for a second time, would it impact your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood?  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

**Impact on Feeling of Safety in the Neighbourhood**

- Female respondents (76%) are more likely than males (68%) to say that their feeling of safety in their neighbourhood would go down if an accused person was released for a second time

**Table 26: Impact of second bail on feeling of safety in neighbourhood, by gender, age, and income**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Feeling of safety would go down</b>	<b>72%</b>	68%	76%	69%	73%	70%	73%	77%	70%	76%	66%	69%	78%	73%
<b>No Change</b>	<b>22%</b>	27%	18%	10%	4%	7%	4%	3%	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	23%
<b>Feeling of safety would go up</b>	<b>5%</b>	5%	5%	22%	23%	23%	23%	19%	24%	17%	28%	26%	17%	3%

Table 26 | Question 14: If an accused person was released for a second time, would it impact your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood?

Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Personal Experience With Someone On Bail for Firearm-Related Offences

- 1 in 10 (10%) have had a personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearm-related offences has negatively impacted their feeling of safety

**Figure 18: Personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearm-related offences has negatively impacted respondent's feeling of safety**

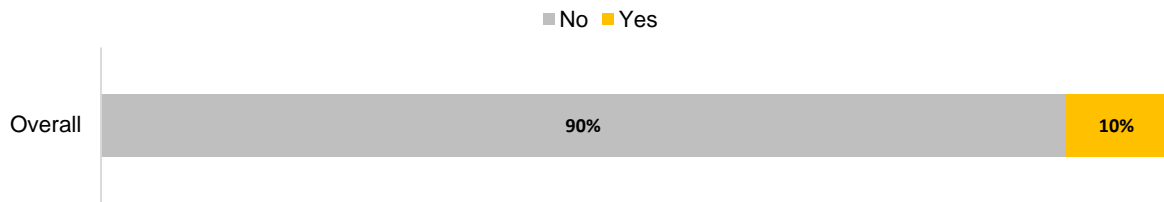


Figure 18 | Question 15: Have you had personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearm-related offences has negatively impacted your feeling of safety?  
 Framework: All respondents  
 Sample size: 1003

**Table 27: Personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearm-related offences has negatively impacted respondent's feeling of safety, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Yes	10%	9%	10%	10%	9%	14%	28%	6%	20%	7%
No	90%	91%	90%	90%	91%	86%	72%	94%	80%	93%

Table 27 | Question 15: Have you had personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearm-related offences has negatively impacted your feeling of safety?  
 Framework: All respondents  
 \*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Court Consideration of the Impact of Gun Violence

- 62% do not feel that the impact of gun violence on the victim and community is being considered enough when the courts are imposing bail conditions on persons accused of firearm related offences

**Figure 19 | Opinions on court consideration of gun violence when imposing bail for firearm offences**

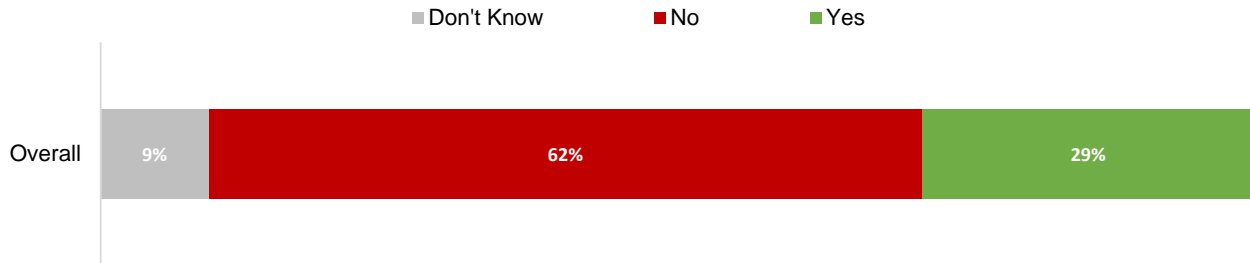


Figure 19 | Question 16: Do you feel that the impact of gun violence on the victim and the community is being considered enough when the courts are imposing bail conditions on persons accused of firearm related offences?

Framework: All respondents

Sample size: 1003

**Table 28: Opinions on court consideration of gun violence when imposing bail for firearm offences, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast Asian	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
<b>Sample</b>	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
<b>Yes</b>	29%	28%	30%	25%	36%	44%	30%	28%	39%	20%
<b>No</b>	62%	61%	62%	69%	56%	56%	70%	66%	54%	69%
<b>Don't Know</b>	9%	10%	7%	6%	8%	0%	0%	6%	7%	11%

Table 28 | Question 16: Do you feel that the impact of gun violence on the victim and the community is being considered enough when the courts are imposing bail conditions on persons accused of firearm related offences?

Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

## Court Consideration of the Impact of Gun Violence

- Those under age 35 are more likely (38%-53%) than those aged 35+ (19%-29%) to say that the impact of gun violence on the victim and community is being considered enough when the courts are imposing bail conditions on persons accused of firearm related offences

**Table 29: Opinions on court consideration of gun violence when imposing bail for firearm offences, by gender and age**

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>29%</b>	31%	27%	53%	38%	29%	22%	23%	19%
<b>No</b>	<b>62%</b>	58%	65%	41%	58%	53%	68%	67%	74%
<b>DK</b>	<b>9%</b>	11%	8%	6%	5%	18%	11%	10%	8%

Table 29 | Question 16: Do you feel that the impact of gun violence on the victim and the community is being considered enough when the courts are imposing bail conditions on persons accused of firearm related offences?  
 Framework: All respondents

## Main Concerns About Guns in the Community

- When asked what main concern they would tell the courts about guns in the community, the most commonly mentioned concerns were gun banning (15%), strict sentencing (15%) and safety concerns (13%)

**Figure 20: Concerns about guns in the community**

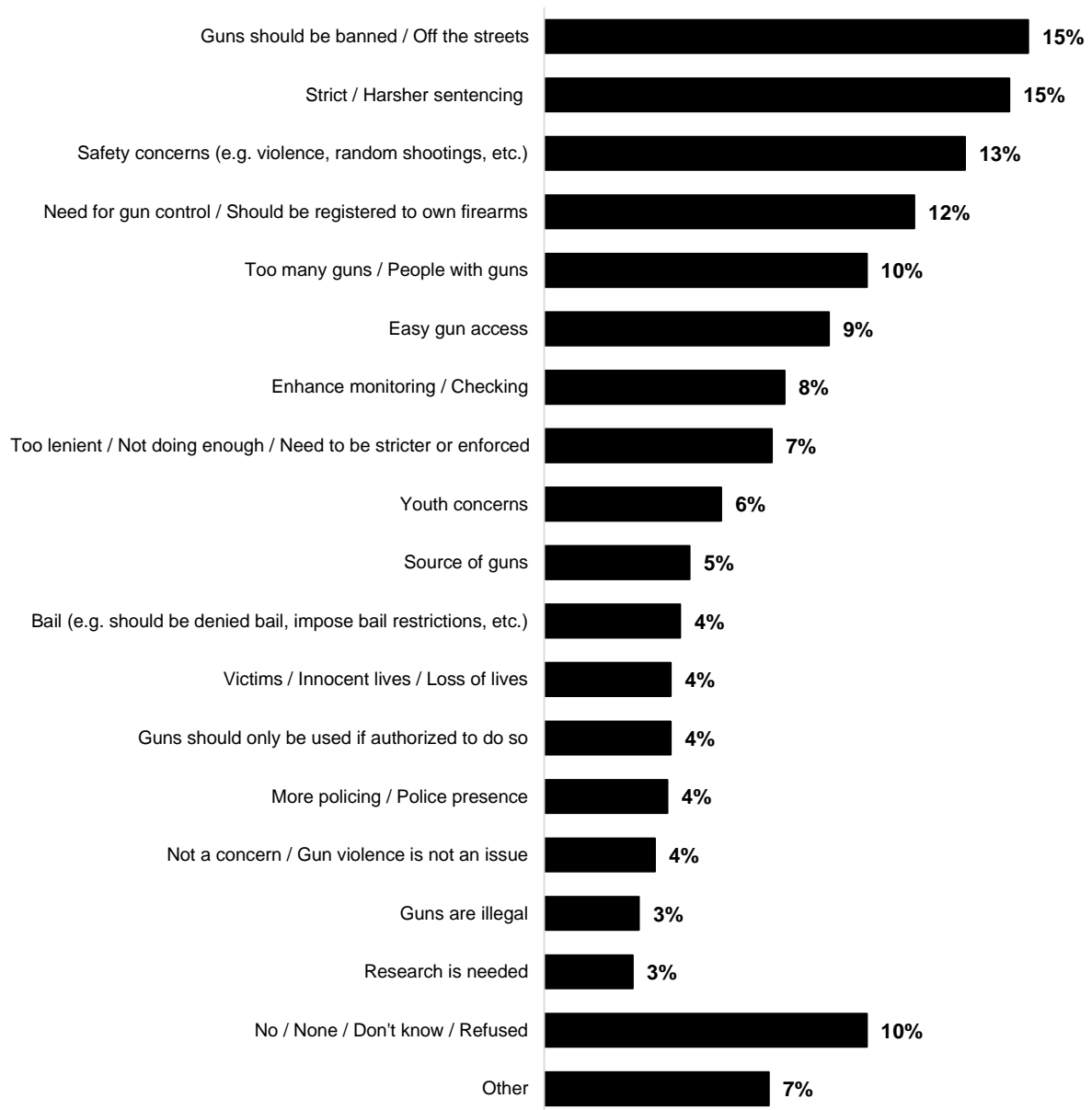


Figure 20 | Question 17: If you could tell the courts one main concern about guns in the community, what would that concern be?  
 Framework: All respondents; Sample size: 1003

Note: Open-ended responses from survey respondents have been categorized into themes for the purpose of analysis. "Other" represents miscellaneous responses that were not mentioned frequently enough to be categorized.

## Main Concerns About Guns in the Community

- Those who consider themselves a member of a racialized group were more likely (8%) to mention concerns about the source of guns than those who are non-racialized (3%)

**Table 30: Concerns about guns in the community, by racialization**

	Overall	Non-Racialized	Racialized	Black	East or Southeast	Indigenous	Latino	Middle-Eastern	South Asian	Any others
Sample	1003	652	302	81	84	8*	7*	16*	57	61
Guns should be banned / Off the streets / No need for them	15%	15%	15%	12%	12%	0%	15%	27%	16%	18%
Strict / Harsher sentencing	15%	16%	13%	14%	14%	19%	0%	12%	7%	13%
Safety concerns (e.g. violence, random shootings, danger to the community, etc.)	13%	12%	14%	9%	10%	0%	0%	18%	34%	9%
Need for gun control / Should be registered or licenced to own firearms	12%	11%	14%	15%	17%	21%	15%	17%	9%	13%
Too many guns / People with guns	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	22%	0%	11%	2%	15%
Easy gun access	9%	9%	11%	10%	8%	26%	28%	6%	15%	16%
Enhance monitoring / Checking (e.g. crackdown on guns entering Canada from the U.S., need for border checks, background checks, etc.)	8%	8%	9%	12%	9%	0%	0%	0%	10%	5%
Too lenient / Not doing enough / Need to be stricter or enforced	7%	7%	7%	4%	12%	9%	28%	16%	0%	4%
Youth concerns (e.g. involved in gangs / crime / violence, Young Offenders Act, etc.)	6%	6%	6%	9%	3%	14%	28%	6%	0%	7%
Source of guns (e.g. where they are coming from, etc.)	5%	3%	8%	10%	6%	0%	0%	0%	12%	5%
Bail (e.g. should be denied bail, impose bail restrictions, etc.)	4%	5%	4%	4%	2%	0%	0%	6%	4%	6%
Victims / Innocent lives / Loss of lives	4%	4%	3%	1%	6%	9%	0%	0%	4%	3%
Guns should only be used if authorized to do so	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	0%	0%	15%	2%	4%
More policing / Police presence	4%	4%	3%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	4%	4%
Not a concern / Gun violence is not an issue	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Guns are illegal	3%	3%	3%	1%	5%	0%	0%	11%	4%	3%
Research is needed	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	9%	14%	0%	0%	2%
No / None / Don't know / Refused	10%	10%	11%	11%	13%	12%	0%	14%	10%	10%
Other	7%	6%	10%	9%	9%	26%	15%	12%	7%	13%

Table 30 | Question 17: If you could tell the courts one main concern about guns in the community, what would that concern be?  
Framework: All respondents

\*Small sample size – interpret with caution

Notes: Percentages add to over 100% as multiple responses were permitted. The total count of answers to the question was greater than the number of respondents who answered the question. Open-ended responses from survey respondents have been categorized into themes for the purpose of analysis. “Other” represents miscellaneous responses that were not mentioned frequently enough to be categorized.

## Main Concerns About Guns in the Community

- Female respondents were more likely (8%) to mention youth concerns (e.g. involved in gangs/crime/violence) than male respondents (3%)

Table 31: Concerns about guns in the community, by gender, age, and income

	Overall	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	<\$25K	\$25-\$50K	\$50-\$75K	\$75-\$100K	>\$100K
Sample	1003	469	514	101	211	168	152	152	203	105	173	163	135	278
Guns should be banned / Off the streets / No need for them	15%	14%	17%	10%	15%	14%	10%	18%	22%	18%	18%	16%	15%	12%
Strict / Harsher sentencing (e.g. repeat offenders, longer jail sentences, etc.)	15%	15%	15%	4%	9%	15%	13%	24%	20%	19%	18%	13%	12%	13%
Safety concerns (e.g. violence, random shootings, danger to the community, etc.)	13%	12%	15%	16%	17%	15%	10%	12%	10%	12%	11%	15%	13%	15%
Need for gun control / Should be registered or licenced to own firearms	12%	11%	13%	12%	13%	11%	17%	10%	10%	7%	15%	11%	15%	11%
Too many guns / People with guns	10%	10%	11%	8%	6%	10%	13%	14%	11%	12%	6%	9%	11%	12%
Easy gun access	9%	9%	10%	4%	8%	10%	14%	8%	10%	5%	8%	9%	12%	9%
Enhance monitoring / Checking (e.g. crackdown on guns entering Canada from the U.S., need for border checks, background checks, etc.)	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%	10%	11%	5%	6%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%
Too lenient / Not doing enough / Need to be stricter or enforced	7%	6%	8%	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	10%	5%	8%	8%	6%	5%
Youth concerns (e.g. involved in gangs / crime / violence, Young Offenders Act, etc.)	6%	4%	8%	2%	5%	7%	5%	8%	5%	10%	6%	5%	2%	5%
Source of guns (e.g. where they are coming from, etc.)	5%	5%	5%	10%	3%	3%	4%	5%	6%	8%	6%	4%	4%	4%
Bail (e.g. should be denied bail, impose bail restrictions, etc.)	4%	4%	5%	0%	3%	4%	4%	6%	7%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Victims / Innocent lives / Loss of lives	4%	2%	5%	0%	5%	3%	6%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Guns should only be used if authorized to do so (e.g. military, police, hunting/sporting, etc.)	4%	3%	5%	2%	3%	4%	3%	5%	6%	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%
More policing / Police presence	4%	4%	4%	2%	3%	3%	8%	3%	4%	6%	4%	4%	7%	2%
Not a concern / Gun violence is not an issue	3%	4%	3%	10%	3%	5%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	6%
Guns are illegal	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	4%	5%	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%	5%
Research is needed (e.g. more emphasis on neighbourhoods, social status, how it affects families, etc.)	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%
No / None / Don't know / Refused	10%	10%	11%	22%	17%	10%	6%	5%	6%	11%	11%	12%	11%	8%
Other (Final)	7%	8%	6%	6%	10%	11%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	8%	9%	9%

Table 31 | Question 17: If you could tell the courts one main concern about guns in the community, what would that concern be?

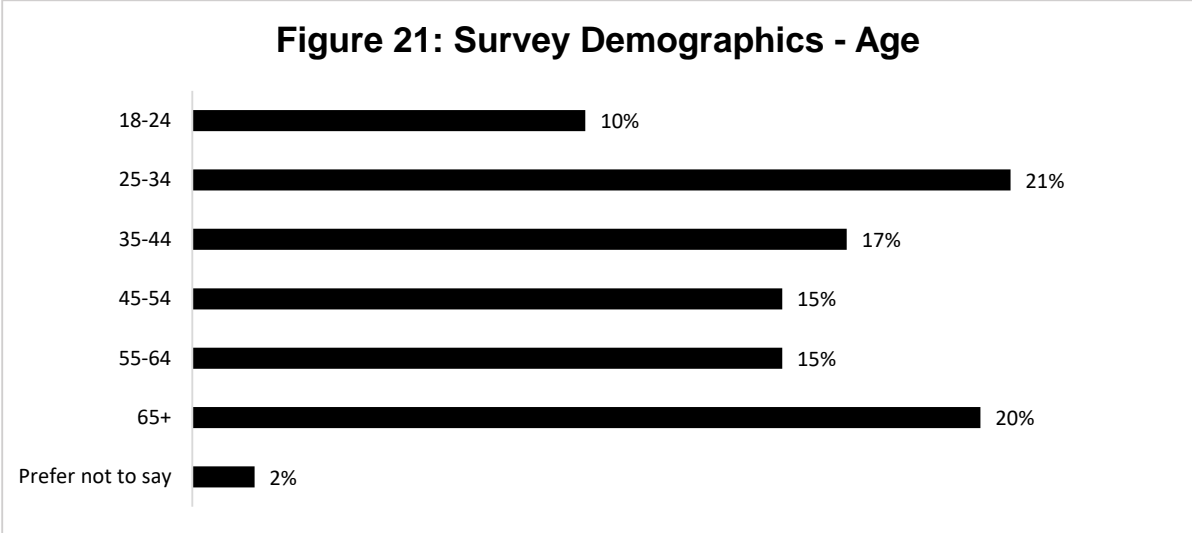
Framework: All respondents

Notes: Percentages add to over 100% as multiple responses were permitted. The total count of answers to the question was greater than the number of respondents who answered the question. Open-ended responses from survey respondents have been categorized into themes for the purpose of analysis. "Other" represents miscellaneous responses that were not mentioned frequently enough to be categorized.



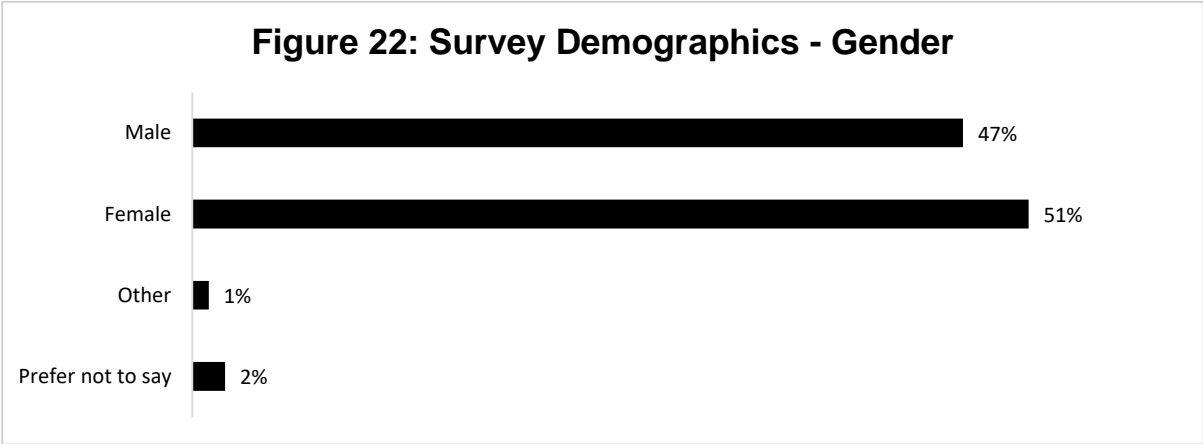
# Demographics

## Age



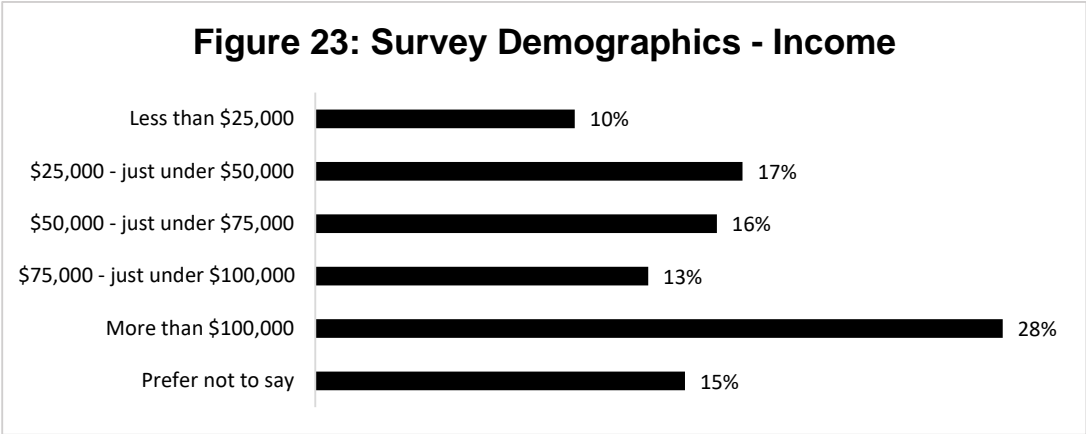
Question 19: Into which of the following groups do you fall?  
Sample size: 1003  
Framework: All respondents

## Gender



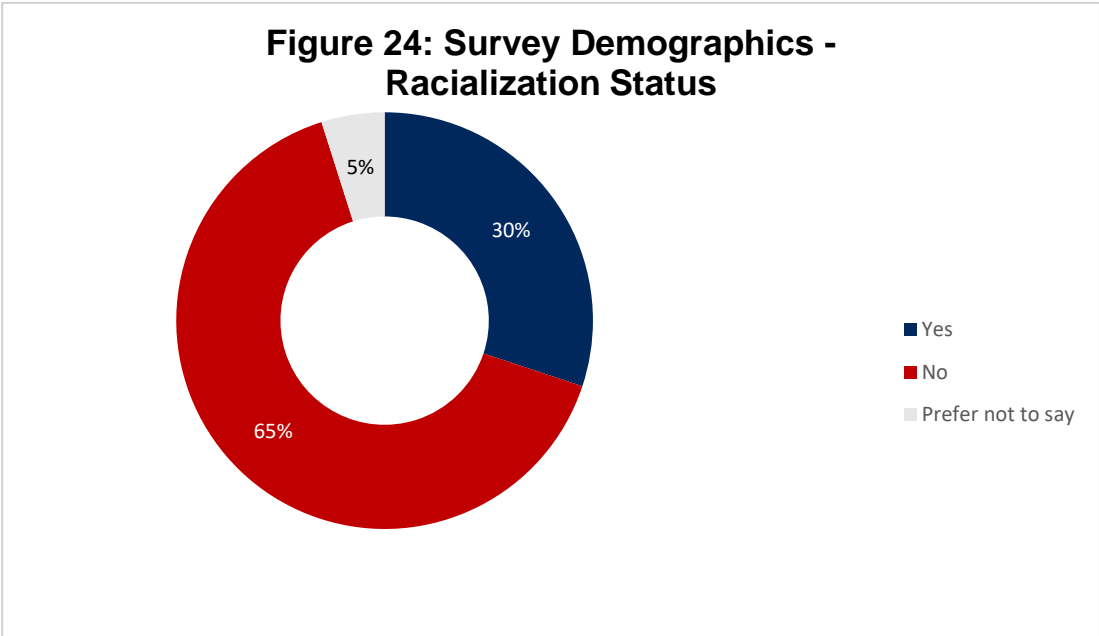
Question 22: What gender do you identify as?  
Sample size: 1003  
Framework: All respondents

### Annual Household Income



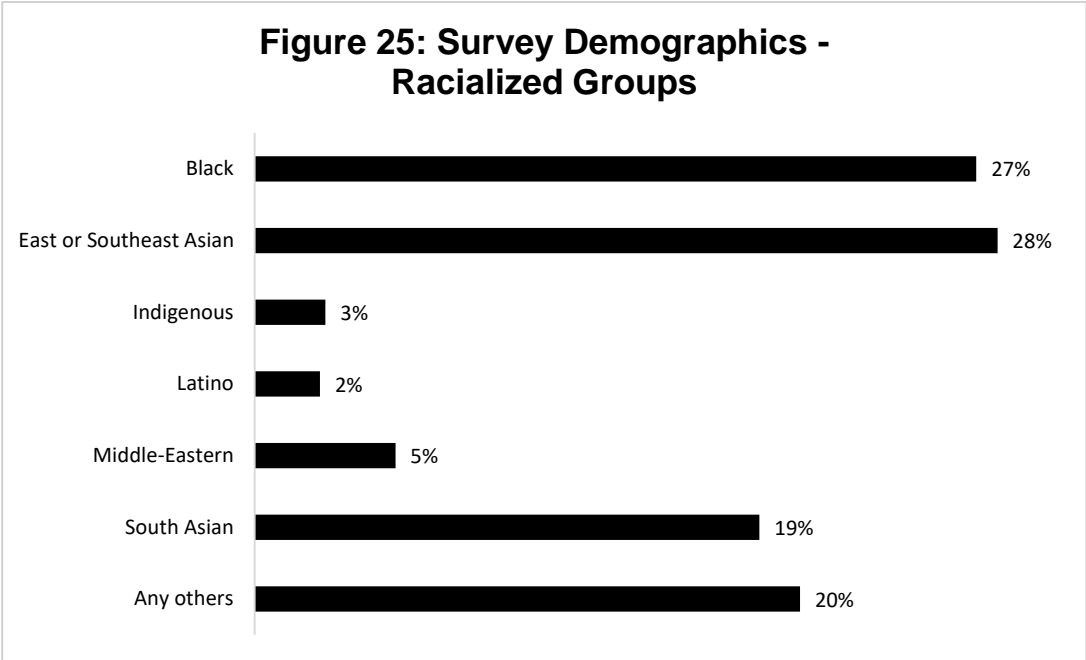
Question 18: What, roughly, is your annual household income?  
Sample size: 1003  
Framework: All respondents

### Racialization Status



Question 20: Do you consider yourself a member of a racialized group?  
Sample size: 1003  
Framework: All respondents

### Racialized Groups



Question 21: Please tell us what group or groups you consider yourself a member of?

Sample size: 302

Framework: Those who considered themselves a member of a racialized group

Note: Percentages add to over 100% as multiple responses were permitted. The total count of answers to the question was greater than the number of respondents who answered the question.

“Any others” represents all those who answered “yes” to Question 20, “Do you consider yourself a member of a racialized group,” but did not select one of the six options provided for racialized groups in Question 21.

# Appendix A: Quantitative Survey Questionnaire

## TORONTO POLICE SERVICES GUN VIOLENCE POLL

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### INTRODUCTION & SCREENING

Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ from the Forum Poll™. We are conducting a survey for the Toronto Police Services about policing issues in the city, and we'd like your opinion.

The survey won't take more than 5 minutes to complete.

S1. First of all, are you 18 years of age or older, and live in the City of Toronto?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

→ **TERMINATE INTERVIEW**

S2. Do you or anyone in your household work for the Toronto Police Service, Ministry of the Attorney General, Corrections Services or Courts?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

→ **TERMINATE INTERVIEW**

S3. So we can group our data, what are the first three digits of your postal code?  
**SELECT FROM LIST.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Z9Z – Not on list

→ **TERMINATE INTERVIEW**

### SECTION A: FEELING OF SAFETY IN TORONTO

1. In general, how safe do you feel the City of Toronto is? Is it... **READ 1-4**

- 1 Very Safe
- 2 Reasonably Safe
- 3 Somewhat Unsafe
- 4 Very Unsafe
- 5 Don't Know (*DO NOT READ*)

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **READ AND ROTATE A-C**

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
a) There is a serious gun problem in Toronto	5	4	3	2	1
b) I am afraid of falling victim to gun violence in Toronto	5	4	3	2	1
c) I avoid going to certain areas of Toronto for fear of my safety, because of gun violence.	5	4	3	2	1

**SECTION B: FEELING OF SAFETY IN NEIGHBOURHOOD**

3. Now, I'd like to ask you about your own neighbourhood. How safe do you feel in your neighbourhood? Is it... **READ 1-4**

- 1 Very safe
- 2 Reasonably safe
- 3 Somewhat unsafe
- 4 Very unsafe
- 5 *Don't Know (DO NOT READ)*

4. In the past year, have you heard the sound of gunfire in your neighbourhood?

- 1 Yes → **CONTINUE**
- 2 No → **SKIP TO QUESTION 6**
- 3 Don't know → **SKIP TO QUESTION 6**

5. How often have you heard the sound of gunfire in your neighbourhood? **READ 1-4**

- 1 Once in a while
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Weekly
- 4 Daily

6. Have your children ever expressed fear to you because of hearing gunfire in your neighbourhood?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Not applicable, don't have children

7. Have you experienced fear as a result of a shooting in your neighbourhood?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

8. **ONLY ASK IF Q6 = 1 OR 2:** Do you worry about your child's safety in your neighbourhood because of gun violence such as walking to school or playing in your neighbourhood?
- 1 Yes
  - 2 No
  - 3 Not applicable, don't have children

**SECTION C: RELEASE OF ACCUSED PERSONS ON BAIL**

9. Under the *Criminal Code*, persons arrested for a crime have the right to a bail hearing within 24 hours. A bail hearing is where a Judge or a Justice of the Peace will decide whether the accused person should be kept in jail or allowed to go back into the community while their case is heard in a criminal court. Bail is the conditional release of an accused person with the promise to appear in court when required. Usually conditions are attached to bail, which are rules the accused person must follow while on bail.

Do you feel that it is reasonable to release a person on **strict** bail conditions into your neighbourhood if they have been charged with:

**A. Possessing a gun**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**B. Using a firearm to commit an offence, such as pointing or discharging the firearm, or robbing someone.**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

10. Would you change any of your daily behaviours within your community if you learned that an accused person charged with firearm-related offences is on strict bail conditions and:

**A. Was living in your neighbourhood**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**B. Was living on your street**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**C. ONLY ASK IF Q6 = 1 OR 2: Attended the same school as your child**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

11. **ONLY ASK IF 10A, B OR C = YES:** Please tell us how you would change your behaviour.

[OPEN]

12. If an accused person released in your neighbourhood after being charged with a firearm-related offence is found to be breaking their bail conditions, do you feel it is reasonable for the courts to release them for a second time on strict bail conditions in your neighbourhood?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

13. If an accused person was released for a second time, would this impact your level of confidence in the justice system? **ROTATE 1-2**

- 1 Yes, your level of confidence would go down
- 2 Yes, your level of confidence would go up
- 3 No, your level of confidence would not change

14. If an accused person was released for a second time, would it impact your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood? **ROTATE 1-2**

- 1 Yes, your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood would go down
- 2 Yes, your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood would go up
- 3 No, your feeling of safety in your neighbourhood would not change

15. Have you had personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearm related offences has negatively impacted your feeling of safety?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

16. Do you feel that the impact of gun violence on the victim and the community is being considered enough when the courts are imposing bail conditions on persons accused of firearm related offences?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

17. If you could tell the courts one main concern about guns in the community, what would that concern be?

[OPEN]

**SECTION D: DEMOGRAPHICS**

18. Finally, a couple of questions to help us group our data. What, roughly, is your annual household income? **READ 1-5**

- 1 Less than \$25,000
- 2 \$25,000 – just under \$50,000
- 3 \$50,000 – just under \$75,000
- 4 \$75,000 – just under \$100,000
- 5 More than \$100,000
- 6 Prefer not to say

19. Into which of the following groups do you fall? **READ 1-6**

- 1 18-24
- 2 25-34
- 3 35-44
- 4 45-54
- 5 55-64
- 6 65+
- 7 Prefer not to say

20. Do you consider yourself a member of a racialized group?

- Yes 1 → **CONTINUE TO QUESTION 21**
- No 2 → **SKIP TO QUESTION 22**
- Prefer not to say 3 → **SKIP TO QUESTION 22**

21. Please tell us what group or groups you consider yourself a member of? **ACCEPT MULTIPLE MENTIONS**

- 1 Black
- 2 East or Southeast Asian
- 3 Indigenous
- 4 Latino
- 5 Middle-Eastern
- 6 South Asian
- 7 Any others

22. What gender do you identify as? **READ 1-5**

- 1 Male
- 2 Female
- 3 Transgender
- 4 Non-Binary
- 5 Two-Spirit
- 6 Other
- 7 Prefer Not to Say

**T.1 TERMINATE**

Thank you, that's all the questions that I have.



# Appendix B: Qualitative Report



**APPENDIX B**  
**TPS Gun Violence and Bail Reform**  
**- Full Qualitative Research Report -**  
Fieldwork: September 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Qualitative Study Background & Objectives

The Toronto Police Services commissioned a qualitative research study to explore experiences and feelings of Toronto residents surrounding:

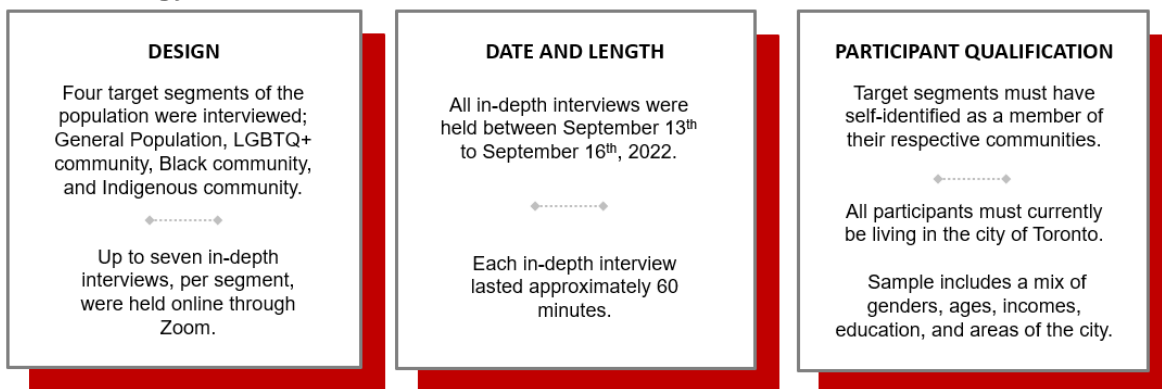
- safety in the city of Toronto,
- gun violence,
- and bail for individuals charged with firearm offences.

The objective of this research is to understand perspectives of different segments of the population through in-depth conversations about the topics listed above.

Specifically,

- To evaluate how General Population, LGBTQ+, Black, and Indigenous people generally experience safety and gun violence in the city.
- The differences among community perspectives.
- To understand the impacts of gun violence across these different communities.
- And, gather feedback on bail release for those charged with firearm offences.

## Methodology



## Limitations & Terminology

### Limitations of Qualitative Research

- The normal limitations of qualitative research discussions must be kept in mind.
- Qualitative research such as this is useful in exploring *possibilities* but not *probabilities*. The information obtained may be viewed as an indication of the range of experiences and attitudes that exist but not of the extent to which these attitudes are represented in any defined population.
- For the purposes of this report, verbatim quotes have been edited for clarity.
- Finally, in-depth interviews are directed discussion in which open ended questions are asked and any avenue of information which appears to evoke strong sentiment is pursued and reported.

## Terminology

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IDI = In-depth interview. Research method comprising of a one-on-one discussion between the participant of the study and the moderator.

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LGBTQ+ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and others.

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BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, People of colour

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## Summary of Key Findings – Safety in Toronto

- As to be expected, the different segments interviewed experienced differing level of safety and comfort in the city.
- Among Gen Pop, LGBTQ+, and Black segments there was consensus that violence in the City of Toronto, including but not limited to gun violence, is increasing.
- For the Indigenous segment they describe a more permanent lack of safety due to prejudice and generational trauma.
  - Many people from this segment describe personal experience with gun violence and the devastating impact it has had on families and the community.
  - It has created a foundational lack of trust in the police. And an overall feeling of prejudice.
- Among the Black and Indigenous segments there was greater feeling that guns are present in their communities and it needs regulation.
  - Several individuals from these groups mentioned the need to raise awareness about the issue and the programs/initiatives the police have in order to deal with the violence.
  - Those who are informed of some initiatives have praised them.
  - A sentiment that was heard across all the groups was that the police are being somewhat restricted by public perception or “cancel culture.”
  - There is an emphasis from all marginalized communities (LGBTQ+ and BIPOC) for the need of a non-confrontational police presence to establish trust with the community to address the issue any matters of safety.

## Summary of Key Findings – Gun Violence

- Perception on gun violence in the city varied widely between the different target segments. While all the segments considered gun violence as a serious issue for the city there were differing opinions about urgency and approach.
  - For Gen Pop the key factor that differentiated the two major opinions was their level of media consumption.
  - For other target segments their perceptions of gun violence was that attacks were increasing overall and they're becoming less targeted and more random.
  - Moreover, from the Black and Indigenous segments, they spoke like guns are currently in the community compared the Gen Pop and LGBTQ+ segments who felt quite distant from the violence, even when it occurred near them.
  - For the Black and Indigenous segments we heard more stories from people with direct knowledge of the impacts of gun violence on people and communities.
  - Across Gen Pop, Black, and LGBTQ+ interviews people agreed that this issue is serious but when comparing Toronto/Canada to America that issue didn't seem as dramatic.
  - However, for the Indigenous community, since the impact of gun violence is felt often and thus, is a constant concern.
  - Across all segments there was a sentiment of a need to address the underlying causes that lead people to a life of crime/gun violence. (i.e. socio-economic and material conditions).
  - Many participants across all the segments mentioned a feeling of frustration about how illegal firearms are getting into the country.

## Summary of Key Findings – Bail for Firearm Offences

- For most, bail represented an opportunity for the person charged to show they've learned from their mistakes and are willing to abide by the rules imposed. So most participants indicated that if strict bail conditions are broken the individual is not learning or changing their behaviour and thus, would be likely to commit the same, or similar, offence.
  - Most people indicated that release for a second time would lead to feelings of danger and a general lack of safety.
  - While others indicated that it would depend on the "severity" of the condition broken. Several people gave the example that if they missed a curfew that could be overlooked but if they possessed a firearm again they would become weary and this would be considered a failure of the courts duty to protect the people.

### **Summary of Key Findings – Bail for Firearm Offences – Continued**

- Additionally, a key factor in how people felt was their perception of bail as “rehabilitation” rather than “punishment.” Meaning they felt putting someone back into the conditions they were in would only lead to the same outcome. In order to change their behaviour, they would need significant supports. And if that is not possible it would be reckless and irresponsible to return that person to the community.
- The impact on the justice system varied between segments.
  - Gen pop and LGBTQ+ segments felt like Canada is already light on punishment and they would consider it a failure of the justice system to release someone charged with firearm offences. Thus, their view on the justice system would be diminished.
  - Black and Indigenous segments had a fear of painting individual cases in broad strokes. Emphasizing the details case by case. Moreover, because of an overall mistrust of the justice system their opinions wouldn't be heavily impacted.

## Detailed Findings: General Population

### 1 – Feelings of Safety

#### Safety in the City

- There were a few common perceptions at play when we asked about feeling safe in the city. Such as,
  - The perception that there are areas of the city that are less safe than other. “Notorious neighbourhoods”
  - As well a feeling of unsafety at night
  - And, as to be expected, women mentioned not going out unaccompanied in certain areas/ at certain times of night.
- The consensus of this was that they as individuals weren’t in fear because they had “no reason” to go to areas of the city they considered dangerous. As well as, feeling safe since they aren’t involved with dangerous people.
- Many people also expressed that they felt Toronto was a safe city compared to other cities of similar sizes.
  - Particularly, compared America, participants expressed that since situation nearby seems much worse Toronto seems safe.
- One participant expressed that since Toronto is so populace he felt no fear since there are always people around.
- A couple participants reported feeling unsafe in the city because of their perception of increasing gun violence in the city.

*“I find that people turn to crime when they don’t have a good economic opportunities. It’s less of a societal problem...It’s important to have police presence in the community that’s non-confrontational so people know the police aren’t your enemy.” –GP1*

## Detailed Findings: General Population

### 1 – Feelings of Safety

#### Safety in their Neighbourhood

- Most reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood whether they had first-hand experience of hearing gun shots or not.
  - Those who reported hearing gunshots in their neighbourhood reported feeling confused at first and disbelieving that it was a gunshot. Sooner attributing the sound to fireworks or the sound of traffic.
  - When the sound was identified as a gunshot most people reported a sense of safety and security due to infrequency of the gunshot sounds. (i.e. hear a gunshot sound twice over the course of 3 or 4 years).
- A few participants mentioned not going out late at night due to a personal discomfort with being alone
- One participant who had his local pharmacy held up at gun point described feeling safe due to the quick police response and lack of injury resulting from the event.

#### Role of Police in the Community

- For most participants in this segment, the sense of safety across the city led to many to express that, though they aren't aware of any specific initiatives to control gun violence, they believe the Toronto Police Services are doing a good job keeping the city safe and gun free.
  - Furthermore, one participant expressed that police were held back from action by public perception.
  - Several participants felt that punishments for criminals weren't strict enough overall because of a "lack of respect" for the police.

*"I think it comes down to luck. The city is safe but violence can happen anywhere." –GP3*

## Detailed Findings: General Population

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

#### Unaware of Gun Violence as an Issue

- Most of the participants in this segment labelled themselves as unaware of gun violence as an issue.
  - For one individual, he felt that statistics were important in judging the seriousness of the issue. Wondering about how prominent gun violence is considering the population of Toronto.
  - Similarly, someone felt gun violence was just part of living in a big city.
  - Many expressed feeling that gun violence seemed to be a rare occurrence and when it did occur it didn't impact their personal feelings of safety.
- There was a general sense that gun violence in the city is targeted and therefore, not a threat to those who believe they don't live a "dangerous" lifestyle.
  - Most mentioned homelessness as a greater source of fear since they considered that behaviour more random and unpredictable than gun violence. Moreover, people had more direct experience with this than gun violence.
  - There were mixed feelings about falling victim to gun violence as a bystander. Some reported fear of stray bullets while others felt a strong sense of distance from any scenario of gun violence.
- The participants mentioned not being aware of gun violence in the city mentioned not watching the news or keeping up with news stories. While those who believed gun violence was on the rise considered themselves in tune with news about the city.
- Due to the association of gun violence with specific areas of the city most felt like they wouldn't change their behaviour as they already stayed away from areas they considered dangerous of violence in general.

*"It seems to be an issue...it's a growing issue. It seems like anybody can get a gun if they want one...I don't know how they get them but they're here." –GP5.*



## Detailed Findings: General Population

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

#### Gun Violence is on the Rise

- A few participants mentioned feeling that there has been an increase in gun violence over time. However, it was not a significant point of concern because the shootings seemed targeted.
- Several participants mentioned fear for the future if gun violence continued to increase.
  - One participant felt that gun violence was seasonal and described this past July to August the “summer of guns” because there were so many shootings in recent memory.
  - Another participant mentioned the fear that anyone might be in possession of a gun. And they fear that in the future when there are bar fights there could be guns present or introduced which would only escalate the violence.
- There was a sense overall from this segment that whether or not they feared gun violence they believed their daily behaviour wouldn’t change because living life in fear was not really enjoying life.
  - However, many already described their daily behaviour as cautious regardless of their perceptions about gun violence. Doing things such as;
    - driving instead of walking in dangerous neighbourhoods,
    - not walking around at night alone, and taking an uber home from bus/subway stops.

*“I think there needs to be a balance of safety and gun rights. But I would prefer stricter gun laws.” –GP2*

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

#### Bail the First Time

- Most participants in this segment considered it reasonable to release an individual charged with possessing a gun on strict bail conditions.
  - Many expressed there may be several “forgiving” reasons someone could be in possession of a gun and thus, feel comfortable releasing them back to the community. Several felt that all the extenuating circumstances must be considered when deciding weather or not to release someone.

## Detailed Findings: General Population

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- However, while comfortable with the idea of someone being release into the community on strict conditions some expressed worry over the city having the resources to uphold those strict conditions. Specifically, mentioning the worry that if they're not strictly monitored they could come into possession of another gun.
- And again, most participants felt that those charged with using a firearm to commit an offence was more serious than possession.
  - To many the intent distinguishes this as a more serious accusation. Moreover, to many participants this meant this person would be a greater danger to the community.
  - To some, the greater severity of this charge seemed to imply a greater risk of re-offence.
- There was also a feeling that punishments are lax in the country. And when considering gun laws many expressed that bail conditions should be stricter and repercussions should be more severe.
  - One participant expressed that as things stand punishments are not strict enough to deter anyone from committing offences with firearms.
- Furthermore, most explained they would feel unease if they became aware of someone in their neighbourhood was charged with a firearm offence and released on bail but their behaviour wouldn't drastically change. (Most of them are already cautious individuals).

*"Sentences aren't strict enough for people to refrain from getting them[guns]...it's more of a slap on the wrist." –GP5*

### Bail a Second Time

- Overwhelmingly people thought a release after breaking bail conditions was unreasonable.
  - Several people felt that bail was an "agreement" and if they had broken it once they would break it again. Moreover, people looked at the breaking of bail conditions as evidence the individual hadn't learned from their mistakes. And thus, would still be a risk to the community.
  - One participant called release on bail a "second chance" but that once conditions are broken so is the trust.
  - Another person didn't believe there was enough police presence to monitor and uphold strict bail conditions.

## Detailed Findings: General Population

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- One participant felt bail a second time was “completely unreasonable” and mentioned the worry that having this person in their neighbourhood might influence his child to get involved in a “dangerous lifestyle.”
- Several participants thought their opinions would differ depending on the condition that was broken but would feel less safe in their communities overall.
  - Arguing that breaking curfew could be ignored while attaining another firearm could not.

### Perception of the Justice System

- Several people expressed their trust in the justice system would be diminished if someone was released on bail twice.
  - One person mentioned this would make them feel like the justice system is out for monetary gain and not prioritizing protecting the community. Another said it would make the system look like a “joke.”

*“If I heard about it [someone out on bail on his street], I’d be more cautious...I’d still go out but I might find an alternate route to avoid them. I might petition the neighbourhood since they’re [person charged] potentially dangerous.” –GP4*

## Detailed Findings: LGBTQ+ Community

### 1 – Feelings of Safety

#### Safety in the City

- Similar to what we heard from the Gen Pop segment the LGBT segment felt that the city was overall pretty safe. Making distinctions about certain neighbourhoods of the city and going out alone at night.
  - Several people mentioned the perceived danger from the prominence of homelessness in their neighbourhood.
- One respondent who lives in the “gay village” felt very comfortable and safe there but described a sense of heightened tension in other parts of the city.
- Moreover, another respondent reported she didn’t feel comfortable going out with her partner and the young children in her family for fear they would be targets of hate.
- One participant mentioned that while she is comfortable going out with she worries about her girlfriend being a bigger target since she faces a lot of harassment as a black transgender lesbian.
- The fear of falling victim to gun violence was more prominent with this target segment since they feared being the target of those who disagreed with their “lifestyle.”
- Several people mentioned the media as an influence on how safe they felt in the city. Arguing the city was probably safer than they thought but because the news only reports on crimes they have a awareness of all the crime around the city.

*“I’m hearing more about gun violence but I think I’ve been shielded from it. It’s on the news more though.” –QP4*

#### Safety in their Neighbourhood

- Most participants described feeling safe in their neighbourhoods but reported feeling a sense of uncertainty about the low-income housing and homeless crisis which causes a slight feeling of unease but not significant enough to feel afraid.
- One participant reported feeling like there wasn’t enough space in their neighbourhood to see anyone acting erratically.
- Another participant described feeling like things “aren’t as simple as they used to be,” meaning she feels like violence in her neighbourhood was escalating and that she has less of a relationship with her neighbours.

## Detailed Findings: LGBTQ+ Community

### 1 – Feelings of Safety

#### Role of Police

- There was a sense of discomfort with the police for some community members. While their perceptions of the police in general were rather mixed they all agreed that forging a positive connection between the police and community is essential.
  - Many participants voiced concern about how to handle certain situations with a perspective of mistrust of the police. Due to a collective history they are skeptical of involving police while acknowledging it would be helpful.
  - Thus, most advocated of a peaceful integration of the police in communities to form better understanding and connections.
  - One participant mentioned she'd like to see spotlighting of LGBTQ+ police officers.
  - There is an overall sense from this community that the police are doing the best that they can.

*"It's nerve-wracking thinking about guns in my neighbourhood...I've created my own social supports since I don't think police would come help me." –QP3*

## Detailed Findings: LGBTQ+ Community

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

- While most people in this segment felt that gun violence is a serious issue in the city that does need to be addressed.
  - Some mentioned that gun violence was serious because it's like a "virus" in that it spreads.
  - Some argued gun violence was serious because the impact on the victims are so long-term as PTSD can be life long. Moreover, the affects of PTSD can effect everyone in a community.
  - While others expressed that the issue is serious but there are other issues that the city should be focusing on, such as, homelessness.
  - Many participants also explained they believe gun violence in the city is increasing. However, when compared to America, they felt the gun violence in Toronto doesn't seem as bad.
- Most people felt uninformed about any initiatives or programs by the police to reduce gun violence but do believe it should be spotlighted.
  - Some participants mentioned community outreach is essential in address this issue in collaboration with the community.
  - A participant who works in social work is very aware of what is being done in response to gun violence but is unaware of preventative measures that are being taken.
  - Another participant mentioned being aware that police have gone to schools to talk to children about the different issues in the city.

*"I want to give people a chance to abide by the law and see the police as a source comfort and safety but it's scary thinking about it [guns] in my neighbourhood...near kids." – QP2*

- There were various perspectives about falling victim to gun violence.
  - One person, who works in social work, was very familiar with what precautions to take in order to keep herself safe and protected. Such as,
    - Never leaving the house without her phone,
    - Never walking alone at night,
    - Keep conscious of surroundings.

## Detailed Findings: LGBTQ+ Community

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

- Another participant mentioned greater fear around subway pushing since she interacts with the subway everyday compared to not feeling like she's in dangerous areas of the city often.
- One individual described a "lurking fear" in the back of her mind since she feels like gun violence/mass shooting are increasing.
- When describing hearing gunshots, similar to gen pop, people described a sense of confusion at first and an instinct to attribute the sound to something else.
  - For one participant they felt residual shock after hearing the sound. And a general sense of a lack of safety and worry for others.
  - There was also a sense that gun violence is a targeted crime and thus individuals who aren't involved would be safe. However, one participant mentioned the fear for the community if individual who is being targeted lives in community.
  - One woman expressed, while she's never heard gunshots, she's seen the aftermath of shootings and that causes fear.

*"It's a very serious issue. Any amount of gun violence in the city is too much." – QP7*

## Detailed Findings: LGBTQ+ Community

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

#### Bail a First Time

- Opinions about the conditional bail release for someone charged with possessing a firearm were varied.
  - One participant felt it would be unreasonable to let this person out on bail since the use of guns can be very harmful and unpredictable. He considered it a big threat. Additionally, the person charged has knowledge of how to acquire another gun.
  - Another felt that just having it and not using it in any “hostile act” would make them comfortable with having that person released on bail. They also mentioned they would trust the courts to weigh the other circumstances of the case.
  - A participant felt nervous and unsure about letting someone out. Noting that they would be afraid of a person charged with possession in the public spaces in their neighbourhood. That uncertainty on public transit, in parks, on the sidewalk, or near children would be quite nerve-wracking.
- Opinions about the conditional bail release for someone charged with using a firearm were unanimous.
  - People felt it was unreasonable to release someone on bail if they discharged a firearm regardless of if anyone was injured.
  - One person described that simply pulling the trigger was causing harm to the community.
  - Another said, at this point the focus should be on rehabilitation before letting someone out so they have a chance to reform before being re-introduced to the community. At this level they are still dangerous.
  - A couple respondents called it less reasonable because the gun has already been used for harm once and since that risk has been identified it's unreasonable to let them back into the community.

*“I think people need to be held accountable...because it's too little too late when a crime occurs.” –QP7*



## Detailed Findings: LGBTQ+ Community

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

#### Bail a Second Time

- Again, no one in this segment thought releasing someone convicted of a firearm offence for a second time was reasonable.
- Many people mentioned breaking their first bail conditions shows the person charged is not willing to abide by conditions and would break conditions again if given the chance.
  - One person stated it wasn't worth the risk to have this person in the community since firearm charges have such a huge ability to cause harm to many people.
  - Another person said the breaking of bail conditions shows this isn't the way to rehabilitate an individual charged with an offence. It would be irresponsible releasing them into the community because they are "untrustworthy" having broken conditions once already.
  - Another person mentioned this as setting a bad example to others who engage in this kind of criminal behaviour.
  - A participant stated, she would worry about the safety of the person charged as well due to the potential of "vigilante" justice.

#### Perception of the Justice System

- One respondent reported feeling like if someone was let out on bail a second time it would feel like the courts don't care and aren't listening to the community.
- Another person said releasing someone twice would make the courts look weak.

*"It's the revolving door syndrome... To me, at that point, it means he should be in jail. That becomes a danger to the public. It becomes a question mark of when they're going to strike." – QP6*

## Detailed Findings: Black Community

### 1 – Feelings of Safety

- Collectively, individuals within the Black community feel that violence has increased quite significantly within the city of Toronto over the past few years. Some point to the pandemic as a period of increased crime.
- There is a perception that acts of random violence are on the rise and as one individual stated, “if I have any fear for my safety, it is due to the randomness of the violence.” Road rage, shootings on the highway were cited by the person as examples.
- Respondents who once perceived Toronto to be a safe city now feel uneasy due to the escalating crime rates particularly among youth.
- As persons of colour, many of the respondents experienced safety issues such as racial profiling, feeling uneasy about contacting the police for help, subjected to racial slurs. They feel targeted “at random” which contributes to increased feelings of unsafety within the community.

*“Always this...shadow...this what if? The victim is there, what if they do something else?” –BP7*

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

- Respondents believe that gun violence has gotten worse in general. They mention the increase in youth aged 15 to 20 years who have easy access to guns. Many of the individuals we interviewed have experienced gun violence within their families, friend’s families, and community at large.
- Gun violence is rated highly out of a scale of 10 and some rate it an 11. That recurring theme of randomness is reiterated as well as “senseless” and that the fall out is often “collateral damage.”
- Gun violence is perceived to be a grave issue particularly among youth. The perception is that youth violence is on the rise, not only violence among the adult population.
- Respondents believe that Toronto could do a better job in dealing with gun violence but note that we are doing a better job controlling gun violence in Canada compared to the United States.
- Some interviewers argue there needs to be more education for youth and partnerships with the police stationed in their communities to help reduce violence and build trust.

*“Program for receiving an incentive for bringing in a firearm is good” –BP2*

## Detailed Findings: Black Community

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

- Respondents who feared they could fall victim to gun violence did tend to be those who believed there were more random acts of violence happening and could be in the “wrong place at the wrong time.” They also had firsthand experience of gun violence in their lives, through hearing gun shots and witnessing shootings or someone close having fall victim to gun violence within their community.
- To counteract feels of insecurity, respondents said they were more vigilant and aware of their surroundings. They exercise more common sense about not visiting unsafe neighbourhoods, walking alone at night, or taking a cab or ride directly to their residence.
- Not all respondents from the Black community live in safe neighbourhoods. Some have experienced gun shots and shootings at various times of the day, but especially nights; but despite that feel that the neighbourhood is their home and safe enough.
- Many of the respondents did not have children of their own but had siblings, nieces and nephews, cousins. Some had experienced gun violence in their youth by hearing gun shots, seeing gun violence or were the random victim of gun related activity such as a car being shot at.

*“Living in a cancel culture compromises safety.” –Preferred not to be identified*

## Detailed Findings: Black Community

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- Many respondents in the Black community thought it was reasonable to allow someone out on strict bail conditions for possessing a firearm. They emphasized that the bail conditions were **strict** and did indicate that other factors must be considered such as people wanting protection in an unsafe climate and being innocent until proven guilty.
- It was considered less reasonable to some to allow someone out on bail even with strict bail condition if they had discharged, pointed, or threatened someone during a robbery.
- One respondent was a social worker with a therapeutic mindset and emphasized the need for rehabilitation over incarceration.
- Most respondents in the Black community would not alter their behaviour if a person were released on bail into their neighbourhood. They claim to be cautious, aware of their surroundings and take a rational approach to their safety.
- Many respondents felt it was unreasonable for a person who breaks their conditions of bail to be released for a second time. Someone not adhering to bail conditions are not suitable for bail. The bail conditions are not strict enough were reasons cited.

*“We need better laws for firearms” – BP2*

- The respondents from the Black community lack trust in the justice system. Therefore, releasing a person a second time into the community or neighbourhood on bail would serve to further impact a level of confidence already compromised. As one respondent noted, “things that happened with friends, family, extended family, police and people around me have shaken my confidence.”
- Some respondents had a personal experience where the release of someone on bail for firearms related offences negatively impacted their feelings of safety.
- Opinions varied on how much the courts consider the impact of gun violence on the victim and the community when imposing bail conditions for firearms related offences.
- For many, the courts do not go far enough even though there is a level of risk assessment built into the decision making around release on bail. For others, the courts seem to “lose empathy” and it becomes “just another court case with no faces or no people”.

*“Advocate how much it can affect a large group of people, create a domino effect for the victim, family, community...” –BP3*

## Detailed Findings: Black Community

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- Collectively, many of the respondents in the black community would like the courts to know why there are so many illegal firearms in the community, among youth, where are they coming from and how do youth especially, gain such easy access to these guns.
- One respondent suggested that there should be a gun registry with public access to it. More police presence is also needed.
- Guns were also seen as a symptom of larger problems in society that need to be addressed. This tended to be the world view of those in the social work field.
- Respondents enjoyed the interview and found the questions relevant and important. There was the belief that the legal system and the community need to be asking them more frequently from youth to seniors.
- Police could continue to build trust within the community particularly among youth to reduce their involvement with firearms.

*“Change it from a gun problem.. deal with the housing, poverty...issues” –BP4*

## Detailed Findings: Indigenous Community

### 1 – Feelings of Safety

- There is a consensus among Indigenous respondents that safety is a serious issue in the city of Toronto. Many used to feel more secure and wonder about the rise in gun violence. Many people point to the random attacks on the subway and shootings across neighbourhoods. It is the randomness of violence now that people find disconcerting. Those who feel safe tend to exercise caution in their behaviour and avoid threatening situations.
- Within the Indigenous community, there has been a history with authorities around racism and discrimination; the fear of reaching out to the police, and fear of the unknown when reaching out for safety support.
- Many respondents faced issues of racism personally if they looked visually Indigenous. They suffered verbal attacks and sometimes physical assaults by people with a lack of knowledge and awareness of the struggles of Indigenous people.
- The struggles of First Nations and Metis individuals were a little different. The Metis in our research did face some bigotry but less threats to safety overall.
  - Metis tend to be more integrated within mainstream society and he added that he looks like a “white person with a tan”.

*“I do not face some of the same issues like my First Nations brothers and sisters.” – IP6*

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

- Most of the Indigenous individuals experienced extreme violence in their families, among friends and other extended family members. Their stories were harrowing.
- One individual who works with Indigenous youth informed us “there were a lot of shootings with youth under the age of 20 within their community”. People wonder where all the guns are coming from and concerns over random acts of violence is a recurring theme.
- Access to guns is seen at an all time high and as one individual stated, 15 year old’s now have guns”. Gun violence is perceived to be an extremely serious issue. Respondents would like to see more restrictions in place, more gun control and legislation. One person suggested that money needs to be put into “detecting weapons versus eliminating easy access to guns”.
- Social issues are perceived to be the cause of gun violence by those whose ideology is based on dealing with societal inequalities.

## Detailed Findings: Indigenous Community

### 2- Perception of Gun Violence

- Perceptions on how gun violence is being dealt with in the City of Toronto vary. Opinions range from being satisfied with what the authorities are doing to more needs to be done to combat the increasing levels of gun violence.

*“City is a magnifying glass of issues with mental health.” – IP6*

- Some individuals think it needs to start with border control.
- Those individuals who see gun violence as more random express greater fears about falling victim to gun violence from hearing more media reports about innocent bystanders affected.
- Most respondents exercise caution and tend not to place themselves in vulnerable situations. They avoid certain areas of the city, not walk alone at night and regulate behaviour in other ways to increase safety in their lives. They are vigilant.
- Many respondents feel safe within their neighbourhoods since they use common sense and avoid high risk situations.
- Many respondents have experienced gunshots within their neighbourhood, even victims within their family. Gun shots vary throughout the day but tend to increase at night.
- Those with children tend to keep their safety top of mind and some even have a safety plan if a situation occurs. Their children did not seem to express fears about gun fire and were accompanied to school and playgrounds if applicable.

*“Gun violence is increasing in Toronto. Where are the weapons coming from?” – IP2*

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- Bail for a person charged with possession of a gun seemed reasonable to some who noted that Indigenous people like to hunt and many have hunting rifles. There was concern over why the person was possessing a firearm in the first place. Other factors need to be considered.
- Some respondents affected by violence within their families find the justice system “deeply flawed” and believe that conditions for bail need to be reinforced in every situation.

## Detailed Findings: Indigenous Community

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- Releasing a person for using a firearm to commit a crime was frowned upon. Concern for the victim and community were cited as reasons why. Releasing a person in that situation indicates “the system is flawed” according to one respondent.
- If a person were released into the neighbourhood, respondents noted that they would continue to take precautions as usual but may not actively alter their behaviour. One father revealed he would stick closer to his child and alter his schedule in ways to be there for his son.

*“Cops for Kids was a great program that helped develop relationships with youth and kids... still active but lacks enough funding.” –Preferred not to be identified*

- Many of the Indigenous respondents lack confidence in the justice system so releasing a person for a second time was not a surprise and would confirm their lack of trust in the system. Past experiences with violence within their families and community left many who felt justice had not been served for them.
- One respondent had received a letter for jury duty, and he went knowing that he could be arrested for not showing up. In his mind, he lives in “occupied territory” and feels he must follow our rules and colonial justice system where his people suffered intergenerational trauma.
- Respondents would continue to exercise common sense about safety and not necessarily alter behaviour if an accused person was released for a second time into the neighbourhood.
- The Indigenous respondents we interviewed had not encountered an experience where the release of someone on bail for a firearms related offence had negatively impacted their feelings of safety.
- Respondents expressed a variety of concerns they would tell courts about guns in the community.

*“Used a firearm, lock them up, Tighten up the laws. Why let them out with a slap on the wrist.” –IP2*



## Detailed Findings: Indigenous Community

### 3 - Bail for Firearm Offences

- Most Indigenous respondents do not feel the courts consider the victim and the community as much as they could when imposing bail conditions. “Victims are being victimized all over again”. The rights of the victim and family members are not often represented. Others state that the community’s interests must also be considered more often.
- Diversion circles were mentioned as a form of Indigenous justice that emphasize the recognition and repair of harm caused by crimes, while lessening involvement of participants in the criminal justice system.
- Invest in community development and leadership programs for youth to get them off the street and away from guns.
- Guns don’t belong in the community. There needs to be harsher penalties and laws.
- Police are not finding criminals quick enough when they commit gun violence.
- Address other systemic issues such as poverty, drugs, addiction, education that led to gun violence.
- Do not release persons on bail who commit violence in the first place.

*“In my experience, police look down on native people.” –IP4*

**Qualitative Appendix A  
Participant Profiles**

***General Population Participants (n=6)***

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Where live</b>	<b>Communities belong to</b>	<b>Ethnic Background</b>
GP1	Male	35-49	Some/completed Graduate Degree	75-100 K	Downtown	Other ethnic background	Caucasian
GP2	Female	35-49	Some/Completed Undergraduate Degree	100+	Downtown	Other ethnic background	East Asian
GP3	Male	18-34	Highschool Graduate	50-75k	Etobicoke	Other ethnic background	South Asian
GP4	Male	35-49	Completed Graduate Degree	100k+	York	Other ethnic background	South Asian
GP5	Female	50+	Undergrad Graduate	50-75k	Scarborough	Other ethnic background	Caucasian
GP6	Female	50+	Completed Undergraduate Degree	75-100k	North York	Other ethnic background	Caucasian

**LGBTQ+ Participants (n=7)**

First Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Marital Status	Education	Income	Kids ages at home	Where live	Ethnic Background
QP1	Male	44	Student - Medical Lab Tech	Common-law	Univ. Grad.	50K	None	Midtown Toronto	East Indian
QP2	Female	57	Community Health Worker	Married	College Grad	50-75K	None	Etobicoke	Caucasian
QP3	Male	32	Personal Assistant	Single	Some Univ.	25-50K	None	Downtown Toronto	Caucasian
QP4	Male	41	Musician	Married	Univ. Grad.	100-150K	None	Downtown Toronto	Middle Eastern
QP5	Female	25	Community Shelter Worker	Common-law	Univ. Grad.	40-50K	None	Downtown Toronto	Caucasian
QP6	Male	59	SE Performer	Married	College Grad.	75-100K	None	Downtown Toronto	Caucasian
QP7	Female	25	Student - Social Work	Single	University Graduate	75-100K	None	Downtown Toronto	Caucasian

**Black Participants (n=7)**

First Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Marital Status	Education	Income	Kids ages at home	Where live	Ethnic Background
BP1	Male	29	Lab Technician	Single	Univ. Grad.	50-75K	None	Downtown Toronto	Black
BP2	Male	26	CSR-407 ETR	Single	College Grad.	25-50K	None	Etobicoke	Black
BP3	Female	26		Single	Some/completed Grad.	75-100K	None	North York	Black
BP4	Female	39	Social Worker	Single	Univ. Grad.	75-100K	None	North York	Black
BP5	Female	39	Nurse	Single	College Grad.	25-50K	None	Scarborough	Black
BP6	Female	29	Economist	Single	Univ. Grad.	75-100K	None	Downtown Toronto	Black
BP7	Female	34	PSW	Single	Some College	25-50K	None	Midtown Toronto	Black

**Indigenous Participants (n=7)**

First Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Marital Status	Education	Income	Kids ages at home	Where live	Ethnic Background
IP1	Male	27	Case Manager - Indigenous Youth	Single	College Grad	50-75k	None	Toronto - Beaches	Indigenous
IP2	Female	60	Carpets- SE	Single	College Grad	50-60k	None	North York	Indigenous
IP3	Female	49	Exec Director - Indigenous Youth Agency	Married	Univ. Grad.	95K	None	North York	Indigenous
IP4	Female	25	Unemployed	Single	High School Grad	Up to 25k	None	East York	Indigenous
IP5	Male	28	Student - College	Single	College Grad	25-50k	Yes	Midtown	Indigenous
IP6	Male	34	Online IT Support	Single	College Grad.	50-60K	None	Downtown Toronto	Indigenous - Métis

## Qualitative Appendix B

### 2022 Recruitment Screener

#### RECRUITMENT SCREENER

#### QUOTA BOX

RECRUIT 7 FOR 5 TO SHOW				
#	DESCRIPTION		DATE	TIME
1	IN DEPTH INTERVIEWS	<i>General</i>	Sept 13-15	
2	IN DEPTH INTERVIEWS	<i>LBGTQ+</i>	Sept 13-15	
3	IN DEPTH INTERVIEWS	<i>Black</i>	Sept 13-15	
4	IN DEPTH INTERVIEWS	<i>Indigenous</i>	Sept 13-15	

#### A. INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am calling from Forum Research. We are working with the Toronto Police Service to gain a better understanding of the community's opinions and perceptions of the Toronto Police Service via one-on-one discussions with a selected group of community members.

If you are interested and should you qualify, we would invite you to share your opinions along with a Forum Research lead. The discussion will be held online, and it will last approximately 90 minutes, and a monetary incentive will be offered to thank you for your time and participation.

*Please let me stress this is strictly research study; all information gathered will be kept confidential. No sales or solicitation will result from your participation.*

#### B. May I ask you a few short questions to see if you qualify for our study? **TICK ONE ONLY.**

i. Yes	[ ]	
ii. No	[ ]	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>

#### **DO NOT READ. RECORD SEX.**

i. MALE	[ ]	<b>RECRUIT A MIX</b>
ii. FEMALE	[ ]	

1. First of all, do you or does anyone else in your household work in any of the following areas? **RECORD.**

READ LIST. TICK YES OR NO FOR EACH.	Q1	
	YES	NO
i. Marketing, Advertising	[ ]	[ ]
ii. Market Research	[ ]	[ ]
iii. Radio, TV, Newspaper, Magazine	[ ]	[ ]
iv. Public Relations	[ ]	[ ]
v. Toronto Police Service	[ ]	[ ]
vi. RCMP, OPP or any other police department	[ ]	[ ]
<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE IF YES TO ANY</b>		

2. In which of the following age categories may I place you? **READ LIST. TICK ONE.**

i. Under 18 years of age	[ ]	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>
ii. 18-34	[ ]	<b>RECRUIT A MIX</b>
iii. 35-49	[ ]	
iv. 50+	[ ]	
v. 86 years of age or over	[ ]	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>

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3. What, roughly, is your household income level? **READ LIST. TICK ONE.**

i.	Less than \$25,000	[ ]	<b>RECRUIT A MIX</b>
ii.	\$25,000-\$50,000	[ ]	
iii.	\$50,000-\$75,000	[ ]	
iv.	\$75,000-\$100,000	[ ]	
v.	More than \$100,000	[ ]	
vi.	Prefer not to say	[ ]	

4. And, what is the highest level of education you have attained? **READ LIST. TICK ONE.**

i.	Some high school or completed high school	[ ]	<b>RECRUIT A MIX</b>
ii.	Some College or Completed College	[ ]	
iii.	Some University or Completed Undergraduate Degree	[ ]	
iv.	Some Graduate Studies or Completed Graduate Degree	[ ]	

5. In which of the following areas within the City of Toronto do you currently reside?  
**READ LIST. TICK ONE.**

i.	Downtown Toronto ( <i>if asked, the boundaries are considered as: Bloor Street in the north, Don River in the east, Bathurst Street in the west, Lake Ontario in the south</i> )	[ ]	<b>RECRUIT A MIX</b>
ii.	Midtown Toronto ( <i>if asked, the boundaries are considered as: Lawrence Avenue in the north, Bayview Avenue in the east, Ossington Avenue in the west, Bloor Street in the south</i> )	[ ]	
iii.	East York	[ ]	
iv.	North York	[ ]	
v.	York	[ ]	
vi.	Scarborough	[ ]	
vii.	Etobicoke	[ ]	



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viii.	Outside City of Toronto ( <i>includes GTA</i> )	[ ]	THANK & TERMINATE
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6. For this study, we are looking to speak to people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Do you belong to any of the following communities? **READ LIST. TICK AS MANY AS APPLY.**

i.	Black	[ ]	RECRUIT FOR QUOTA, IF FULL, RECRUIT TO GEN POP OR LGBTQ+ IF APPLICABLE
ii.	Indigenous	[ ]	RECRUIT FOR QUOTA, IF FULL, RECRUIT TO GEN POP OR LGBTQ+ IF APPLICABLE
iii.	LGBTQ+	[ ]	RECRUIT FOR QUOTA, IF FULL, RECRUIT TO GEN POP
iv.	Other ethnic background. <i>Please specify:</i> _____	[ ]	ACCEPT ALL, RECRUIT TO GEN POP

7. **\*\*\*DO NOT READ\*\*\***  
**NOTE TO THE RECRUITER:** We are looking for creative/articulate respondents who are comfortable expressing themselves. Please ensure each respondent...

	YES	NO
i. Answers spontaneously/carries on a good conversation	[ ]	[ ]
ii. Is confident/enthusiastic	[ ]	[ ]
iii. Is articulate	[ ]	[ ]
<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE IF NO TO ANY</b>		

- 8a. Thank you for your responses. We would like to invite you to attend our discussion. The session will last approximately 90 minutes. At the end of the discussion session, you will receive

**IF QUALIFYING FOR GEN POP,** \$125.<sup>00</sup> incentive in appreciation of your time and participation.

**IF QUALIFYING FOR LGBTQ+,** \$185.<sup>00</sup> incentive in appreciation of your time and participation.

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**IF QUALIFYING FOR BLACK**, \$175.<sup>00</sup> incentive in appreciation of your time and participation.

**IF QUALIFYING FOR INDIGENOUS**, \$195.<sup>00</sup> incentive in appreciation of your time and participation.

Are you able to participate in the online chat?

i. Yes	[ ]	
ii. No	[ ]	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>

8b. This discussion will be held on Zoom. To ensure you have all the technology requirements, please tell us...

Do you currently have a desktop computer, a laptop, tablet or a mobile device with high speed or broadband connections available for your personal use?

i. Yes	[ ]	
ii. No	[ ]	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>

8c. Which web browser(s) or mobile device(s) do you primarily use to access the internet or online services?

**IF UNKNOWN:** If you are not sure which web browser(s) you use, please click on the HELP menu at the top of your browser window and select the “About your browser” option. **TICK ALL APPLICABLE.**

<b>DESKTOP/LAPTOP BROWSERS</b>		
i.	Google Chrome: Version 30 or higher	[ ]
ii.	Google Chrome: a version lower than 30	[ ] <b>ASK TO UPGRADE</b>
iii.	Microsoft Edge: Version 12 or higher	[ ]
iv.	Microsoft Edge: A version lower than 12	[ ] <b>ASK TO UPGRADE</b>
v.	Firefox: Version 27.0 or higher	[ ]
vi.	Firefox: a version lower than 27.0	[ ] <b>ASK TO UPGRADE</b>
vii.	Safari: Version 7.0 or higher	[ ]
viii.	Safari: a version lower than 7.0	[ ] <b>ASK TO UPGRADE</b>

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ix.	Other browser	[ ]	<b>ASK TO DOWNLOAD A COMPATIBLE BROWSER</b>
<b>TABLETS AND MOBILE DEVICES</b>			
x.	iOS 8.0 or later: iPhone 4 or later, iPad Pro, iPad Mini, iPad 2 or later	[ ]	
xi.	iOS 8.0 or later: iPod Touch 4 <sup>th</sup> Generation	[ ]	
xii.	iPad OS 13 or later	[ ]	
xiii.	An Android device 5.0x or later	[ ]	
xiv.	A Blackberry device	[ ]	
xv.	Don't know	[ ]	<b>THANK &amp; TERMINATE</b>

8d. Do you have the following on your device?

<b>AUDIO</b>		[ ]	<b>MUST SAY YES TO CODE i. TO CONTINUE</b>
i.	Speakers and a microphone ( <i>built-in, USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth</i> )		
<b>VIDEO</b>		[ ]	<b>MUST SAY YES TO AT LEAST ONE OF CODES ii.-iv. TO CONTINUE</b>
ii.	A webcam or HD webcam ( <i>built-in, USB plug-in</i> )		
iii.	An HD cam or HD camcorder with a video capture card		
iv.	Virtual camera software for use with broadcasting software, such as OBS or IP cameras ( <i>If using macOS, version 5.1.1 or higher is required</i> )		

9a. Thank you for your responses. We would like to invite you to participate in our research session. This discussion will be held online, and you will be required to log in to the Zoom platform to participate.

**ASK THOSE BEING RECRUITED FOR GEN POP**

**DISCUSS DATE AND TIME OF IDI. OMIT UNAVAILABLE DATES.**

SEPT 14 @ 12:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 2:00 PM

SEPT 14 @ 2:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 6:00 PM

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SEPT 14 @ 6:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 8:00 PM  
SEPT 14 @ 8:00 PM

**ASK THOSE BEING QUALIFYING FOR LGBTQ+**

DISCUSS DATE AND TIME OF IDI. **OMIT UNAVAILABLE DATES.**

SEPT 13 @ 12:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 1:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 6:00 PM  
SEPT 13 @ 6:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 3:00 PM  
SEPT 13 @ 8:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 6:00 PM

**ASK THOSE BEING QUALIFYING FOR BLACK**

DISCUSS DATE AND TIME OF IDI. **OMIT UNAVAILABLE DATES.**

SEPT 13 @ 2:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 2:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 2:00 PM  
SEPT 13 @ 8:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 6:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 6:00 PM  
SEPT 14 @ 8:00 PM

**ASK THOSE BEING QUALIFYING FOR INDIGENOUS**

DISCUSS DATE AND TIME OF IDI. **OMIT UNAVAILABLE DATES.**

SEPT 13 @ 4:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 2:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 2:00 PM  
SEPT 13 @ 6:00 PM      SEPT 14 @ 6:00 PM      SEPT 15 @ 6:00 PM  
SEPT 14 @ 8:00 PM

9b. A Zoom Meeting Link will be sent to you a few days before the discussion. To ensure you are able to log in and everything is working properly, we would request you to be present and ready to participate in this online session 10-15 minutes before the actual start time.

Are you able to attend this video session?

i. Yes	[ ]	CONTINUE TO Q10
ii. No	[ ]	THANK & TERMINATE

**ASK ALL**

10. Please provide an address where we can send you the incentive cheque.  
**RECRUITER: PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK ALL INFORMATION**

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11. **CONFIRM NAME AND PHONE NUMBER.**

<b>NAME:</b>
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>
<b>PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER:</b>
<b>ALTERNATE PHONE NUMBER:</b>

You will receive...

- An email or giving you the details about the discussion in a few days' time
- A reminder call a day or two before the discussion.

In the meantime, if you are not able to attend, please call 1-877-603-6786 x7324 as soon as possible as there is limited seating and we would like to find a replacement should you not be able to attend.

**THANK RESPONDENT FOR THEIR TIME.**

**Final Report:  
Toronto Police Service  
Community Engagement Meetings and Online Survey: Gun Violence and Bail**

Compiled by  
Ann Wallington, M.A. LL.M  
For the Toronto Police Service

May 2023

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## Executive Summary

The Toronto Police Service conducted six community engagement meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to capture public sentiment regarding the criminal justice system's handling of offenders who commit gun crimes, and community perception of safety in their neighbourhoods in relation to gun violence. Three of the six meetings were held in neighbourhoods within areas that experienced higher incidents of gun violence, and three were held in neighbourhoods within the areas of lower incidents of gun violence.

Recruitment for the meeting was organized by each of the identified division's Neighbourhood Community Police Officers. These specialized officers went into the selected neighbourhoods to distribute flyers and tell residents about the meetings. The recruitment process also included the distribution of cards with one-time-use per device QR codes linked to an online survey.

At the beginning of each meeting the facilitator read a prepared Introduction, which included the purpose of the meeting and a statement about voluntary participation. The facilitator then presented an overview of the definition of bail; the right to bail; the primary, secondary and tertiary reasons for granting bail; and the specific aspects a Judge or Justice of the Peace would consider under the tertiary grounds. After answering any questions in relation to the presentation, the facilitator asked the participants the following four questions:

1. Do you think gun violence is a serious issue in your neighbourhood?
2. In terms of release on bail, do you think that the courts are dealing with individuals charged with gun-related offenses properly?
3. If a person is already on bail for a gun crime and they commit another gun crime while on bail, how should the courts deal with this person?

4. If you could tell the courts your concerns about guns in the community, what would you say?

The online survey included one additional question - Have you changed or altered any of your or your family's behaviours due to gun violence?

### **Analysis of Results – Overarching Themes**

The answers for each question were coded into broad themes. Several of the same themes emerged across all questions: the negative impact gun violence has on youth; gun violence leads to reduced quality of life for the community; and community desire for restrictions on bail for gun crimes.

### **Conclusions and Discussion**

The results of the meetings and survey responses indicate that communities across the city are concerned about the negative impact gun crime has on youth and on community quality of life. There was also consensus among all communities that there should be restricted bail and harsher sentences for those who commit violent gun crimes.

There was a pronounced concern about gun violence/crimes in schools. Thirty-five community members from 11, 12, 43 and 53 spoke of this issue and gave specific examples of shootings at local schools. Two of these divisions are in areas of lower gun crime and two are in areas of higher gun crime, as determined by the Toronto Police Service. The data used by the Toronto Police Service to identify neighbourhoods with high and low levels of gun crime does not include reports of “lockdowns” and “hold and secures” in schools. These incidents are

known to parents. Community members, teachers, daycare workers, and parents all spoke of young people with guns or replica guns. These factors seem to be informing the community's understanding of the breadth of gun crime in their communities and schools, outside of what is reported to police.

Survey respondents and participants at all meetings spoke of a reduced quality of life because of gun violence. Whether from personal experience with gun violence or general fear due to gun violence in the community, it has limited people's ability to enjoy their own communities.

The community members also held strong opinions about restricting bail for gun crimes. Thirty-six participants/respondents from across all meetings and surveys stated that a person on bail for a gun crime should not be granted bail again if they commit another gun crime while on bail. Participants/respondents in 12, 43, and 53 division felt that people who commit gun crimes should never be granted bail. This attitude could reflect the fear and reduced quality of life they are directly experiencing because of gun violence. Both 12 and 43 division are in areas with higher gun crime. Although 53 division is not in an area that experiences higher levels of gun crime, the meeting participants and survey respondents spoke of the fear of gun crime and the reduced quality of life because of it.

Of note is the high volume of data collected from 43 division and 12 division. The community members from these divisions contributed approximately 60% of the data collected, with 43 division contributing slightly more data than 12 division. Both divisions are in areas that experience a higher level of gun crime. The considerable participation and breadth

of responses are an indicator of the impact gun crime has on communities. The community members from both divisions expressed similar concerns about gun violence.

The responses by the community members from 43 division clearly indicate that they are concerned for the safety and well-being of their children and families because of gun violence and gang activity. They have also conveyed clear concerns about the safety of their children while at school. This fear was based on shootings that had recently happened at local schools. Additionally, they have noted a reduced quality of day-to-day life such as being afraid to walk alone, use public transit, or go out at night because of gun violence. They also noted the fear that there may be retaliation by gang members when the community reports gun crime to the police. Meeting participants and survey respondents directly stated that they want the courts to take gun crime seriously and to consider the impact on the community when they send a person who has committed gun crime back to the community.

The responses by the community members from 12 division also indicated a significant concern for the safety of their community and for their children, especially when they are at school. Their concern was based on shootings that had happened at local schools including a 15-year-old who had been shot in the chest. They spoke of the fear that their child will be a victim of gang violence and voiced concerns about young children being given guns by gang members and being used as drug “mules”. They spoke of the gun violence happening in the community “during the day and night”. Many felt that the courts should not show leniency for anyone who commits a gun crime, and some suggested that anyone who commits a gun crime should not be given bail. Others wanted Judges and Justices of the Peace to consider the



impact on the community when they release a person on bail because “this person will be going back to the community”.

## **Introduction and Purpose of Meetings**

The Toronto Police Service conducted six community engagement meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to capture public sentiment regarding the criminal justice system's handling of offenders who commit gun crimes, and community perception of safety in their neighbourhoods in relation to gun violence. The locations of the community meetings were selected based on an analysis of reported gun violence throughout the city. The data set used to rank gun violence by area included incidents of firearm arrests, firearm seizures, shootings, and firearm discharges. The findings were grouped by division into high and low firearm related incidents. Three of the six meetings were held in neighbourhoods within areas that experienced higher incidents of gun violence, and three were held in neighbourhoods within areas of lower incidents of gun violence. This selection allowed for a possible comparison between areas, especially in relation to personal experience and perception of gun violence.

## **Method**

### ***Selection of Neighbourhoods***

The Toronto Police Service selected six neighbourhoods to conduct community engagement meetings. Three neighbourhoods had higher incidents of gun crime (43, 23, and 12 divisions) and three neighbourhoods had lower incidents of gun crime (11, 13, and 53 division). The ranking in relation to gun crime was based on a statistical tabulation of firearm arrests, firearms seized, and the number of shootings/firearm discharges in 2021 (Appendix A).

The meetings were held in local community centres or community libraries.

None of the meetings were held in a Toronto Police Service division or building.

### ***Recruitment***

Recruitment for the meetings was organized by each of the identified division's Neighbourhood Community Police Officers. These specialized officers went into the selected neighbourhoods to distribute flyers (Appendix B) and tell residents about the meetings. The recruitment process also included the distribution of cards with one-time-use per device QR codes linked to an online survey. This was done to help mitigate any concerns community residents might have about confidentiality, and to allow residents the opportunity to participate if they could not attend the scheduled meeting.

### ***Community Meeting Protocol***

Light refreshments were served at each meeting. The facilitator for all meetings was the same person. The facilitator was not a police officer, nor a member of the Toronto Police Service.

At the beginning of each meeting the facilitator read a prepared Introduction (Appendix C), which included the purpose of the meeting and a statement about voluntary participation. The facilitator then presented an overview of the definition of bail; the right to bail; the primary, secondary and tertiary reasons for granting bail; and the specific aspects a judge or Justice of the Peace would consider under the tertiary grounds (Appendix D). After answering any questions in relation to the presentation, the facilitator asked the participants the following four questions:

5. Do you think gun violence is a serious issue in your neighbourhood?

6. In terms of release on bail, do you think that the courts are dealing with individuals charged with gun-related offenses properly?
7. If a person is already on bail for a gun crime and they commit another gun crime while on bail, how should the courts deal with this person?
8. If you could tell the courts your concerns about guns in the community, what would you say?

The questions were asked one at a time. All participants were given the opportunity to answer each question. The facilitator did not go to the next question until all those who wanted to answer had the opportunity to do so. During the question-and-answer period, the facilitator also reiterated that there was an online survey that participants could submit anonymously if they did not want to speak in front of the crowd.

At each meeting there were multiple scribes who were tasked with capturing all the answers provided by the participants. The scribes included both professional notetakers from the Toronto Police Service and students from Seneca College. Their notes were transcribed to electronic documents

The electronic notes from the community meetings and the survey responses were uploaded to the software platform NVivo, where they were coded and analyzed. Codes were created to align with emerging themes.

**Table 1 – Community Meeting Dates, Division, and Number of Participants**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
February 13, 2023	12 Division	93
February 21, 2023	43 Division	56
February 23, 2023	11 Division	2*
February 27,	23 Division	15*
March 2, 2023	13 Division	29
March 6, 2023	53 Division	63

\*Participation was impacted by inclement weather.

**Note:** For demographic breakdown of participants at community meetings see Appendix E

### ***Online Survey Protocol***

In addition to the community meetings, and in an effort to increase data collection, the Toronto Police Service created one-time-use per device QR codes that linked to an online survey. Each of the selected neighbourhoods had its own survey link.

These cards were handed out at meetings for those who felt they could not answer in front of the crowd. They were also distributed in the identified neighbourhoods by Toronto Police Service Neighbourhood Community Officers for those who may have concerns about confidentiality, and for those who wanted to participate but could not attend the scheduled meeting.

**Note:** For survey questions see Appendix F

**Table 2 – Number of Survey Respondents by Division**

<b>Division of Community for Survey Link Respondents</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
11 Division	1
12 Division	6
13 Division	3
23 Division	7
43 Division	12
53 Division	22

Note: For demographic breakdown of survey respondents see Appendix G

## **Results**

All responses were coded based on emerging themes. The responses were then grouped under each theme. To help ensure confidentiality, all meeting participants have been identified using the gender-neutral term “they”.

### **Results Question #1 – Breakdown by Themes**

**Question:** Do you think gun violence is a serious issue in your neighbourhood?

#### **Gun Violence: Perception, Personal Experience and Impact on the Community**

##### **11 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that people “always have to be very careful now a days”.

##### **12 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that there were people coming into their apartment building with guns.

Another stated they felt that where there is drug trafficking there are more guns. The guns are used for protection.

One participant noted the “large number” of shooting all down Weston Road, and that shootings were happening “constantly”.

## **12 Division Online Survey**

Two respondents stated that gun violence was happening more frequently and that it was happening during the day and night. One also stated that it was happening in public areas. The other stated that they were hearing more frequently about “kids getting hurt or killed from gun and gang violence.”

Another respondent stated that there was a 15-year-old shot in the chest at his high school. This respondent went on to state that this was not the first shooting, and they did not think it would be the last.

One respondent stated that they felt violence is a “huge issue” in their neighbourhood and that they could not walk down the “main street” after dark. They further stated that they were scared that when their child starts high school they could become another victim of gang violence. They added that there had been a shooting that morning at what will be their son’s high school. They also noted that there was a person shot at a local bar/restaurant and that there has not been an increased police presence. They stated that they were “scared” to live in the area and scared to support locally. They were also driving to Vaughan with their child because they felt Weston was not safe.

**13 Division - Meeting**

One participant felt that gun violence was not confined to one area in the neighbourhood but was broad and spread out in the entire division.

Another participant told the group that there was gun violence in their neighbourhood and that their car had been shot at when it was parked in front of their house. The participant told the group of the impact of just hearing the gunshots. They called it “crippling”. There were the added issues of having to deal with insurance and getting their car fixed. They noted that it scared them to know that a stray bullet could have gone into someone’s apartment.

Another participant stated that they were also impacted by gun violence. Someone came into their neighbourhood and started shooting.

**13 Division Online Survey**

One respondent noted the drug dealing that was happening in the community in places such as local businesses, apartment buildings, and laneways. They also believed that vulnerable people were being used as drug “mules”.

**23 Division - Meeting**

Two participants stated that they believed gun violence was an issue in the city, but not in their neighbourhood.

**23 Division Online Survey**

One respondent had not seen or heard of anyone being shot in their neighbourhood but noted that this could be because they rarely go out.

Another respondent thought it was a serious issue because of the potential impact on families and young children.



Another respondent stated that gun violence is a serious issue in Rexdale, and that the community needed to be kept safe.

#### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that they were very concerned about gun violence. They noted the recent killing of a student outside of a local school.

Another felt that gun violence has increased.

One participant stated that people were living with a high level of insecurity. They stated that people used to walk and take the bus but now they are "scared".

Another noted that banning guns is not going to stop gun violence.

Another stated that there needed to be mandatory minimum sentences for gun violence.

One participant felt that there was a "big" gun violence issue. They felt this way because of the "gunning down" of a student at the local school. They stated that gun violence needs to stop because kids and parents are scared. They felt that "concrete steps" needed to be taken to address the issue.

Another participant stated that it was not just the victims of gun violence who were impacted, but also others in the community. This participant told the group about a mother who lives in TCHC. Her nephew was shot last year in Scarborough. This mother is now "petrified" to send her own kids to play in the stairway of their building. This participant stated that people function with that kind of fear. They further stated that personal safety is being violated. This impact lingers after gun violence has taken place. They felt that the effects of gun violence are seen in the community, and that it is an extremely serious issue.

Another participant asked the group if they knew how many guns were in the city. They went on to state that they felt the police needed more funding because the neighbourhood is “in danger”. This participant described it as a “critical situation”. They went on to state that they knew where to get “500 guns right now”.

Another participant stated that they believed gun violence is a serious issue.

Another noted that guns are very easily accessible, and that this is “a big indicator” of the issue. If common people can get guns, it is a serious issue. They went on to state that people need to be safe on the road and in their homes.

One participant stated that the obvious answer to the question is “yes”. They also noted that it seemed offensive to come to Scarborough to ask if gun violence is an issue especially when there had been so many recent incidents of gun violence in the neighbourhood.

Another believed that they needed more than two Neighbourhood Officers (TPS) in the community and that the police needed more funding.

Another noted that people needed to feel safe in the community.

One participant told the group that they were “born and raised in this area”. It was their experience that guns were always in the neighbourhood, but previously the shootings would happen at night. More recently the shootings have been during the day when kids are coming and going.

#### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that gun violence is an extremely serious issue because it causes children to live in a state of fear. They further stated that when they were growing up in

Scarborough, they were never able to leave their house with the “freedom to play”. They were only able to play outside when they were at school and in areas where there was no fear of gun violence. They went on to state that their mother always made sure they came straight home after school.

Another respondent stated that they were scared that their kids and other young people were vulnerable when they were outside alone or with their friends.

Another noted the “reoccurring” shooting incidents and other violence in schools

One respondent stated that it is evident that a clear number of firearm and gun violence related incidents exist in their neighbourhood. These incidents affect children and youth as well as families. They also noted that the trauma of a losing a loved one to violence “ripples across the community” leaving many to cope without support or access to efficient resources.

Another respondent stated that the shootings that occurred close to Woburn Collegiate Institute and the incidents in the Markham and Lawrence area, among other incidents in Scarborough, seemed to be “random and brazen with no regard for human life”.

Another stated that they strongly felt that gun violence was a serious issue that should be dealt with more seriously in court. They stated that when a person commits a crime, they end up getting out on bail that day or the next. They stated that they were “not comfortable with this” and felt that people should be held in custody for longer.

Another stated that when people commit acts that harm the community there should be stricter consequences. They would also support a law where youth cannot get access to guns because they felt it was “getting out hand” and because gun crime causes a lot of “harm to society”.

Another stated that there were many cases of stabbings, shootings and murders, and that these incidents should be taken seriously by the courts because people were getting bail 1 or 2 days after being arrested. They thought that the courts should take community opinion about gun violence into account when they make decisions about bail.

### **53 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that the government needs to take action to stop the source of weapons coming into the country. There is easy access to a gun supply for those who want them.

One participant told the group that they were a supervisor at a local childcare centre and that a child had brought a replica gun to the centre. The participant felt that kids were often not aware of the consequences for having replica weapons.

Another participant stated that in the past school year there have been “multiple lock downs related to guns”. Fourteen (14) people showed agreement that this was a concern by raising their hands.

### **53 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that every year people are shot and killed in their neighbourhood and that this is one of the major issues in the neighborhood.

Two respondents stated that there had been “too many” incidents in the past months

Another stated that there were frequent shootings and gun related police visits to the neighbourhood.

One respondent stated that guns should be banned.

## **Impact of Gun Violence on Children and Youth**

### **12 Division - Meeting**

One participant remarked that kids as young as 9 years old are now carrying guns.

Another stated that their 13-year-old son was able to purchase a gun on Facebook. He was given the option of paying the full \$200 or paying in installments

One participant stated that they see drug trafficking happening in their neighbourhood and that the drug dealers all carry weapons to protect their product. They also noted that young people are using guns to protect themselves and they are also being used as “mules”, even while they are out on bail.

### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that 15-year-olds have guns in their pants and that gang leaders are picking the kids up and giving them guns.

Another participant spoke of the recent shooting that took place at Woburn C.I. This participant spoke to young people in the neighbourhood and these youth told the person that it was “easy to get guns” and “just as easy to access drugs”.

Another participant stated that their young grandson was being bullied at school. He called his mother and told her he was in the bathroom at school, too scared to leave. This participant also noted how easy it was to get guns.

### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that there have been a series of incidents involving guns and knives, with a disproportionate number of individuals involved in their teens to early 20s, in the past three years. This has been more than the respondent has seen in the 40 years they have

been living in the area. They noted that a “large cache of firearms” had recently been seized in an apartment beside a school. They believed this seizure was “part of larger connected ring across the city”. To them, this meant a core member of a criminal organization may be residing in the neighbourhood and that youth might easily be recruited.

### **53 Division Online Survey**

One respondent noted that even some high school students carry guns to threaten other students.

Another noted that there were more reports of guns and gun violence in schools and in the community, and that there were more lockdowns and more “hold and secures”.

### **Results Question #2 – Breakdown by Theme**

**Question:** In terms of release on bail, do you think that the courts are dealing with individuals charged with gun-related offenses properly?

### **Considerations for Judge or Justice of the Peace**

#### **12 Division – Meeting**

A participant pointed out that a “blanket approach” won’t work. They stated that in January alone there were at least 15 examples of people who were charged with guns crimes, let out and then charged with another gun crime. Cases should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Another agreed to this statement and suggested that release on bail should be done on case-by-case basis. Judges and JPs should take into consideration criminal records and previous

compliance issues. The previous criminal history should be for at least the last five years and consideration should also be based on the level of violence of the incident.

Another participant suggested that the Justice of Peace or Judge does not receive all the facts and history when they release a person on bail. The full story comes out much later. In the meantime, the offenders are released for a serious crime. Sometimes, an offender is denied bail for an offence which is not very serious and at times a more serious offender gets bail and that is because the judicial system is not aware of all the facts at the time of bail.

### **13 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that they did not believe the courts were doing their job properly because there were too many repeat offenders and too many people on charges that “go free on bail”. This person stated that there is a big difference between a guy with a Glock in his hand and someone who has a gun in his bag that is not loaded. The matter should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Another felt that there should be a checklist to balance things. Judges are bound by guidelines, but judges should not use personal feelings. They went on to state that “the way criminals walk in and out of court is unacceptable”.

### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated “absolutely not” in response to the question. They felt that there were too many people out on bail and that the laws must be tighter. They felt that deterrence is the key and that there should be stronger sentences for 1<sup>st</sup> offenders. They believed that the courts needed to be stricter.

Another person stated, “an astounding no”. They felt there was a disconnect between judges across Canada and judges in Toronto and that bail was being treated the same across the country and it should not be. They believed that what might work in Manitoba will not work in Toronto because gun and gang related activities are more prevalent in Toronto.

### **Gun Violence: Concerns Regarding Bail**

#### **11 Division - Meeting**

One participant answered “no” and stated that they felt the bail process is like a revolving door. Offenders are arrested by the police and released by the courts almost immediately. They felt that the police work hard to arrest criminals with guns and drugs and the judge releases them on bail. They stated, “it’s a joke”.

#### **12 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that they were a parent. They told the group that their son and his friend were arrested for gun violence and fentanyl possession and were released the very next day. The reason for release was that it was a first-time offence and the victim was only injured; they did not die because of the gun violence.

This same participant also stated that their son, who is now 19, has been in jail almost once a year for carrying guns and drug related offences. He gets released on bail immediately – either the same day or by the next day. Two other participants agreed that offenders are getting released on bail the same day or the very next day

#### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that the courts just let people out on bail so they can reoffend.



### **13 Division - Meeting**

One participant felt that not everyone deserves a second chance. They noted that some people are out on one or two firearm releases. These people should not be given another chance.

One participant stated that they were angry about gun violence because it happened in their “backyard”. Because of this fact, their answer to the question was “no”.

Another stated that they believed in the justice system, and that most times the courts “get it right”, but that the courts got it wrong in relation to the people who were responsible for the death of Police Constable Pierzchala.

### **23 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that they work with the population who commit gun related offences. They believe that most of the people on gun related charges comply (95% comply). Bail works for “the majority” of people. They went on to state that they felt the courts should be harder on people who commit gun crimes, but that it must be an individual basis. They felt that the judge, crown and defense should decide what is in the best interest of society and take into consideration whether a person is a risk to society.

### **23 Division Online Survey**

One respondent felt that it is an “in and out” process with no real consequences for those who are caught with guns.

Another respondent answered “yes” to this question because the person always gets “a charge/some kind of punishment”.

### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that a person with a firearm can get arrested and be out on bail in 24 hours. They asked the group why a police officer would risk their life for a person who commits a gun crime, only to have that same person released on bail in 24 hours. This person also stated that if parents know their kid has a gun, they should call the police. It doesn't matter if they are called a "rat" or a "snitch", if someone sees a handgun they must call the police.

Another participant stated that when it comes to bail stricter sentences are needed. They believed that the reason why some people in the community do not want to report someone is because it is a busy city and there will not be an officer there protecting that person. They went on to state, "why would anyone report someone who is going to be out in five hours?" They were fearful that the person who was reported might come to their house. Three people nodded their heads in agreement.

### **Change Legislation: Gun Violence and Access to Guns**

#### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent thought there were too many repeat offenders and that stopping this was within the court's control. They also felt there should be longer sentences for those who repeat gun crime to keep them out of the community.

Another respondent thought the system was too lenient and that anyone caught with a firearm should "automatically go to jail for life". They felt this because anyone with a gun "is up to no good" and "has intent to commit crimes and be violent".

**43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent answered that perpetrators are not receiving harsh penalties. This allows them to be back on the streets faster. They felt that the bail system is too soft. There are examples of repeat offenders and individuals on bail causing additional crime and gun violence.

Another respondent was not sure that they had a good understanding of how the court system works, but that on the surface it appears that violent offenders are not detained adequately.

**53 Division Online Survey**

Two respondents stated there needed to be more serious penalties for repeat offenders.

**Fear of Retaliation is One Reason for Not Reporting Gun Crime****43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that the moment you see the person back on the street, the confidence in the justice system goes to zero. There is no one in the neighborhood who will say something again if they see that person back in the neighbourhood.

Another participant stated that in their experience working with youth in conflict with the law, when they are released, they come right back to the community. They noted a situation in which a mother called the police to report that her son had a firearm. The community called the mom a rat. There is a price to pay when you call authorities, you become a "rat". They noted that if a young person is charged with an offence, even if it's gun charge, that person will be released if it is their first time

## **Young People Involved in Gang and Gun Violence**

### **11 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that older gang members pick up younger kids to do their “dirty work”. The young people are promised by the older gang members that they will pay for their bail when they are arrested, and that this is in fact what happens. The young people who commit crime for the older gang members are released immediately and are back in school the next day among the other community kids.

### **12 Division - Meeting**

Another participant felt that young offenders need to be dealt with more seriously or strictly by the courts.

### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent asked why are they let out on bail? They also noted that the “criminals” were getting younger.

### **13 Division Online Survey**

Another felt that if a youth has been charged with any offence previous to their bail hearing, they need to be treated as an adult because their crimes are adult crimes impacting children and adults in the community. They further stated that the “revolving bail door” for youth “delegitimizes” the courts and “erodes our social contract”.

### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that they did not know the “procedures” but that if there is a youth involved it is about their future too.

Another stated that the courts should stop shielding young offenders and that they needed to “show their names, pictures and faces”.

Another felt that the courts were not taking gun related offences seriously. They stated that there should be new laws to stop a youth or adult from purchasing guns because of the harm to society.

Another stated that young adults are using guns and forming gangs, and this is harming the community and making the surroundings unsafe.

### **53 Division - Meeting**

Two participants noted that they were unsure if youth are being handled correctly; because their identity is not released, they do not know if the young person will commit another offence.

### **Results Question #3 – Breakdown by Theme**

**Question:** If a person is already on bail for a gun crime, and they commit another gun crime while on bail, how should the courts deal with this person?

### **No Bail or Revoke Bail for a Second Gun Offence**

#### **11 Division – Meeting**

One participant stated that there should be no third time for these offenders. After their second offence they should be “put behind bars for their crime”. They should not be given bail.

Another participant stated that if they have previously committed a crime, they should be kept “behind bars” until their trial. This participant felt that people keep reoffending because they know there “are no big consequences”.

**12 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that the person's "jail time" should be doubled, or their bail should be revoked.

A community member discussed their experience with their son. He has been arrested five times for guns and drugs, and he has received bail every time. "My son was arrested for the first time at 14. He's now 19 and has been arrested once a year at least." This person went to court to ask that their son not be released. Their son laughed at them and was back out on the street the same night.

Another participant stated that the person's first arrest should be the first and last chance. They felt that the courts cannot keep giving people second and third chances. This person felt that jail should be mandatory until trial and that pre-trial custody should not be credited towards someone's sentence.

Another participant felt that these offenders should be sent to the same prisons as hardcore criminals. They believed that the correction facilities are "too easy" for the offenders to be in.

**12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that although they understood "innocent until proven guilty" they felt that people who commit gun crimes should not get bail. If they are out on bail and get arrested for another charge, they should not get bail again.

Two respondents felt that the person should not have been granted bail the first time they were found with a gun on them. One stated that if they commit another gun crime they should "have a longer sentence".

Another felt they should be “locked up for good”.

### **13 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that there should be an “automatic remand”. They felt that the overall public safety issue must be addressed first.

Another thought the answer was a “no brainer”. They felt that after a person had been given one chance, they should not be given another. Another participant agreed by nodding their head.

### **13 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that if there is room in jail, put them in for one month and then house arrest with a “leg/wrist monitor”. They should also be placed in programming that involves “work/training”.

### **23 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that if there is a violation it should be punished, and the person should not get bail again.

### **23 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that the court should “cancel the bail” and arrest the person.

### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated it is “shameful to have to ask this question”, and that the answer is that it should be mandatory that bail be revoked. It should be the “norm” to revoke. They felt that there should be severe enough consequences that the person would be afraid to even “touch a gun again”.

Two participants stated that the person should not be given bail again.

Another participant stated that once an offender gets caught with a gun they should be put in jail because if they are let out on bail once, they know how easy it is to get bail. This person felt that fear had to be put into criminals because they have put fear in the community.

One participant stated that there should be mandatory minimum sentences. There should be no bail the first time and then bail again the second time.

Another participant asked what it would be like to go to a parent and tell them that the same criminal came back and killed their second child. This person felt that bail should be revoked. They noted that gangs target youth and this creates a risk to the community at large.

#### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that the person should present at a police station regularly, and in extreme cases they should not be granted bail.

Another stated that the person should not be given bail, and that their name and picture should be published.

One respondent stated that to ensure public safety, criminals who have already committed another crime while on bail should face more strict consequences rather than getting bail and doing the same act they did, or even worse.

Another respondent stated that the person should not be granted bail and that they should face “longer and stiffer penalties” when convicted.

#### **53 Division – Meeting**

One participant asked why would the court release a person on bail if they are going to do it again? They felt that even with one gun crime there should be no bail at all.



Another stated that if the person is released a second time, this is a “break” in the system.

Another participant stated that there should be “big punishment for repeat offenders” because clearly the initial punishment did not deter them

Another stated that there should be “no bail for gun crimes”.

### **53 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that a person charged with a criminal offence should not receive bail.

Four respondents stated that the person should be sent to jail.

Two respondents stated that the courts should deny the person bail and put that person in jail. One added, so that the community “can live in a peaceful environment”.

Another felt that the person should “be on house arrest”.

### **Youth and Gun Violence**

#### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant noted they had heard that if four people are in a car, the youngest will take the gun because they do not get a “harsh sentence”.

Another stated that gangs target kids because they face less severe consequences.

### **Results Question #4 – Breakdown by Themes**

**Question:** If you could tell the courts your concerns about guns in the community, what would you say?

### **Considerations for Judge or Justice of the Peace**

#### **12 Division - Meeting**

One participant noted that judges need to use caution and discretion when releasing “gun criminals” back into the community.

Another stated that we should be talking about all the people who are impacted by violent acts. Judges should talk to the families and communities impacted by specific gun crimes to inform their decisions. Another community member suggested bringing back community service workers to liaise between the community and the justice system.

Another stated that when judges give their reasoning for sentences, they should include how the sentence will impact the community. Right now, it focuses on how it impacts the offender, but the focus should also take community safety needs into account.

Another participant felt that the judicial system should be made stricter when releasing on bail.

#### **43 Division - Meeting**

Another participant stated they would ask the courts how they balance the consequences given with the hope the person will not commit another offence. The offenders are from the community, and they will come back to the community when they are released.

#### **53 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that the community is afraid to report gun crime because it could lead to retaliation.

Another stated that guns and drugs often go hand in hand during crimes.

### **Changes to Legislation: Young Offenders and Gun Laws**

#### **11 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that they would like to see the young offender's law changed. They gave an example of a 15-year-old boy who already has 17 charges. Each charge has escalated. The young person gets put in jail for a few weeks and is out in "no time" because he is a young offender. They felt that the laws are not harsh on young offenders, and that the court believes that their minds are not fully developed and therefore it does not give young people a harsh sentence.

#### **12 Division - Meeting**

Three participants stated that there needed to be changes in legislation because judges are limited as to what they can do.

#### **13 Division – Meeting**

Three people spoke of the gun laws and the need to determine where the guns are coming from.

#### **13 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that gun laws should be strengthened.

#### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant felt that there should be a separate court for gun crimes so that it's dealt with quickly. They felt that to be given bail that person should not have been on bail for at least three years previously.

Another stated that guns have a significant impact on the community, which was not the case 10 years ago. They felt that gangs are “rampant and larger”. They expressed the need to look at gun laws.

Another person spoke of the need to permit the police to do their job. This person stated that although they were not a big fan of carding, when they were growing up students knew the police had power. Now students have guns and knives. This person stated that kids walk down the street with guns in their waistband.

### **53 Division - Meeting**

Six people spoke of the need for changes to gun laws. Four thought guns should be banned, two others spoke about determining how guns get in the community and the need to track them down.

### **53 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that “gun dealerships” should be banned and that there should not be bail for “gun violators or offenders”.

Another stated that “more restrictive gun laws” needed to be implemented.

## **Young People and Gangs**

### **11 Division - Meeting**

Two people spoke of the issues with gangs in schools and communities. They felt that teachers “were scared” of the kids who were involved in gangs and that the gang members “did not value people’s lives”.

**12 Division - Meeting**

One participant was a parent whose son has been involved with gangs since he was 14 years old. He told his parent that he did not want to work a nine to five job because he could make more money on the streets with a gang.

**13 Division - Meeting**

One participant noted that children needed to be advised to stay away from street gangs.

Another participant stated that gangsters are looking for kids who are from broken homes.

**43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that they were a community librarian and that about 2 hours before coming to the meeting, a group of 5 young boys who were around 14 years old started talking to them about how to make money. One of the kids took out a fake gun and pointed it at the participant. The person told the boy that they had a “phobia about guns”, and the boy took the gun to the recycling bin and put it in. This person felt that this group of youth could “go either way”.

**43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that guns should not be available to anyone.

**53 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that courts need to look at a “fuller approach”. Sentences need to be restorative for the offender and the community impacted by the crime. Eleven people agreed with this statement by a show of hands.

## **Issues with Sureties**

### **12 Division - Meeting**

Two participants spoke about issues with sureties. Sureties need to be checked and vetted.

One gave an example from their own experience. This person told the group that their son had been allowed to use sureties that he barely knew. He wanted to use these people because he knew his family would make him follow rules. When he doesn't follow the rules there are no consequences for either him or the surety. There is nothing to hold the sureties accountable. This person also found out that their son was living with a surety and paying that person rent. He earned this money by selling drugs for the surety. This person felt that the Justice of the Peace or Judge should check and make sure that the surety for the offender is reliable and not just anyone who pays bail.

### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that the surety should be held responsible if the person who they signed for gets arrested again. They felt the surety should spend time in jail and pay back the "fine". They felt that sureties were not doing what "they were supposed to".

## **The Negative Impact of Gun Crime on the Community**

### **11 Division - Meeting**

Two participants spoke of the changes in their neighbourhood. It has become "scary" and there is a fear of guns and the violence associated with drugs.

One participant noted that the police work very hard to catch criminals, sometimes risking their own life such as working undercover, only to have that person released on bail the next day.

### **12 Division - Meeting**

Five participants spoke about keeping guns out of the community. One thought there should be no guns at all, another thought this was impossible because guns can be 3D printed, another wanted to know how guns were getting across the border, another felt the gun laws should be stricter, and one thought that the courts were not paying enough attention to the violence happening in schools.

### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that they were “scared”. There are way too many guns, and the gang violence was “insane”.

### **23 Division - Meeting**

One participant noted that in 2005, there were two “gun homicides”. This person believed that there used to be one or two guns in the community, but that now in 2023 many people have two guns themselves and they are semi-automatic. They felt that gun crime was 10 times/100 times worse. Access to guns is a major problem. They stated that guns cost \$2,500.00 and a person must use it to get a return on their investment. They went on to state, “Guns do not have legs. Someone is bringing them in”.

Another wanted better data collection as to how many guns have been stopped from coming into Canada.

Another stated that gun violence has gone up since 2013. But this year, so far, there have been no gun homicides. Last year at this time there were 10. The number of shootings has declined. People need to know that people are working to reduce gun violence. This can be seen on the Toronto Police Service Analytics and Data web page. Shootings are down 50% this year. Police are doing a good job with Border Security and other agencies to reduce the number of guns coming across the border. Police and community are working together more, talking to each other more. People are tired of going to funerals, losing friends, sleeping with one eye open. They felt that this was not the case 2-3 years ago. Now, the police are working with other agencies to interrupt the incoming flow of guns. They also noted that now there are more stabbings.

#### **43 Division - Meeting**

Four participants discussed issues with guns getting into Canada from the United States.

Another spoke of getting to the root problem of how they get in so that they are not just dealing with individuals but addressing the larger problem.

Another stated that gang members know that the police need reasonable grounds to search, so they know where to hide guns. This person believed that 75% of guns that are on the street in the hands of multiple gangs were coming through native reserves. They aren't searched, there is no duty, and no tax. They further stated that if the police can stop that, they can stop the influx of guns on the street

#### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated they would like to tell the court that they feel “really uncomfortable about guns in the community”. They went on to state that not only does it



concern them, but they feel “really scared” when they hear about gun violence in their area. This gun violence has changed their “lifestyle”. They are “unable to walk alone” in their neighbourhood due to the increased gun violence.

### **53 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that they and their family were not safe because of people with guns.

## **Gun Violence: Punishing Offenders and Protecting the Community**

### **11 Division - Meeting**

One participant thought young offenders should be sent to boot camp.

### **12 Division - Meeting**

Two participants stated, “First time you get bail, second time you don’t”.

One participant thought that boot camps where youth were taught respect, discipline and how to deal with conflict, should be established.

Another suggested judges should impose community service to keep offenders busy. If they are busy, they have less time to commit crimes, and the programs could benefit the community.

Another suggested that strict discipline was necessary.

### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that there is “no need for guns in the community so courts need to show no leniency”. They went on to state that they felt gun violence is a “blatant intent to commit murder” and therefore the courts should not be “showing mercy”.

### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that the courts have a responsibility to protect vulnerable members of communities like women and children. They felt that families are constantly living in a state of fear. Communities are facing retaliation from gang members and other criminals for reporting their criminal actions.

One respondent wanted the focus to be on finding the culprits who are giving young people guns and give those people a “longer time in jail”.

Another respondent stated that as long as criminals have easy access to firearms, as appears to be the case now, those who use them to commit violent crimes must be physically prevented from inflicting more violence on the community.

### **Young People and Gun Crime**

#### **11 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that there needed to be an “overhaul” to the system in relation to young offenders. They used the example of the eight girls who killed a homeless person in downtown Toronto. This person felt these offenders should be treated as adults.

Another noted that kids who are young offenders, or involved in street gangs, should be given harsh punishments. They felt that the province should build a facility away from the city where education and meals are provided. The young people should be “given hard work” to do so that they are disciplined. This participant felt that kids know “that not a finger can be laid on them” and that they can “get away with things”.

**12 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that we need to keep guns out of the hands of young people.

Another stated that younger generations are getting guns for their protection from the older gang members. Sometimes the older gang members offer guns to the younger kids as protection and then integrate them into their gangs. They do this because the punishment for young offenders is not the same as an adult, it is much less. This participant felt that the punishment for all gun violence and drug offences should be the same, no matter the age.

One participant who is a parent stated that they felt very helpless when they tried to get help for their 12-year-old son who was involved with street gangs. They wanted to take him for counselling, but he refused to go and there was nothing they could do to convince him to get help. They simply had to wait for him to be arrested.

Another participant suggested that the justice system should not be too harsh on young offenders as sometimes they may be pressured or forced into doing their first crime and realize their mistake and not do it again. They should "be given second chances in life".

One participant suggested that the punishment for a first offence could be less harsh for young offenders, but after that, the punishment should be the same for young offenders as it is for adults.

**12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent felt that the judicial system "is not hard on criminals". They also stated that young offender's legislation should be changed "to be harder on the criminals".

**13 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that there has been an increase in violence with young offenders recently. They felt this should not be blamed on mental illness as they believed these young people committed these crimes with intent.

Another stated that there should be stiffer penalties for older gang members. They also stated that the young offender legislation is not strict enough.

Another suggested that “the whole system needs to be revamped”. They felt that young offenders know exactly what they are doing and that they are learning from the street and TV.

Another stated that for young offenders, it is very appealing to join gangs with older gang members as it is a quick way for them to afford housing and other things in life that they might not be able to afford otherwise.

Another stated that a lot of kids are involved in gun violence. They asked, “if they don’t have the resource to do their homework how do they have the resources to get guns – where are they getting these from?”

Another participant stated that young people who get bail are going right back into the same neighbourhood that got them into trouble.

**13 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that children are being used as “mules” to commit crime. This corrupts the children and the judicial system.

### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that lots of youth are fearless of authority because they know a little bit of the law and what the police can and cannot do. They know that if they do something, they will be released.

Another felt that a lot of 12 and 13-year-olds are easily influenced and that they want to “look good”. Then they are robbed, and they retaliate. Others are coping with losing friends.

One participant stated that they were a teacher and that there are days when they wonder when their school is going to get shot at.

### **53 Division - Meeting**

Three participants spoke about children getting guns. One noted that they had seen children as young as eight-years-old stashing drugs in the trees during the summer.

## **Community-Based Solutions – Programs, Support, and Restorative Justice**

### **12 Division - Meeting**

One participant spoke about the community justice programs in place in Indigenous communities. They felt that although the programs “aren’t perfect” they do provide an alternative. This participant felt that more education about programs like this is important.

Another person felt that the root cause of gun violence needed to be addressed. They felt the problem was “anger and behavioural issues” and that this needed to be addressed “from a very young age”. This participant felt that the city should have more programs for “youth and younger kids” who have these issues.

One participant suggested that these issues are also dependent on “the upbringing of the child and parenting”. They felt that these children should get “help before it’s too late”.

They went on to state that the city keeps closing centres for youth and playgrounds for basketball and other activities because of funding restraints. They believed the city should invest time and money on the youth and in communities because this keeps “kids off the streets”. Another participant agreed that more money invested in programs was needed.

### **13 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that more community centres were needed. This participant felt that volunteer mentors could speak with the youth and give them direction. They noted that city councillors do not seem to have a lot of time to give.

Another participant noted that there “is no space left in the city for community buildings”. They felt that it has all been “taken over by builders to build condos and homes and make more money”.

One participant noted that punishment of offenders will not solve the problem. The “root cause” needed to be addressed. Two people agreed with this statement.

Another stated that “there needs to be more money spent on rehabilitation” and that children as young as grade 5 should be in programs.

### **43 Division - Meeting**

One participant felt that community services need to assess everything that people need – e.g., language, housing, etc., so that “they don't spiral into poverty”.

Another participant suggested that rehabilitation should be the focus.

One participant spoke of the requirement for basic needs like food and housing. They believed many parents were unaware of these programs and that more resources were needed.

Another thought we should look at households to find out what leads the person to crime, and that building community was key.

One participant suggested that housing and schooling are tied to the criminal justice system and bail. They stated that arresting people will not stop gun violence and “we need to stop people from being incarcerated”.

#### **43 Division Online Survey**

A respondent stated that guns “should not be available to anyone”. They also believed that conflict resolution training should be given to all ages, and that there should be “more activities, job opportunities and education to influence positive attitudes and behavior”. Another respondent also felt that programs and opportunities need to exist to prevent kids from getting involved in crime.

#### **53 Division - Meeting**

One participant stated that courts need to take a broader approach, including restorative justice and rehabilitation, to address the issues that cause people to turn to crime. Sentences need to be restorative for the offender and the community impacted by the crime. Eleven people agreed.

Another participant stated that a long-term plan is needed that includes a plan to deal with the immediate issues within the community.

Two participants stated that programs and opportunities need to exist to prevent kids from getting involved in crime.

Another participant expressed concerns about large privately owned apartment buildings with limited security. They stated that drug dealing was happening on the property but that entry by the Toronto Police Service was restricted.

One participant stated that they had requested a meeting with their local police, but nothing had been scheduled. They had also requested a meeting with TCHC and had not received a response.

Another participant stated that “there are crises occurring in families and often families don’t know who to reach out to for support”. Two people suggested that the Toronto Police Service partner with groups to provide access to support.

One participant noted that there used to be a gang intervention unit that came into the community.

Another participant wanted more options for the community to speak with police.

### **Results of Survey Question #3 – Breakdown by Theme**

**Question:** Have you changed or altered any of your or your family’s behaviours due to gun violence?

#### **Gun Violence has a Negative Impact on Community Quality of Life**

##### **12 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that they were hearing “gun shots more frequently”, and hearing about “kids getting hurt or killed from gang gun violence”.



One respondent stated that they do not go out on their own, that they are always aware of their surroundings, and they “check-in more frequently”.

One respondent stated “of course” to this question. They went on to state that they had told their son to “leave school and come home today after the shooting”. They stated that their son missed his afternoon classes. They went on to state that they send their child to school “to learn, not get killed, or call me because he heard gun shots and now his school is surrounded by cops”.

Another respondent stated that they were teaching themselves French so that they could get their child into French language school to keep him safe. This person stated they no longer go on evening or early morning walks. They used to walk the Humber daily, but they were verbally assaulted and won’t risk that happening to their child.

Another respondent stated that they avoid the Weston and Lawrence area and never go for walks at night.

### **13 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that they use the stairwell in their building and change the pattern of how they enter their building and unit.

### **43 Division Online Survey**

One respondent felt that they were in a “state of fear” to ensure children, parents, siblings, and friends avoid gun violence. This has altered their behaviour and their family’s behaviour.

Another respondent stated that they decided to give their eighth grader a phone for emergency situations because they are happening more frequently in the community. They

also stopped their child from attending certain programs because they were far from home and their child would not be home before it was dark outside. Because special education programs were far from home and so was the French school, they decided it was not safe for their children to go there. As a result, they decided that their children should go to school close to home so that they could “help them in the emergency situations ASAP”.

Another stated that they drove their child to and from school.

One respondent stated that they asked their teenage son to invite his friends to their home to hang around rather than in parks and public spaces after dusk. They also stated they have been “checking in more often with community residents, especially youth, mothers and seniors” in terms of their wellbeing and mental health. This was especially needed because of the frequency of lockdowns in schools. These cause panic attacks and anxiety among parents and students.

One respondent stated that they have become more vigilant and aware of what is going on around them when they go out.

Another respondent stated that they have “changed a lot” when they heard about the gun violence in their area. They stated that they were scared to walk to school, their place of worship, and to go on morning and night walks. They are worried about being stopped by someone who will threaten them or cause them bodily harm. They stated that they did not do any type of activity on their own such as going to the park or shopping.

Another stated they did not go on morning walks. They do not walk anywhere anymore, they take a taxi or Uber.

### **53 Division Online Survey**

One respondent stated that they had heard that some young people were shot in Thorncliffe neighborhood during the last two years because they were dealing with “bad people”. They stated that they stay away from “suspicious people who may hold guns”.

Another respondent stated that they do not go out alone or when it is dark.

One respondent stated that they were cautious and hesitant to use public transit. They were reluctant to visit anywhere at night and were careful about the kids at school.

Another also stated they used public transportation less and did not go out at night.

Another stated they avoided public places and parks and have restricted their social outings.

One respondent stated that they were more careful walking around the neighbourhood. They check over their shoulder regularly and are suspicious of every car that slows down.

### **Analysis of Results – Overarching Themes**

The answers for each question were coded into broad themes. Several of the same themes emerged across all questions: the negative impact gun violence has on youth; gun violence leads to reduced quality of life for the community; and community desire for restrictions on bail for gun crimes.

**The Negative Impact of Gun Violence on Young People.** The impact that gun violence has on young people was a theme that emerged across all question responses, at all community

meetings. The comments ranged in content from the fear their child will be a victim of gun violence, to incidents of gun violence in schools, to concerns about vulnerable youth being recruited by gangs, to issues of reduced quality of life, to changes in youth legislation to include stricter sentences for youth who commit gun crimes. The participants from the meetings held in 12, 43 and 53 divisions most often contained comments about young people and gun crime. The participants/respondents for both 12 division and 43 division included a discussion about youth in their answer to all the questions (including meetings and online surveys). Both 12 and 43 division are in the top seven divisions for gun crime in Toronto. Although 53 division is not in the top seven divisions for gun crime, a significant number of meeting participants/survey respondents (16 people) stated that there were more “hold and secures” at the schools in the last year. These factors could be heavily influencing their concerns about the negative impact of gun violence on young people, even though they are not in a division with higher levels of gun violence.

#### **Youth – Parental Fear for Safety of Children**

Twelve participants/respondents from 12, 23 and 43 divisions spoke of their fear that their children or family might be harmed by gun violence.

#### **Youth - Gangs and Gun Violence in Schools**

Thirty-four people from 11, 12, 43, and 53 divisions spoke of their concern regarding gun violence in and around schools. These comments ranged in perspective from fear that their child would be shot, to fear of gangs in schools, to the increased number of lockdowns in schools, to replica guns being brought to school by young children, to creating strategies to mitigate the risk that their child would be a victim of gun violence while they were at school.

Seven people from 12 and 43 divisions specifically cited examples of students being shot at their local high school. A teacher at the 43 division meeting stated that they wondered when their school will be shot at. One person recalled their son calling them because there was a shooting at his school. That parent stated that they sent their child to school to “learn, not get killed, or call me because he heard gun shots and now his school is surrounded by cops”.

Sixteen people from 53 division had concerns about gun violence in schools. They all noted that there were multiple “lockdowns” and “hold and secures” in the past year. One person (43 division) stated that although they felt a cellphone was a distraction at school, they gave their child one so that they could call because “emergency situations were happening more frequently”.

Two people, one from 53 division and the other from 12 division, stated that they have dealt with a young child and a high school student who brought replica guns to the daycare and school where they respectively worked.

Five people from 11 and 12 divisions spoke of their concern that their child will become a victim of gang violence or will be recruited by a gang while they are at school. One noted that young kids commit crimes for the older gang members and are then released and are back in the school the next day.

Three people from 12 and 43 division discussed the mitigating strategies they were using to protect their children from gun violence. These strategies included, no after school programs, driving their child to and from school, and learning to speak French so that they could send their child to a French school to “keep him safe”.

**Youth - Gang Recruitment and Using Young People to Commit Crimes Involving Guns**

Seventeen people from 11, 12, 13, 43, and 53 divisions spoke about gang members recruiting young people/children, and of young people/children having guns.

One person from 12 division said children as young as nine years old were carrying guns and another person from 53 division said there are children as young as eight carrying guns. Others spoke of kids walking down the street with guns in their waistband. One person from 12 division said their 13 -year-old son was able to purchase a gun on Facebook. He even had the option to pay all at once or by installments.

Two people from 43 division stated that they were told by young people that it was “easy to get guns”.

Nine people from 12 and 43 divisions stated that gangs were recruiting young people even children. The older gang members give the young person/child guns to make them feel safe and then they recruit them. Five people stated that the older gang members recruited young people/children because if they commit an offence the punishment is less severe.

One person from 43 division stated that the community feared retaliation by the gangs.

**Youth - Reduced Opportunity to be Granted Bail for Second Offences and Stricter Sentences**

People from 11, 12, 13, and 43 divisions spoke of their concerns when young people who commit gun crimes are granted bail. Some discussed their belief that there should be stricter sentences for young people who commit gun crimes.

Two people (13 and 43 division) stated they were concerned that young people who are granted bail for a gun crime go straight back to the community when they are released.

Two people (12 and 11 Division) thought young people who commit gun crimes should be sent to “boot camp”. Another felt the punishment should be harsh if the young person is involved in a street gang. They suggested a facility away from the city in which the young person received meals and an education but was also given “hard work”.

**Gun Violence Leads to Reduced Quality of Life for the Community.** People from all divisions spoke of the impact that gun crime had on them such as feeling unsafe or “scared” in their neighbourhood. This feeling caused them to: not walk after dark or early morning (12, 43, 53); be very aware of their surroundings when they were out; and avoid public places, including parks and transit (11, 12, 43, 53).

People also spoke of the lingering fear personally and in the community after there has been gun violence (43 and 13 divisions). One person (13 division) spoke of the significant personal impact when their car had been shot at while it was parked in front of their house. They noted the impact of just hearing gunshots, which they called “crippling”.

**Restrictions on Bail for Gun Crime: No bail for Second and Other Gun Crimes.** Thirty-six participants/respondents from across all the divisions (11, 12, 13, 23, 43, 53) thought that a person who is granted bail for a gun crime should not be granted bail a second time if they commit another gun crime while on bail. Respondents from 12, 43, and 53 divisions felt there should be no bail for people who commit gun crimes, even a first offence. Forty-three and 12 division are in the top seven divisions for gun crime.

One participant (53 division) stated that if a person who is on bail commits a gun crime and they are granted bail for that second offence, there is a “break in the system”. Another (43 division) stated “It would be like telling a parent that the same criminal came back and killed their second child”. One participant (43 division), stated in response to community meeting question 3, that it was “shameful” to ask that question and that it should be the norm to revoke the first bail.

A participant (12 division) stated that “in January alone 15 people who were charged with gun crimes were ‘let out’ and charged with another gun crime”. This participant felt that Judges and Justices of the Peace should consider previous compliance issues.

Two people felt that in most cases people who are on bail do not reoffend. However, one felt that although this was true, the courts needed to “get harder” on people who commit gun crime.

#### ***Bail – Considerations for Judge or Justice of the Peace***

The community participants/respondents wanted Judges and Justices of the Peace to consider the facts of each case before them and the impact that might be experienced by the community when a person who commits gun crime is released back to that same community. They spoke of fear of retaliation if they report someone, and the fear for their daily safety because of gun violence in the community. They also wanted Judges and Justices of the Peace to reflect on the impact of gang violence in communities. Ensuring that sureties are committed to doing what they were supposed to was also noted as a concern.



One person spoke to the information, or lack of information, that Judges and Justices of the Peace have when they make their decision. They believed that Judges and Justices of the Peace do not have the “full story” when they make their decision

Four people in 43 division felt that the community is afraid to report anyone because the person might be released quickly and “come after them”. One person stated that “the moment you see a person back on the street the confidence in the justice system goes to zero”.

Four people felt that a decision regarding bail must be on a case-by-case basis and that Judges and Justices of the Peace must consider the best interest of society. One person from 43 division stated that “there is a disconnect” between judges across Canada and judges in Toronto. They felt that bail was being treated the same across the country and that it should not be. What might work in Manitoba will not work in Toronto because of the gang activity. Another person (13 division) felt there was a difference between a “guy with a Glock in his hands and someone who has a gun in their bag that is not loaded”.

Five participants from 12 division and 43 division specifically stated that they wanted Judges and Justices of the Peace to include consideration for the community when they are releasing someone on bail. Their comments included asking the Judge or Justice of the Peace to: use caution when releasing a “gun criminal” back to the community; talk to the families and community members who have been impacted by gun violence to help inform their decision; and to balance the consequences on the community if the offender commits another gun offence. Again, these respondents live in the top seven divisions in relation to gun crime.

Also of note, is the concern related by two people from 12 division in relation to sureties. In particular, the specific example of a son using a surety that was not known to the

family. The parent believed their child was living at the surety's house and paying rent from the proceeds he made from selling drugs for the surety. Given the key role a surety plays in bail, this information is concerning.

### **Conclusions and Discussion**

The results of the meetings and survey responses indicate that communities across the city are concerned about the negative impact gun crime has on youth and on community quality of life. There was also consensus among all communities that there should be restricted bail and harsher sentences for those who commit violent gun crimes.

There was a pronounced concern about gun violence/crimes in schools. Thirty-five community members from 11, 12, 43 and 53 spoke of this issue and gave specific examples of shootings at local schools. Two of these divisions are in areas of lower gun crime and two are in areas of higher gun crime, as determined by the Toronto Police Service. The data used by the Toronto Police Service to identify neighbourhoods with high and low levels of gun crime, does not include reports of "lockdowns" and "hold and secures" in schools. These incidents are known to parents. Community members, teachers, daycare workers, and parents all spoke of young people with guns or replica guns. These factors seem to be informing the community's understanding of the breadth of gun crime in their communities and schools, outside of what is reported to police.

Survey respondents and participants at all meetings spoke of a reduced quality of life because of gun violence. Whether from personal experience with gun violence or general fear

due to gun violence in the community, it has limited people's ability to enjoy their own communities.

The community members also held strong opinions about restricting bail for gun crimes. Thirty-six participants/respondents from across all meetings and surveys stated that a person on bail for a gun crime should not be granted bail again if they commit another gun crime while on bail. Participants/respondents in 12, 43, and 53 division felt that people who commit gun crimes should never be granted bail. This attitude could reflect the fear and reduced quality of life they are directly experiencing because of gun violence. Both 12 and 43 division are in areas with higher gun crime. Although 53 division is not in an area that experiences higher levels of gun crime, the meeting participants and survey respondents spoke of the fear of gun crime and the reduced quality of life because of it.

Of note is the high volume of data collected from 43 division and 12 division. The community members from these divisions contributed approximately 60% of the data collected, with 43 division contributing slightly more data than 12 division. Both divisions are in areas that experience a higher level of gun crime. The considerable participation and breadth of responses are an indicator of the impact gun crime has on communities. The community members from both divisions expressed similar concerns about gun violence.

The responses by the community members from 43 division clearly indicate that they are concerned for the safety and well-being of their children and families because of gun violence and gang activity. They have also conveyed clear concerns about the safety of their children while at school. This fear was based on shootings that had recently happened at local schools. Additionally, they have noted a reduced quality of day-to-day life such as being afraid

to walk alone, use public transit, or go out at night because of gun violence. They also noted the fear that there may be retaliation by gang members when the community reports gun crime to the police. Meeting participants and survey respondents directly stated that they want the courts to take gun crime seriously and to consider the impact on the community when they send a person who has committed gun crime back to the community.

The responses by the community members from 12 division also indicated a significant concern for the safety of their community and for their children, especially when they are at school. Their concern was based on shootings that had happened at local schools including a 15-year-old who had been shot in the chest. They spoke of the fear that their child will be a victim of gang violence and voiced concerns about young children being given guns by gang members and being used as drug “mules”. They spoke of the gun violence happening in the community “during the day and night”. Many felt that the courts should not show leniency for anyone who commits a gun crime, and some suggested that anyone who commits a gun crime should not be given bail. Others wanted Judges and Justices of the Peace to consider the impact on the community when they release a person on bail because “this person will be going back to the community”.

### **Limitations and Future Research**

The overall sample size of this study, 309 participants/respondents, is small compared to the population of Toronto, which is 3,025,647<sup>1</sup>. However, the consistency in emerging

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/toronto-at-a-glance/>

themes suggests some cautioned ability to extrapolate the concerns raised by the community participants/respondents to other residents of Toronto.

Participation was also impacted by inclement weather on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This reduced the amount of data collected from the meetings held in 11 division (2 participants) and 23 division (15 participants).

Information gathered at public meetings can also be limited because of factors such as concerns over confidentiality, fear of speaking in public, fear of retaliation, and fear of disclosing personal information. The Toronto Police Service mitigated this potential loss of data by creating a one-time-use per device QR code that would allow meeting participants and other community members to complete an online survey. Participants at all meetings were advised that they could take a card with a QR code and enter the answers to their questions in private, if they preferred. Neighbourhood Officers in each of the identified divisions also delivered these QR code cards to residents in the community. This, too, helped to increase participation. The one-time-use per device QR code for each survey response also mitigated receiving multiple responses from the same person.

Replicating the study in other areas or Toronto, the GTA, and Ontario would provide interesting comparison data. It would also provide a more robust data set, which would strengthen the validity of any conclusions.

## Appendix A: Top 7 Divisions Impacted by Guns and Gun Violence and 6 Divisions Least Impacted

### Top 7 Divisions Impacted by Guns and Gun Violence

Division	Ward/Riding	City Councillor	MPP		MP	
43	Scarborough Centre	Michael Thompson	416-397-9274	David Smith	416-615-2183 Salma Zahid	416-752-2358
	Scarborough South-West	Gary Crawford	416-392-4052	Doly Begum	416-261-9585 Bill Blair	416-261-8613
	Scarborough Guildwood	Paul Ainslie	416-392-4008	Mitzie Hunter	416-281-2787 John McKay	416-283-1226
	Scarborough Rouge Park	Jennifer McKelvie	416-338-3771	Vijay Thanigasalam	416-283-8448 Gary Anandasangaree	416-283-1414
31	Humber River-Black Creek	Anthony Perruzza	416-338-5335	Tom Rakocevic	416-743-7272 Judy Sgro	416-744-1882
	York Centre	James Pasternak	416-392-7299	Michael Kerzner	416-630-0080 Ya'ara Saks	416-638-3700
41	Scarborough Centre	Michael Thompson	416-397-9274	David Smith	416-615-2183 Salma Zahid	416-752-2358
	Scarborough South-West	Gary Crawford	416-392-4052	Doly Begum	416-261-9525 Bill Blair	416-261-8613
51	Toronto Danforth	Paula Fletcher	416-392-4060	Peter Tabuns	416-461-0223 Julie Dabrusin	416-405-8914
	Toronto Centre	Robin Buxton Potts	416-392-7903	Kristyn Wong-Tam	416-972-7683 Marci Ien	416-972-9749
	Spadina-Fort York	Joe Mihevc	416-392-4044	Chris Glover	416-603-9664 Kevin Vuong	416-533-2710
52	Spadina-Fort York	Joe Mihevc	416-392-4044	Chris Glover	416-603-9664 Kevin Vuong	416-533-2710
	University Rosedale	Mike Layton	416-392-4009	Jessica Bell	416-535-7206 Chrystia Freeland	416-928-1451
23	Etobicoke North	Vacant		Doug Ford	416-745-2859 Kirsty Duncan	416-747-6003
12	York South-Weston	Councillor Frances Nunziata	416-392-4091	Michael Ford	No Contact info Ahmed Hussen	416-656-2526

\*\*\*\*\*Statistics based on a tabulation of: Firearm Arrest, Firearms Seized, Number of Shootings and Firearm Discharges in 2021\*\*\*\*\*  
Raw numbers used to determine level of impact for each Division and does not provide a ratio to population density

### 6 Divisions Least Impacted by Guns and Gun Violence

Division	Ward/Riding	City Councillor	MPP		MP	
54	Toronto Danforth	Paula Fletcher	416-392-4060	Peter Tabuns	416-461-0223 Julie Dabrusin	416-405-8914
	Beaches East-York	Brad Bradford	416-338-2755	Mary-Margaret McMahon	416-690-1032 Nathaniel Erskine-Smith	416-467-0860
	Don Valley East	Denzil Minnan-Wong	416-397-9256	Adil Shamji	416-494-6856 Michael Coteau	416-443-1393
	Don Valley West	Jaye Robinson	416-395-6439	Stephanie Bowman	416-425-6777 Robert Oliphant	416-467-7275
11	Davenport	Ana Bailao	416-392-7012	Marit Stiles	416-535-3158 Julie Dzerowicz	416-654-8048
	Parkdale High Park	Gord Perks	416-392-7919	Bhutila Karpoche	416-763-5630 Arif Virani	416-769-8343
33	Don Valley East	Denzil Minnan-Wong	416-397-9256	Adil Shamji	416-494-6856 Michael Coteau	416-443-1393
	Don Valley West	Jaye Robinson	416-395-6408	Stephanie Bowman	416-425-6777 Robert Oliphant	416-467-7275
	Don Valley North	Shelley Carroll	416-338-2650	Vincent Ke	416-494-8778 Han Dong	416-443-9819
55	Toronto Danforth	Paula Fletcher	416-397-5200	Peter Tabuns	416-461-0223 Julie Dabrusin	416-405-8914
	Beaches East-York	Brad Bradford	416-338-2755	Mary-Margaret McMahon	416-690-1032 Nathaniel Erskine-Smith	416-467-0860
13	Eglinton Lawrence	Mike Colle	416-338-2500	Robin Martin	416-781-2395 Marco Mendicino	416-781-5583
	Toronto St. Pauls	Josh Matlow	416-392-7906	Jill Andrew	416-656-0943 Carolyn Bennett	416-952-3990
	Davenport	Ana Bailao	416-392-7012	Marit Stiles	416-535-3158 Julie Dzerowicz	416-654-8048
53	Eglinton Lawrence	Mike Colle	416-338-2500	Robin Martin	416-781-2395 Marco Mendicino	416-781-5583
	Toronto St. Pauls	Josh Matlow	416-392-7906	Jill Andrew	416-656-0943 Carolyn Bennett	416-952-3990
	University Rosedale	Mike Layton	416-392-4009	Jessica Bell	416-535-7206 Chrystia Freeland	416-928-1451
	Don Valley West	Jaye Robinson	416-395-6408	Stephanie Bowman	416-425-6777 Robert Oliphant	416-467-7275

\*\*\*\*\*Statistics based on a tabulation of: Firearm Arrest, Firearms Seized, number of shootings and firearm discharges in 2021\*\*\*\*\*  
Raw numbers used to determine level of impact for each Division and does not provide a ratio to population density

Appendix B: Example of Flyer Used to Advertise Meetings

**COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**  
**MONDAY - FEB 13TH. 2023**  
**THE COMMUNITY PLACE HUB -**  
**1765 WESTON ROAD**  
**5:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**[www.engage416.ca](http://www.engage416.ca)**

**LIGHT SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY**

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SAFETY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AS IT RELATES TO GUN VIOLENCE?

DO YOU THINK THAT THE COURTS ARE DEALING WITH INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH GUN RELATED OFFENCES PROPERLY?

IF YOU COULD TELL THE COURTS YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT GUNS IN THE COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

  Toronto Integrated  
Police Gang Prevention  
Service Task Force **#ENGAGE416** 

## Appendix C

### Introduction

Welcome and thank you everyone for coming tonight. My name is XXX and please feel free to call me XXX. I am not a member of the Toronto Police Service, but I will be facilitating this evening's discussion.

### Land acknowledgment

I want to start this session by acknowledging that the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. And also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit

I would also like to acknowledge that although many people came here to settle either in this generation or past generations, there are people who were brought here forcibly particularly those who were brought here as a result of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent

Thank you again everyone for coming this evening.

The Toronto Police Service is hosting 6 sessions in different neighbourhoods in Toronto. We are asking the participants at each session the same set of questions.

The purpose of these sessions is to collect and record your thoughts about **gun violence in your community, and the justice system's handling of bail for people charged with firearm related offences**. You may have other things you want to discuss, but we are going to focus on these two specific areas. If there are other things you would like to discuss, please connect with one of the Neighbourhood Officers who are here tonight.

The questions are focused on gun violence and bail. We know that stopping gun violence takes a multi-strategy approach, and the purpose of these sessions is one small part. There are initiatives happening across the city to address different aspects of gun violence, and many are part of the SafeTO: Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

I will speak more about the purpose of these sessions as we move through the presentation.

### Voluntary



Your participation is completely voluntary. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not feel comfortable answering, and you are free to leave at any time. We ask that if you do leave before the end, you do so quietly so that anyone who may be speaking is not interrupted.

### **Toronto Distress Centre**

We also know that you may at times feel uncomfortable with the material we are discussing. Please look after yourself. If you need to step out, please do so. We have posted the number for the Toronto Distress Centre – 416-408-4357 (408-help). This service is available 24/7. NOTE: This information was posted at the entrance and on the wall.

### **No Identifying Information**

The information you provide during this meeting will not contain any identifying information. Nothing you say will be directly connected to you as an individual. All the answers will be collated to be used as part of a document presented in court. It is a formalized way of bringing community opinion into courtrooms. As we move through the presentation, I will give you specific details about this.

The final document will be available on the Toronto Police Service website.

### **Notetakers**

There are several notetakers present tonight. They will be recording what you say to ensure that we accurately capture what you tell us. As I said earlier, your answers will be recorded anonymously, nothing you say will be directly associated with you.

### **Demographic Questionnaire**

There is a short demographic questionnaire that we would like you to complete. Please do not put your name or address on it. Your answers provide us with a broad overview of the makeup of the participants. Once you have completed it, please put it in the box.

### **Requests**

We will be discussing some difficult topics this evening and we might not all agree on many things, but it is important that we respect each other and each other's opinions. Please keep that in mind this evening. We want everyone to have a chance to be heard.

Before we start can you please ensure your phones are off, or on silent mode.

Are there any **questions** about those pieces before I go over the agenda?

### **Overview of Session- Agenda on screen**

First, we will give you an overview of what bail is, discuss the right not to be denied reasonable bail, and review the facts and circumstances that a justice or the peace (JP) or judge must consider when deciding to grant bail.

After this overview, we have four (4) questions for you. We will be collecting your responses to these questions and collating them into a report. The report may potentially be used by JPs and judges in bail court.

### **Presentation Using PowerPoint**

## Appendix D



### AGENDA

Define bail

Bail hearing

Right to a bail hearing

Grounds for granting/denying bail

Questions for discussion

## BAIL

The term **bail** refers to the release into the community of a person charged with a criminal offence prior to being tried in court. The accused person must appear in court when required and they are usually required to follow conditions while they are on bail.

## BAIL HEARING

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A **bail hearing**: a Judge or a Justice of the Peace will decide whether the accused person should be kept in jail or allowed to go back into the community while their case is heard in a criminal court.

If an accused person is denied bail, then they are held in custody until their matter is dealt with by the court.

## RIGHT TO BAIL HEARING

—  
Under the *Criminal Code*, people arrested for a crime and who are not released by the police, have the right to a bail hearing within 24 hours.

In Canada, all people accused of committing a criminal offence are presumed innocent until that person either pleads guilty or is found guilty after a trial.

## CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Additionally, our Charter of Rights and Freedom states:

- 11** Any person charged with an offence has the right
- (e) not to be denied reasonable bail without just cause;

## RESPONSIBILITY OF CROWN

In most cases, the Crown must justify why the person should be detained in custody until trial, or why certain conditions should be imposed on the accused if released on bail.



When the JP or Judge is determining whether to grant bail, they must consider the facts and circumstances in relation to the following three grounds:

**Primary** – ensure attendance in court

**Secondary** – detention is necessary for the protection or safety of the public

**Tertiary** – detention is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice, having regard to all the circumstances.

## JUDGE OR JP ASSESSMENT

When a judge or JP makes an assessment under the tertiary grounds, they are taking into consideration what members of the public would think about granting bail in the specific case they are dealing with.

### THE TERTIARY GROUND

[168] Detention is only justified on the tertiary ground if it is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. ....

[169] Thus, the question is whether a reasonable member of the public, who understood the constitutional right not to be denied a reasonable bail, would find it necessary to deny him release, or would the proposed plan satisfy the public's confidence in the administration of justice?

## MEANING OF “PUBLIC”

[5] ...For now, I will simply note that the “public” are reasonable, well-informed members of the community, but not legal experts with in-depth knowledge of our criminal justice system.

R. v. St-Cloud, 2015 SCC 27, [2015] 2 S.C.R. 328

QUESTIONS FOR  
DISCUSSION

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**DO YOU THINK GUN VIOLENCE IS A SERIOUS ISSUE  
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?**

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**IN TERMS OF RELEASE ON BAIL, DO YOU THINK  
THAT THE COURTS ARE DEALING WITH  
INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH GUN RELATED  
OFFENCES PROPERLY?**

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**IF A PERSON IS ALREADY ON BAIL FOR A GUN CRIME, AND THEY COMMIT ANOTHER GUN CRIME WHILE ON BAIL, HOW SHOULD THE COURTS DEAL WITH THIS PERSON?**

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**IF YOU COULD TELL THE COURTS YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT GUNS IN THE COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?**

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### Appendix E: Demographics Breakdown for Community Meetings

Total number of people who completed the forms	47
--	----

#### Gender

Male	Female
21	26

#### Age

15 – 20	3
20 – 29	3
30 – 39	5
40 – 49	11
50 – 59	8
60 – 69	9
70 – 79	3
Did not say	5

#### Education

Did not answer	2
Some high school	6
Completed high school	5
Some post-secondary	3
Completed post-secondary	20
Graduate School (MA, PhD)	11

#### Ethnicity – Participants Self-Identified Without Set Parameters

Did not answer	3
Canadian	3
Italian or Canadian/Italian	4
Greek	1
European	2
White/Caucasian	5
Black	10
Indian (India)	3
Sri-Lankan	4
African	2

Caribbean	1
Somalian	3
Hispanic	1
Anglo-Asian	1
Eritrean	1
Pakistani	2
Nigerian	1

### **Income**

Prefer not to say	12
Did not answer	2
Less than \$25,000	13
25,000 to under 50,000	4
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	4
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	5
Over \$100,000	7

### **Neighbourhood**

Weston	8
Rexdale/Kipling	5
Oakwood	4
Scarborough (Malvern, Woburn, Scarborough Centre)	10
Dixon	2
Etobicoke	4
Black Creek	2
Bathurst	2
East York	3
York Region and Durham Region	3
Did not indicate	4

### **Appendix F: Online Survey Questions**

1. First of all, do you or does anyone else in your household work in any of the following areas? Marketing, Advertising Market Research, Radio, TV, Newspaper, Magazine, Public Relations, RCMP, OPP, Toronto Police Service, or any other police department, Ministry of the Attorney General, Corrections Services or courts.
2. Do you think gun violence is a serious issue in your neighbourhood?
3. Have you changed or altered any of your or your family's behaviours due to gun violence?
4. Do you think that the courts are dealing with individuals charged with gun-related offenses properly?
5. If a person is already on bail for a gun crime, and they commit another gun crime while on bail, how should the courts deal with this person to ensure public safety?
6. If you could tell the courts your concerns about guns in the community, what would you say?

## Appendix G – Demographic Breakdown for Online Surveys

### Demographic Breakdown for Survey Responses

51 responses

#### Gender

Male	Female	Prefer not to say or Did not Answer
6	18	27

#### Age

18 – 24	4
25 – 34	6
35 – 44	6
45 – 54	7
55 – 64	4
65+	0
Did not answer	24

#### Income

Prefer not to say	9
Did not answer	23
Less than \$25,000	6
25,000 to under 50,000	3
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	3
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	4
Over \$100,000	3

#### Education

Did not answer	24
Prefer not to say	2
Some High School or Completed High School	6
Some College or Completed College	2
Some University or Completed University Undergraduate	10
Graduate Studies (MA, PhD)	7

**Ethnicity – Participants Self-Identified Without Set Parameters**

Did not answer	28
Canadian	1
European	2
White/Caucasian	3
Black	1
South Asia	4
Afghan	4
Caribbean	2
Muslim	1
Filipino Canadian	1
Arab	1
Pakistani	2
Visible minority	1

**Neighbourhood**

East York	9
North York	4
York	3
Scarborough	8
Etobicoke	1
Outside of Toronto	1
Other	2
Did not answer	23

### **Acknowledgments**

Thank you to the following faculty and students from Seneca College who volunteered their time to record the responses of meeting participants:

Alison Armitage  
Glenn Barenthin  
Reema Barkhurdar  
Gianluca Bilotta-Perez  
Kelly Frapporti  
Victoria Labelle  
Kayman Martin  
Teya Tonon





## PUBLIC REPORT

**November 9, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Dubi Kanengisser  
Executive Director

**Subject: Toronto Police Services Board – 2024 Meeting Schedule**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

**Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) approve the 2024 meeting schedule as outlined in this report.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation(s) contained in this report.

### **Background:**

The Board bases its annual schedule of meetings on a number of factors, including the days that are least likely to conflict with the schedule of meetings of Toronto City Council, standing committees of Council, Community Councils and other committee meetings; annual key conferences for Board Members; and other significant events which Board Members and the Chief of Police are expected to attend.

In July 2006, in order to recognize culturally-significant days, the Board approved a Policy indicating that it would attempt to avoid scheduling meetings involving the public on these days. A list of the days formally recognized as “culturally significant” was also approved as part of that Policy.

Although the Board attempts to follow its schedule of meetings as much as possible once it has been established, there may be circumstances which result in changes on

short notice during the year. In those circumstances, the Board Office will provide public notice of any change at the soonest possible opportunity.

### **Discussion:**

In establishing the Board meeting schedule for 2024, the Board Office reviewed the current 2024 schedule of meetings developed by the City of Toronto, the dates upon which culturally-significant holidays will be observed in 2024, and the dates of key conferences that Board Members or the Chief of Police may attend during the year.

### ***Board Meeting Schedule – 2024***

Based on the foregoing, I am proposing the following dates for meetings of the Board in 2024:

Friday, January 12  
Monday, March 18  
Monday, April 22  
Friday, May 31  
Monday, June 24  
Wednesday, July 31  
Thursday, September 12  
Tuesday, October 8  
Tuesday, November 12  
Thursday, December 12

As the year progresses, there may be some dates when certain Board Members may not be able to attend a meeting due to new personal or business commitments. Unless a quorum of the Board cannot be achieved, I believe that the meeting dates, as proposed, should be confirmed at this time in order to establish a regular cycle of meetings prior to the new year, and so that members of the public are aware of these dates.

### ***Times and Locations of Board Meetings***

Throughout the COVID pandemic, the Board Office monitored how the City of Toronto has been conducting, and intends to conduct, its public meetings. The principle focus remains to hold Board meetings in a manner that best complies with public health guidance, leveraging the technology available to make these meetings accessible for the public. In order to make it more accessible for others to participate in the meetings, we have been holding the Board meetings using the hybrid format, allowing members of the public to provide deputations virtually or in person. Public meetings, whether in-person, virtual or hybrid, are livestreamed on YouTube through a link on the Board's website ([tpsbc.ca](https://www.tpsb.ca)). Agendas for public meetings are also posted to the Board's website in advance of Board meetings.

It is anticipated that all public meetings will commence at 9:00AM, followed by an *in camera* portion of the meeting. If the times require to be changed, we will inform the public prior to the Board meeting by posting it on our website.

The Board has expressed an interest in pursuing opportunities to better engage Toronto communities through its meetings, policy development processes and broader community engagement. It is our hope that by effectively bringing meetings into communities, members of the public will have more opportunities to engage with the Board, provide their input on policing matters in the City, and share a local perspective on issues of importance. Ultimately, deeper engagement with higher participation will assist the Board in carrying out its oversight and governance responsibilities, as more voices are included in the Board's discussions and decisions. The Board Office will work to identify venues outside of the Service's headquarters to host its meetings, and will inform the public at the earliest possible time of any change of location.

***Conclusion:***

It is recommended that the Board approve the 2024 meeting schedule, as outlined above.

Respectfully submitted,

Dubi Kanengisser  
Executive Director



## PUBLIC REPORT

**November 1, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Request for Funds: Youth in Policing Luncheon and Awards**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Recommendation:**

This report recommends that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) approve an expenditure in the amount of \$6 thousand (K) from the Board's Special Fund, less the return of any funds not used, to support the Annual Youth In Policing Initiative (YI.P.I.) luncheons listed within this report.

### **Financial Implications:**

The Board's Special Fund will be reduced by \$6K, which is the total cost of expenditures related to the annual events listed in this report.

### **Summary:**

The Board, at its meeting on February 28, 2022, granted standing authority to the Chair and the Vice Chair to approve expenditures from the Board's Special Fund for a total amount not to exceed \$6K for this internal event annually hosted in whole or in part by the Board and the Toronto Police Service (Service). The Standing Authority would only apply to events that are to be identified in the list which is provided to the Board for information at the beginning of each calendar year (Min. No. P208/10 refers).

## Discussion:

### Background

STRATEGY MANAGEMENT UNIT Y.I.P.I. LUNCHEON AND AWARDS						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Youth in Policing Initiative Luncheon	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>

The above noted request for funding from the Board's Special Fund has been reviewed to ensure that it meets the criteria set out in the Board's Special Fund Policy and is consistent with the following goal of the Service:

- Embrace partnerships to create safe communities

Below is the breakdown of costs for the graduations and the dates for the events:

Winter/Spring Graduation	Summer Graduation	Fall Graduation
Saturday June 24, 2023	Friday, August 25, 2023	Saturday, December 9, 2023
Approximately 160 attendees (students, community and family members)	155 Summer hires	Approximately 160 attendees (students, community and family members)
<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>

The annual funding for the Y.I.P.I. lunches have been ongoing over the years. The graduation lunches are now being enhanced to include recognition and awards to students who have made significant contributions to the program in the following categories:

- **Rising Star** – this person takes the initiative to ask questions and participate in workday meetings, and also takes advantage of whatever knowledge is available to them
- **Creativity** - this student demonstrates a high level of creativity in the arts, especially with group projects and assignments
- **Community Involvement Award** – this student demonstrates a long term commitment to their community by dedicating time and effort in order to create beneficial change

- **Most Improved** – this student has developed and made significant progress throughout the program
- **Leadership** - this student demonstrates exceptional leadership skills, inspiring others to be involved and motivated
- **Team Player** – this student demonstrates a willingness to work with their fellow students and ensures that peers are included and valued
- **Knowledge** - a student who has participated in training days and has contributed many facts, and asked very educational and insightful questions
- **Initiative** - this student demonstrates excellent work ethic and has gone above and beyond in executing their tasks
- **M.V.P.** - someone who has been recognized by their placement supervisors as hard-working, charismatic and well-mannered
- **Hidden Gem** - despite not being outspoken, this person makes a difference by consistently helping out and displays an excellent work ethic and attitude

### **Conclusion:**

The Service is one of the largest municipal police services in North America and is responsible for policing the most diverse city in the world with almost half of the city's current population being born outside of Canada. The City boasts 200 ethnic groups with over 140 languages spoken. As the most multicultural city in the world, this program enhances the Service's reputation in the role it plays in engaging dialogue and forming positive relationships with the youth in our city.

The Y.I.P.I. program enhances the link between the police and the neighbourhoods we serve. It gives students the opportunity to work with sworn and civilian members giving them a sense of belonging, acceptance, respect, access and an opportunity to interact with members of the Service. Presentations from police officers and community partners, training, teamwork and life skills are integral parts of the program's curriculum. It also offers the participants the opportunity to select the Toronto Police Service as an employer of choice. There are approximately 32 Y.I.P.I. Alumni employed within the Service; 16 sworn and 16 civilian members. In June of 2023 five Y.I.P.I. Alumni graduated to become sworn members.

The participation of the Board and the Service in this event is a partnership which was established in 2006 between the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, the Toronto Police Services Board and the Toronto Police Service.

Ms. Svina Dhaliwal, Chief Administrative Officer and Acting Staff Superintendent Joe Matthews, Strategy Management, will attend to respond to any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office



## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 6, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Request for Review of a Service Complaint Investigation  
– Professional Standards Case Number PRS-081443**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board):

- 1) Determine whether to concur with the decision that no further action was required with respect to the complaint, and
- 2) Advise the complainant, the Independent Police Review Director (O.I.P.R.D.), and the Chief of Police the disposition of the complaint, in writing, with reasons.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

The Board has received a request to review the disposition of a complaint about a policy of Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.).



### *Relevant Board Policies and Compliance*

Section 63 of the *Police Services Act* (P.S.A.) directs the Chief of Police to review every complaint about the policies of or services provided by a municipal police force that is referred to him or her by the O.I.P.R.D.

The Chief of Police shall, within 60 days of the referral of the complaint to him or her notify the complainant in writing of his or her disposition of the complaint, with reasons, and of the complainant's right to request that the Board review the complaint if the complainant is not satisfied with the disposition.

A complainant may, within 30 days after receiving the notice, request that the Board review the complaint by serving a written request to that effect on the Board.

### **Board Review:**

Section 63 of the P.S.A. directs that upon receiving a written request for a review of a complaint previously dealt with by the Chief of Police, the Board shall:

- a) Advise the Chief of Police of the request.
- b) Subject to subsection (7), review the complaint and take any action, or no action, in response to the complaint, as it considers appropriate; and
- c) Notify the complainant, the Chief of Police, and the O.I.P.R.D. in writing of its disposition of the complaint, with reasons.

### **Summary of the Complaint and Investigation**

Complaint Number: PRS-081443  
Complaint Type: Service  
Disposition: No Action Required

### **Complaint**

On November 25, 2020, the O.I.P.R.D. received a public complaint involving the T.P.S.

The O.I.P.R.D. separated the complaint into two parts: a complaint about the conduct of police officers, which was retained by the O.I.P.R.D., and a complaint about the policies of the Service, which the O.I.P.R.D. referred to T.P.S. for investigation on January 22, 2021.

The complainant, expressed concerns about the Service's policies and procedures. The specific paragraphs of the complaint that were referred to the Service for investigation are as follows:

The complainant, seeks that the O.I.P.R.D. recommend that an investigation and finding be made against 11 Division for not addressing systemic racism in their organization and for failing to implement recommendations that have been mandated since the Tulloch Report of 2017.

In addition to disciplinary processes and procedures, [the complainant] is also seeking broader systemic change to the T.P.S. policy and procedures, specifically with respect to the recommendation of the Tulloch report, as well as when the mobile crisis intervention team should and ought to be mobilized; especially in light of a family that has a pre-existing history of emergency calls for service.

Detective Thomas Reimer (9290) of Professional Standards was assigned the file for investigation.

As a part of the investigation, documents, reports and materials were reviewed, including: T.P.S. governance, the complainant's statement, and applicable legislation.

As a result of the investigation into the service that was provided, the following finding was made:

***Finding:***

A deficiency in the overall Service / Policies of the T.P.S. has not been identified.

**11 Division failed to address systemic racism in the organization:**

It is an organizational responsibility to address systemic racism, and not that of any one division or unit. The entire Service is bound by the same policies and procedures. The complainant did not specify a specific policy that contributed to the alleged failure to address systemic racism in the organization. Systemic racism is a social construct that has shown to influence the way institutions and organizations conduct themselves, and it may manifest itself in an organization's policies or procedures. The Service does not have a specific policy that addresses systemic racism.

The Service's policies and procedures are clear that there is no place for racism or discrimination in our organization. The Service is continuously striving to address and eliminate racism and discrimination, and is committed to implementing improvements to procedures and Service governance. This is a continuous and evolving process. Due to the vague nature of the allegation, no specific policy or procedure could be identified that required amendments or change.

Recommended action: No action taken.

**11 Division failed to implement recommendations that have been mandated since the Tulloch Report of 2017:**

Justice Tulloch's recommendations were explicitly addressed to the Attorney General of Ontario and were only relevant to the civilian police oversight bodies. His mandate precluded him from making any recommendations directed at police services. None of the Independent Police Oversight Review recommendations were directed to the Service, nor were any of the recommendations related to systemic racism within police services, or how police services respond to mental health calls for service. Due to the vague nature of the allegation, no specific policy or procedure could be identified that required a change.

Recommended action: No action taken.

**The complainant sought broader systemic change to the T.P.S. policy and procedures; specifically with respect to the recommendations of the Tulloch Report:**

Justice Tulloch's recommendations were explicitly addressed to the Attorney General of Ontario and were only relevant to the civilian police oversight bodies. His mandate precluded him from making any recommendations directed at police services. None of the Independent Police Oversight Review recommendations were directed to the Service, nor were any recommendations related to systemic racism within police services or how police services respond to mental health calls. Due to the vague nature of the allegation, no specific policy or procedure could be identified that required a change.

Recommended action: No action taken.

**The complainant sought broader systemic change to the T.P.S. policy and procedures, specifically concerning when the mobile crisis intervention team should and ought to be mobilized:**

The dispatching or requesting of an M.C.I.T. to attend a mental health call is governed by Procedure 06-04 which at the time of this incident was labelled Emotionally Disturbed Persons. For the safety of the M.C.I.T. nurse, current policy precluded the attendance of a M.C.I.T. as first responders to calls that involve weapons or violence. Further, the circumstances related to this specific complaint would not have triggered an M.C.I.T. response unless the responding officers assessed the situation and determined a need for M.C.I.T. to respond to the scene.

The Service agrees that improvements can be made to mental health response by the police.

The Service is continuously striving to identify and implement best practices through research, collaboration and partnerships with subject matter experts, advocacy groups,

mental health professionals, and consumer-survivors. The Service is making those improvements through the implementation of the Board's recommendations, the expansion of the M.C.I.T. program, and the creation of the Divisional Crisis Support Officer program. These Service-led initiatives are in addition to the City of Toronto multi-year pilot project to create a non-police mobile crisis assistance intervention service in the city. That city-run program will consist of health-care providers and non-profit organizations that specialize in mental health and substance use, and teams will specialize in crisis intervention and de-escalation.

Concerning broader systemic change to Service policies, a new M.C.I.T. procedure and M.O.U.s are already being developed. The specific language is still being drafted and a final version has not yet been approved; however, the procedure will address M.C.I.T.s acting as first responders or co-responders to mental health related calls, and will also incorporate provisions to ensure the safety of the M.C.I.T. nurse at all times.

Recommended action: No action taken.

This matter having been investigated by the T.P.S. was concluded as "No Further action" on May 25, 2021.

On June 21, 2021, Counsel Jason Bogle on behalf of the complainant requested that the Board review that decision and the investigation.

On June 28, 2021, the Board decided to pause the review process to await the conclusion of a judicial review of the O.I.P.R.D. retained conduct investigation initiated by the Complainant at Divisional Court.

The Reasons of Decision pertaining to the matter indexed as (Korchinski v. Office of the Independent Police Review Director, 2022 O.N.S.C. 6074), was released on November 2, 2022.

**Conclusion:**

The portion of the complaint assigned to the T.P.S. for investigation was classified by the O.I.P.R.D. as a complaint about the service provided by T.P.S.

Pursuant to the notice provided, the complainant requested that the Board review this decision. It is the Board's responsibility to review this investigation to determine if they are satisfied that the decision to take no further action, was reasonable.

In reviewing a policy or service complaint, subsection 63(7) of the P.S.A. directs that a Board that is composed of more than three members may appoint a committee of not fewer than three members of the Board, two of whom constitute a quorum for the purpose of this subsection, to review a complaint and to make recommendations to the Board after the review and the Board shall consider the recommendations and shall

take any action, or no action, in response to the complaint as the Board considers appropriate.

Subsection 63(8) of the P.S.A. directs that in conducting a review under this section, the Board or the committee of the Board may hold a public meeting respecting the complaint.

### **Reason for Confidential Information**

This report includes a confidential attachment containing details of an Investigative Report and Reasons for Decision – 2022.O.N.S.C. 6074.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office

#### ***Attachments:***

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Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) Report of Investigation – O.I.P.R.D. File: 210013252  
Citation: Korchinski v Office of the Independent Police Review Director, 2022-ONSC  
6074



## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 2, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Special Constable Appointments and Re-Appointments –  
November 2023**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Recommendation:**

This report recommends that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) approve the agency-initiated appointment and re-appointment requests for the individuals listed in this report as special constables for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (T.C.H.C.) and the University of Toronto (U of T), subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Solicitor General (Ministry).

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation(s) contained in this report.

### **Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for the agency requested appointment(s) and re-appointment(s) of special constables for the T.C.H.C. and U of T.

## Discussion:

### Background

#### Relevant Board Policies and Compliance

Under Section 53 of the *Police Services Act*, the Board is authorized to appoint and re-appoint special constables, subject to the approval of the Ministry. Pursuant to this authority, the Board has agreements with T.C.H.C. and U of T governing the administration of special constables (Min. Nos. P153/02, and P571/94 refer).

The Service received requests from T.C.H.C., and U of T to appoint the following individuals as special constables (Appendix 'A' refers):

Table 1. Name of Agency and Special Constable Applicant:

Agency	Name	Status Requested	Current Expiry Date
T.C.H.C.	Rick Ismond	Re-Appointment	January 14, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Bradley Harper	Re-Appointment	January 14, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Nick Perivolaris	Re-Appointment	January 14, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Leonard Mitalas	Re-Appointment	January 31, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Carl Andrews	Re-Appointment	February 19, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Daniel Godinho	Re-Appointment	February 20, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Jason DeAngelis	Re-Appointment	February 28, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Stalin Johnson	Re-Appointment	February 28, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Steven Hollaway	Re-Appointment	February 20, 2024
T.C.H.C.	David Quigley	Re-Appointment	February 28, 2024
T.C.H.C.	Christopher Cochrane	Re-Appointment	March 5, 2024
UTSC	Amanda Steshenko	Re-Appointment	February 14, 2024
UTSC	Shakia Kerr	New Appointment	N/A

Special constables are appointed to enforce the *Criminal Code* and certain sections of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, *Trespass to Property Act*, *Liquor Licence & Control Act* and *Mental Health Act* on their respective properties within the City of Toronto.

The agreements between the Board and each agency require that background investigations be conducted on all individuals who are being recommended for appointment and re-appointment as special constables. The Service's Talent Acquisition Unit completed background investigations on these individuals, of which the agencies are satisfied with the results. Re-appointments have been employed by their agency for at least one 5-year term, and as such, they are satisfied that the members have satisfactorily carried out their duties and, from their perspective, there is nothing that precludes re-appointment.

The agencies have advised the Service that the above individuals satisfy all of the appointment criteria as set out in their agreements with the Board. The T.C.H.C. and U of T's approved and current complements are indicated below:

**Table 2. Name of Agency, Approved Complement and Current Complement of Special Constables**

Agency	Approved Complement	Current Complement
T.C.H.C.	300	161
U of T Scarborough Campus (UTSC)	25	19

**Conclusion:**

The Service continues to work together in partnership with the T.C.H.C. and U of T to identify individuals to be appointed and re-appointed as special constables who will contribute positively to the safety and well-being of persons engaged in activities on their respective properties within the City of Toronto.

Deputy Chief Robert Johnson, Specialized Operations Command, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have with respect to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office

**Attachments:**

1. U of T Scarborough Campus Appointment & Re-Appointment Request Letter
2. TCHC Re-Appointment Request Letter



September 26, 2023

**Subject/Re: Request for Toronto Police Services Board Approval for Appointment and Re-Appointment of Special Constables**

In accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Toronto Police Services Board and The University of Toronto Scarborough, the Board is authorized to appoint special constables, subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

The following individuals are fully trained, meeting all Ministry requirements, and have shown they possess the required skills and ability to perform at the level required to be a special constable. Both new appointments and re-appointments have undergone a background check, conducted by the Toronto Police Service, and we are satisfied with the results of those checks. Re-appointments have been employed by The University of Toronto Scarborough for at least one 5-year term, and as such, we are satisfied that the members have satisfactorily carried out their duties and, from our perspective, there is nothing that precludes reappointment.

Name	Type	Current Term Expiry
Shakia Kerr	New Appointment	
Amanda Steshenko	Re-Appointment	2/14/2024

It is requested that the Board approve this submission and forward the applicants to the Ministry of the Solicitor General for appointment of a five-year term.

*Christopher Ibell*

Christopher Ibell, Assistant Director, Campus Safety

Toronto Community  
Housing Corporation  
931 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 2H2



September 28, 2023

Special Constable Liaison Office  
40 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 2J3

DELIVERED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

**Re: Request for Toronto Police Services Board Approval for Re-Appointment of Special Constables**

In accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Toronto Police Services Board and Toronto Community Housing, the Board is authorized to appoint special constables, subject to the approval of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

The following individuals are fully trained, meeting all Ministry requirements, and have shown they possess the required skills and ability to perform at the level required to be a special constable. These re-appointments have undergone background checks, conducted by the Toronto Police Service, and we are satisfied with the results of those checks. This candidates have been employed by Toronto Community Housing for at least one 5-year term, we are satisfied that the members have satisfactorily carried out their duties and, from our perspective, there is nothing that precludes their reappointment.

Name	Type	Current Term Expiry
Rick Ismond	Re-Appointment	January 14, 2024
Bradley Harper	Re-Appointment	January 14, 2024
Nick Perivolaris	Re-Appointment	January 14, 2024
Leonard Mitalas	Re-Appointment	January 31, 2024
Carl Andrews	Re-Appointment	February 19, 2024
Daniel Godinho	Re-Appointment	February 20, 2024
Jason DeAngelis	Re-Appointment	February 28, 2024
Stalin Johnson	Re-Appointment	February 28, 2024
Seven Hollaway	Re-Appointment	February 20, 2024
David Quigley	Re-Appointment	February 28, 2024
Christopher Cochrane	Re-Appointment	March 5, 2024

It is requested that the Board approve these submissions and put forward the applicants to the Ministry of the Solicitor General for re-appointment of a five-year term.

Should you require any further information, please contact Jacqueline Doo, Specialist-Compliance, Training & Quality Assurance at 416-268-8365.

Respectfully,



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**Allan Britton, Badge #31194**  
Acting Senior Director/Acting Chief Special Constable  
Community Safety Unit

**Toronto Community Housing**  
931 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M4W 2H2  
T: 416 981-4116  
[torontohousing.ca](http://torontohousing.ca)



## PUBLIC REPORT

**November 23, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Semi-Annual Report: Publication of Expenses – January 1 to June 30, 2023**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### Summary:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the expenses incurred by Board and Service members during the period January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

### Discussion:

The Board's policy on Publication of Expense Details requires that expenses of the following individuals be reported to the Board on a semi-annual basis;

- Board Members
- Chief and Command Officers
- Excluded members at level of X40 and above
- Members in the rank of Staff Superintendent and Director

The expenses to be published are in three areas;

- business travel;
- conferences and training; and
- hospitality and protocol expenses.

Attached to this report as Appendix A are the expenses, for the first half of 2023 for the applicable Service and Board members. The attachment shows the total for each member as well as a breakdown based on the three categories of expenses. The publication of this information will be available on the Board and Service's internet sites.

**TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

40 College Street Toronto, Ontario M5G 2J3 | Phone: 416.808.8080 Fax: 416.808.8082 | [www.tpsb.ca](http://www.tpsb.ca)

The expenses of 31 members are included in this report, in alphabetical order, and total \$68,617.82.

**Background**

*Relevant Board Policies and Compliance*

This report is in compliance with Board's Policy (Min No. P18/12 refers).

**Conclusion:**

This report contains details for the three categories of expenses incurred by Board and Service members, for the period January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

Ms. Svina Dhaliwal, Chief Administrative Officer, will be in attendance to answer any questions the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation(s):**

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This report recommends that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) receive this report.

**Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation(s) contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office

**Attachments:**

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Appendix A – Toronto Police Service and Toronto Police Services Board Expense Publication Summary – January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

## Appendix A

Toronto Police Service and Toronto Police Services Board  
Expense Publication Summary  
Period: January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

<u>Member</u>	<u>Expenses Reported</u>
Barkley, Mark	\$0.00
Carter, Randolph	\$0.00
Casselman, Nancy	\$1,082.31
Cheng, Lily	\$0.00
Code, Peter	\$1,972.98
Cornish, James	\$0.00
Crisanti, Vincent	\$0.00
Crooker, Lisa	\$7,379.51
Dawson, Shannon	\$408.44
Demkiw, Myron	\$16,407.74
Dhaliwal, Svina	\$5,266.11
Grant, Cindy	\$247.65
Gray, Pauline	\$8,332.38
Johnson, Robert	\$2,012.32
Kostakis, Lisa	\$805.01
Matthews, Joseph	\$0.00
Migliore, Nicola	\$0.00
Moreira, Peter	\$12.61
Morgan, Ann	\$1,606.77
Nicol, Brett	\$289.07
Nunziata, Frances	\$0.00
Pogue, Lauren	\$12,599.92
Skinner, Kelly	\$4.51
Sparkes, Allison	\$298.66
Spencer, Nadine	\$0.00
Stairs, Colin	\$135.08
Teschner, Ryan	\$142.30
White, Deidra	\$0.00
Williams, Ian	\$7,381.28
Wright, Marianne	\$2,233.17
Yeandle, Kimberly	\$0.00
Total Expenditures Reported	<u>\$68,617.82</u>



**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** People and Culture  
**Member:** Casselman, Nancy  
**Job Title/Rank:** Director

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Apr 18-20	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) 2023 Leadership Forum in Mississauga, ON	\$763.20
		\$763.20

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 5	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (O.W.L.E.) 2023 Awards Gala in Mississauga, ON	\$112.57
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$135.08
May 16	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$71.46
		\$319.11

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$1,082.31</b>
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**Toronto Police Service**  
**Senior Staff Expenses**  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

**Unit:** Professionalism & Accountability  
**Member:** Code, Peter  
**Job Title/Rank:** Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 3-4	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$45.93
		\$45.93

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jun 11-14	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) 2023 Annual Conference in Kingston, ON	\$1,865.82
		\$1,865.82

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$31.52
May 30	St. John Ambulance Honours & Awards in Toronto, ON	\$29.71
		\$61.23

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$1,972.98</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Public Safety Operations  
**Member:** Crooker, Lisa  
**Job Title/Rank:** Acting Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Apr 12	Funeral for Quebec Provincial Police (Q.P.P.) Constable in Montreal, QC	\$284.44
Jun 6	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$18.01
		<b>\$302.45</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 29-Feb 3	L.G.B.T.I.Q.A. 2023 World Conference for Criminal Justice Professionals in Melbourne, AU	\$7,077.06
		<b>\$7,077.06</b>

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$7,379.51</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** East Field Command  
**Member:** Dawson, Shannon  
**Job Title/Rank:** Acting Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jun 26	London Police Service Change of Command Ceremony in London, ON	\$5.41
		<b>\$5.41</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Mar 23	Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (A.P.C.O.) Canada Information Session in Toronto, ON	\$50.88
		<b>\$50.88</b>

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 19	911 Command Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$36.82
Mar 22	911 Command Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$67.68
May 5	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (O.W.L.E.) 2023 Awards Gala in Mississauga, ON	\$112.57
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$135.08
		<b>\$352.15</b>

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$408.44</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Chief of Police  
**Member:** Demkiw, Myron  
**Job Title/Rank:** Chief of Police

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Feb 8-10	Major Cities Chiefs Association (M.C.C.A.) Meeting in Washington, DC	\$2,101.81
Mar 18-19	Ottawa Police Services (O.P.S.) Meeting in Ottawa, ON	\$398.60
Mar 29	Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (C.A.C.P.) Counter-Terrorism and National Security (C.T.N.S.) Meeting in Ottawa, ON	\$787.88
Apr 4-5	Leadership in Counter Terrorism (L.i.n.C.T.) Workshop in Ottawa, ON	\$320.90
June 7-11	Major Cities Chiefs Association (M.C.C.A.) 2023 Chiefs Leadership Meeting in Louisville, KY Accommodation paid by M.C.C.A.	\$402.00
Jun 18-19	Longueuil Police Immersive Program Meeting in Montreal, QC	\$1,448.46
May 5	Funeral for Edmonton Police Service (E.P.D.) Constable in Edmonton, AB	\$630.37
		<b>\$6,090.02</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 30-Jun 3	2023 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (L.V.M.P.D.) & Leadership in Counterterrorism Alumni Association (L.i.n.C.T.-A.A.) International Counterterrorism Conference in Las Vegas, NV Flight & Accommodation paid by L.i.n.C.T.	\$747.87
Jun 10-14	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) 2023 Annual Conference in Kingston, ON	\$1,543.93
May 17-24	Pearls in Policing 2023 Conference in Sydney, AU	\$7,913.35
		<b>\$10,205.15</b>



**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Chief of Police  
**Member:** Demkiw, Myron  
**Job Title/Rank:** Chief of Police

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 5	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (O.W.L.E.) 2023 Awards Gala in Mississauga, ON	\$112.57
		\$112.57
<b>Member Total</b>		<b>\$16,407.74</b>



**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Corporate Services Command  
**Member:** Dhaliwal, Svina  
**Job Title/Rank:** Chief Administrative Officer

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Dec 18-Mar 18	eCornell Executive Women in Leadership Virtual Course	\$3,528.82
Apr 18-20	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) 2023 Leadership Forum in Mississauga, ON	\$763.20
		\$4,292.02

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 5	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (O.W.L.E.) 2023 Awards Gala in Mississauga, ON	\$112.57
Mar 6	Corporate Services Command (C.S.C.) 2023 Planning Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$720.42
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$135.08
Jun 26	Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) and Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$6.02
		\$974.09

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$5,266.11</b>
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**Toronto Police Service**  
**Senior Staff Expenses**  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

**Unit:** Finance & Business Management  
**Member:** Grant, Cindy  
**Job Title/Rank:** Acting Director

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No conferences and training expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 5	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (O.W.L.E.) 2023 Awards Gala in Mississauga, ON	\$112.57
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$135.08
		\$247.65

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$247.65</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Detective Operations  
**Member:** Gray, Pauline  
**Job Title/Rank:** Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
April 13-14	Medal of Merit Investiture (M.O.M.) Ceremony & Award Presentation in Ottawa, ON	\$449.73
Jun 14	London Police Service Change of Command Ceremony in London, ON	\$5.40
		<b>\$455.13</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Feb 15	Building a Case Against Hate 2023 Seminar in Toronto, ON	\$125.00
May 30-Jun 5	2023 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (L.V.M.P.D.) & Leadership in Counterterrorism Alumni Association (L.i.n.C.T-A.A.) International Counterterrorism Conference in Las Vegas, NV	\$4,005.82
Jun 11-14	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) 2023 Annual Conference in Kingston, ON	\$1,847.53
Mar 20	International Human Trafficking Conference in Toronto, ON	\$31.52
Apr 25-28	International Police Service Summit in Bogota, CB Flight & Accommodation paid by Colombian Police Service (C.P.S.)	\$348.40
		<b>\$6,358.27</b>



**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Detective Operations  
**Member:** Gray, Pauline  
**Job Title/Rank:** Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

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**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 17	Meeting with Ministry of Attorney General (M.A.G.) & Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) in Toronto, ON	\$684.41
Jan 19	Chief of Police Retirement in Toronto, ON	\$24.54
May 10	Career Expo at Toronto Police College in Toronto, ON	\$539.87
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$270.16
		\$1,518.98
<b>Member Total</b>		<b>\$8,332.38</b>





**Toronto Police Service**  
**Senior Staff Expenses**  
**For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Specialized Operations Command  
**Member:** Johnson, Robert  
**Job Title/Rank:** Deputy Chief

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 12	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$18.01
Apr 3	Command Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$26.11
May 9	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$10.81
		\$54.93

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jun 11-14	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) Annual Conference in Kingston, ON	\$1,838.52
		\$1,838.52

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Apr 5	Persian Community Consultative Committee (C.C.C.) Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$6.30
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$112.57
		\$118.87

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$2,012.32</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Toronto Police Services Board  
**Member:** Kostakis, Lisa  
**Job Title/Rank:** Vice Chair

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		<b>\$0.00</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 30-Jun 1	Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (O.A.P.S.B.) Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting in Niagara Falls, ON	\$805.01
		<b>\$805.01</b>

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$805.01</b>
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**Toronto Police Service**  
**Senior Staff Expenses**  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

**Unit:** Public Safety Operations  
**Member:** Moreira, Peter  
**Job Title/Rank:** Staff Superintendent - retired

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 27	Business Meeting at City Hall in Toronto, ON	\$12.61
		\$12.61

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No conferences and training expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$12.61</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Toronto Police Services Board  
**Member:** Morgan, Ann  
**Job Title/Rank:** Board Chair

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jun 22	Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) Pride Reception in Toronto, ON	\$11.34
Jun 26	Graduation Ceremony at Toronto Police College in Toronto, ON	\$88.30
		\$99.64

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 13-15	Canadian Association of Police Governance (C.A.P.G.) Conference in Vancouver, BC	\$1,507.13
		\$1,507.13

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$1,606.77</b>
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**Toronto Police Service**  
**Senior Staff Expenses**  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

**Unit:** West Field Command  
**Member:** Nicol, Brett  
**Job Title/Rank:** Acting Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Apr 30	Autism Speaks Canada Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$8.10
		\$8.10

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Apr 12	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) Labour Conference in Toronto, ON	\$10.81
		\$10.81

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$270.16
		\$270.16

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$289.07</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Community Safety Command  
**Member:** Pogue, Lauren  
**Job Title/Rank:** Deputy Chief

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Mar 3	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$22.51
May 17-18	Funeral for Quebec Provincial Police (Q.P.P.) Constable in Kanata, ON	\$1,365.76
Jun 18-23	International Association of Chiefs of Police (I.A.C.P.) Meeting in Valetta, MT	\$4,330.08
Jun 26	London Police Service Change of Command Ceremony in London, ON	\$5.40
		<b>\$5,723.75</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Feb 15	Hate Crime Symposium Conference in Toronto, ON	\$125.00
Jun 10-14	Ontario Association of Chief of Police (O.A.C.P.) 2023 Annual Conference in Kingston, ON	\$1,973.60
May 30-Jun 3	2023 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (L.V.M.P.D.) & Leadership in Counterterrorism Alumni Association (L.i.n.C.T-A.A.) International Counterterrorism Conference in Las Vegas, NV	\$4,286.78
		<b>\$6,385.38</b>



**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Community Safety Command  
**Member:** Pogue, Lauren  
**Job Title/Rank:** Deputy Chief

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 19	Chief of Police Retirement in Toronto, ON	\$24.54
Apr 3, Apr 12	Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) Command Strategic Session in Toronto, ON	\$54.04
Apr 14	Business Meeting with Toronto Fire, Emergency Management Services (E.M.S.) and Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) in Toronto, ON	\$88.01
May 5	Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (O.W.L.E.) 2023 Awards Gala in Mississauga, ON	\$103.56
May 8, May 12	Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) Command Strategic Session in Toronto, ON	\$54.04
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$135.08
Jun 9	ProAction Cops for Kids Event in Toronto, ON	\$31.52
		\$490.79
<b>Member Total</b>		<b>\$12,599.92</b>



**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Field Services  
**Member:** Skinner, Kelly  
**Job Title/Rank:** Acting Staff Superintendent

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jun 21	Business Meeting for PACER 2.0 in Toronto, ON	\$4.51
		\$4.51

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No conferences and training expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$4.51</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Corporate Communications  
**Member:** Sparkes, Allison  
**Job Title/Rank:** Director

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		<b>\$0.00</b>

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No conferences and training expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		<b>\$0.00</b>

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Apr 27	Corporate Communications Team Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$298.66
		<b>\$298.66</b>

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$298.66</b>
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**Toronto Police Service**  
**Senior Staff Expenses**  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

**Unit:** Information & Technology Command  
**Member:** Stairs, Colin  
**Job Title/Rank:** Chief Information Officer

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No conferences and training expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
May 11	Police Excellence Awards Ceremony in Toronto, ON	\$135.08
		\$135.08

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$135.08</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Toronto Police Services Board  
**Member:** Teschner, Ryan  
**Job Title/Rank:** Executive Director and Chief of Staff

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Mar 6	Victim Services Board Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$127.61
Mar 14	Business Meeting in Toronto, ON	\$14.69
		\$142.30

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No conferences and training expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$142.30</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Information Management  
**Member:** Williams, Ian  
**Job Title/Rank:** Director

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Mar 30	Canadian Cybersecurity Meeting In Toronto, ON	\$20.26
		\$20.26

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Mar 19-23	Gartner Data and Analytics Summit 2023 in Orlando, FL	\$4,725.04
April 24-26	Canadian Association Chiefs of Police (C.A.C.P.) National Police Leadership Conference in Winnipeg, MB	\$2,613.47
Jun 2	Federation of Security Professionals Spring Seminar in Toronto, ON	\$22.51
		\$7,361.02

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$7,381.28</b>
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**Toronto Police Service  
Senior Staff Expenses  
For the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023**

**Unit:** Legal Services  
**Member:** Wright, Marianne  
**Job Title/Rank:** General Counsel

**Business Travel**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No business travel expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

**Conferences & Training**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
Jan 26	Hicks Morley Accommodating Mental Health in the Workplace Virtual Course	\$178.08
Feb 28	International Association of Privacy Professionals (I.A.P.P.) The Implications of Regulating Artificial Intelligence Virtual Course	\$232.01
Mar 6-15	International Association of Privacy Professionals (I.A.P.P.) 2023 Online Canadian Privacy Virtual Training	\$1,823.08
		\$2,233.17

**Hospitality & Protocol**

Dates	Purpose, Description & Location	Total Expenses (Net of HST Rebate)
	No hospitality and protocol expenses for this period.	\$0.00
		\$0.00

<b>Member Total</b>	<b>\$2,233.17</b>
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## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 2, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Toronto Police Service 2022 Annual Statistical Report**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

**Recommendation:**

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It is recommended that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) receive this report.

### Summary:

The Annual Statistical Report (A.S.R.) provides a comprehensive overview of police related statistics including operational, crime, traffic, enforcement, and other policing data. The A.S.R. for 2022 will be released as a series of open data and interactive analytical products.

The A.S.R. can be accessed through the Toronto Police Service Public Safety Data Portal at <https://data.torontopolice.on.ca/pages/annualstatisticalreport>.

The components of the A.S.R. include:

1. [Guide to the A.S.R.](#)
2. [Portable Document Format \(PDF\) Reports](#)
3. [Data Analytics](#)
4. [Open Datasets](#)
5. [A.S.R. Maps](#)
6. [Infographics](#)
7. [Supporting Documentation](#)

**TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

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In accordance with the directions outlined in the Toronto Police Service Board Police Reform initiatives, twenty-three (23) datasets will be shared with the City of Toronto Open Data Team for publication on the City's Open Data Portal. There will be (3) new datasets that will be included in this year's release namely: Calls for Service Attended, Arrested and Charged Persons, and Tickets Issued.

The Service has been recognized internationally for the innovative approach to which the Portal provides data and analytics for all community members. To support a broader understanding of policing in Toronto, we will continue to emphasize the importance of open analytics and providing resources to enhance open data literacy.

## **Discussion:**

The Toronto Police Service (Service) has increasingly provided open data and open analytics on the Public Safety Data Portal to offer insights to community members on operational, public safety, and accountability service delivery areas in Toronto.

The design and use of the Public Safety Data Portal facilitates access to many performance indicators and the trends associated with them over time. A few highlights are provided below:

### **Reported Crimes**

- In 2022, crimes against the person and crimes against property increased by 10.6% and 23.9%, respectively. The number of reports in 2022 have also returned close to pre-pandemic levels.

### **Firearms**

- There were 2,110 firearms seized in 2022 and 32% (668) were pistols. When compared to 2021, firearm seizures decreased by 17%.
- Crime gun seizures increased by 6% from 635 in 2021 to 675 in 2022. Furthermore, prohibited guns increased by 16% - from 325 in 2021 to 378 in 2022.

### **Traffic**

- The total collisions increased by 35.3% between 2021 and 2022, however, this number continues to be below pre-pandemic levels.
- Fatal collisions decreased by 16.7% while injury collisions increased by 11.8%.
- Speeding tickets issued in 2022 had nearly doubled when compared to speeding tickets issued in 2019 (pre-pandemic time period) – 80,153 v 40,451.

## **Conclusion:**

The Service is committed to providing the public with continued access to public safety data and analytical insights. The 2022 and future Annual Statistical Reports will be published on the Toronto Police Service's Public Safety Data Portal.

Mr. Colin Stairs, Chief Administrative Officer will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation(s) contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office





## PUBLIC REPORT

**September 5, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Toronto Police Service Audit & Quality Assurance  
Annual Report**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Summary:**

This report provides the Board with the Service's 2023 Audit Work Plan and 2022 Ongoing/Not Yet Started Projects.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

At its meeting of July 27, 2022, the Board approved its Audit Policy (Min. No. P2022-0727-6.0 refers), which outlines a number of responsibilities for the Chief, including the following:

- The Chief of Police will establish an internal quality assurance process to ensure that operational, management, training and financial controls are established and maintained to ensure compliance with Service procedures and with Board policies, and to ensure Service procedures remain consistent with applicable legislation, case law, inquest findings, Ministry of the Solicitor General guidelines or direction, and Board direction;
- The Chief of Police will ensure that the internal quality assurance process is assessed for compliance in accordance with internal auditing standards, and report to the Board all findings, explanations, and, if applicable, mitigation plans;
- The Chief of Police will ensure that internal audits are carried out independently and in accordance with the auditors' professional discretion;
- The Chief of Police, in consultation with the Board, will ensure the preparation, using appropriate risk-based methodology, of an annual quality assurance Work

**TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

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- Plan which will identify and prioritize audits to be conducted by the Service. The plan will identify risks and tentatively identify resource requirements;
- The Chief of Police will ensure that members of the Service engaged in audit processes have the knowledge, skills, abilities and accreditations, as may be required, to perform their duties;
  - The Chief of Police will ensure that the head auditor submits all audit reports to the Board for its consideration *in camera*, as well as to the Service's Executive Assurance Committee;
  - The Chief of Police will provide an annual report to the Board which will include:
    - The annual Work Plan; and
    - Audits included in the previous annual quality assurance Work Plan but not completed during the reporting period, and an estimated time for their completion or an indication that they will no longer be pursued with supporting rationale.
  - The Board will hold a standing item on the agendas of its *in camera* meetings allowing for the head of the Service's internal auditing function to discuss matters as he or she deems appropriate, without the presence of the Chief of Police, Command Members, or any other supervisor of the head of the internal auditing function.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the Service's 2023 Audit Work Plan and 2022 Ongoing/Not Yet Started Projects.

### ***Who is responsible for Internal Controls and Managing Risk in an Organization?***

The Chief of Police, Command Officers, Senior Management Team and Unit Commanders are responsible for managing and mitigating risk and ensuring proper internal controls exist and are working well in their respective areas of responsibility. Internal controls are:

- part of an ongoing management framework that ensures operational efficiency and effectiveness are achieved, waste and fraud mitigated, and compliance with policies, procedures and legislation attained, through the management and control of risks; and
- made up of procedures, policies, processes and measures, including proper supervision, that are designed to help ensure the Service meets its objectives, and to mitigate risks that can prevent an organization from meeting its objectives.

### ***What is Audit & Quality Assurance's Role in the Internal Controls Framework?***

Audit and Quality Assurance (A.&Q.A.) is essentially an internal audit function. It reports administratively to the Staff Superintendent of Strategy Management and functionally to the Service's Executive Assurance Committee (E.A.C.) that is comprised of the Chief of Police, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Information Officer, Deputy Chiefs, and the Chair of the E.A.C.

A.&Q.A. provides assurance, insight and advice to the Chief of Police in fulfilling his/her duties and responsibilities as prescribed by Section 41 (1) of the Ontario Police Services Act and supports the governance and oversight functions of the E.A.C. by:

- conducting independent, objective assessments within the Service in order to provide an opinion or conclusion regarding a process, system or other subject matter. The nature and scope of the assurance engagement will be determined by A.&Q.A. and may: identify any control weaknesses, make recommendations for corrective actions, promote risk management, improve value for money in service delivery, address compliance with legislation and regulations and address proper stewardship of assets;
- developing a yearly Work Plan that focuses on high risk policing operations by applying a risk assessment framework that takes into account public safety, officer safety, controls factors (such as Service procedures, supervision and oversight), policing applications and personal and organizational integrity;
- assessing, as appropriate, that program and unit mandates are consistent with and properly address Service principles, goals and strategies and are implemented effectively, efficiently, economically, environmentally and ethically in response to community needs;
- responding to ad hoc requests from the Chief of Police or Command Officers and providing consulting and advisory services to Command and senior management related to governance, risk management and control. The nature and scope of consulting engagements will be agreed upon by both A.&Q.A. and Command and A.&Q.A. will not assume management responsibility or be involved in implementation;
- providing the findings and recommendations from audits performed by the City Auditor General on City divisions and agencies, to the appropriate senior manager of the Service for review of the control issues identified so that any corrective action required can be taken by the Service;
- acting as the Compliance Administrator, as required per the Inquiry Services System Oversight Framework of the Ministry of Transportation; and
- evaluating the potential for the occurrence of fraud and how the Service manages fraud risk.

### ***International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing***

A.&Q.A. has followed the Institute of Internal Auditors' (I.I.A.) *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards)* since the early 2000's. These *Standards* were affirmed by the E.A.C. The *Standards* pertain not only to the practice of internal auditing but also to the Code of Ethics. The *Standards* require every internal audit activity to undergo an external quality assessment to confirm its conformance to the *Standards* and Code of Ethics at least once every five years. A.&Q.A.'s first self-assessment with independent external validation was conducted in 2011 and its second in 2016.

During 2021, A.&Q.A. underwent its third self-assessment with independent external validation. The I.I.A.'s Quality Services, L.L.C. was the successful bidder engaged to conduct the independent validation. The independent external assessor concluded that

A.&Q.A. generally conforms to the *Standards* and the Code of Ethics with the exception of the *Standards* dealing with independence. As a result, the Board approved a new Audit Policy (Min. No. P2022-0727-6.0 refers) that rectifies this situation and involves the Board in A.&Q.A.'s processes.

Of special note related to the assessment, the Service was the first police service worldwide to receive accreditation. It is the only police service worldwide to have undergone the self-assessment and independent validation process by the I.I.A. for a third time. Additionally, several successful internal audit practices were highlighted including A.&Q.A.'s risk assessment methodology, its robust Quality Assurance and Improvement Program, its extensive peer review process and the unit's successful implementation of an electronic working paper application.

### ***Development of Annual Audit Work Plan***

A.&Q.A. begins its annual Work Plan development process by researching and examining regulatory, environmental, technological and community issues and concerns that have the potential to affect the operations of the Service. The unit also examines other agencies' audit reports for trends, emerging issues and topics. A.&Q.A. then consults with Command, senior management and selected unit commanders to identify risks, opportunities, strengths and weaknesses, which may impact the ability of the Service to achieve its priorities, goals and strategies.

Based on the results of this research and consultation, A.&Q.A. creates a listing of potential projects and conducts a risk assessment using established risk and opportunity factors to determine the relevant ranking of these projects.

In formulating the Work Plan, the unit also considers legislative and Service requirements. The main legislative requirement is Ontario Regulation 03/99, Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services. Service requirements also include audits mandated by Service procedures, coverage of high-risk areas in various Command areas, identification of opportunities for improvement and fiscal accountability.

A.&Q.A. cannot audit every unit, process, policy, procedure or program in the Service. It is therefore important that in developing the annual Work Plan, careful consideration is given to prioritizing projects so that the unit's limited resources can be utilized efficiently and effectively, and add the greatest overall value to the Service.

Following consultation with the Chief of Police and the Board, this work results in the annual Work Plan that is presented in this report. In addition, the City Auditor General (A.G.) presented her 2023 Work Plan to the City's Audit Committee on February 13, 2023. This Work Plan contained two reviews of the Service, Opportunities to Support More Effective Responses to Calls for Service and an Audit of 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Operations and was presented to the Board. A.&Q.A. reviewed the A.G.'s Work Plan to ensure there was no duplication of efforts.

### ***2023 Audit Work Plan***

A.&Q.A.'s 2023 Audit Work Plan (see Appendix A) was approved by the E.A.C. at its February 23, 2023 meeting. The Work Plan is a working document and is designed to

accommodate changes due to challenges that arise from project findings or the need to divert resources to deal with emerging issues.

Once projects are completed and the reports and recommendations approved by the E.A.C., the recommendations are tracked by A.&Q.A. The unit uses a tracking database to monitor the implementation status of recommendations assigned to management to ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken on a timely basis. Reports of the status of recommendations are presented to the E.A.C. on a quarterly basis.

### **2022 Ongoing/Not Yet Started Projects**

Appendix B outlines projects ongoing at year end and 2022 projects not started. Also included is the estimated time to complete each project.

### **Conclusion:**

This report provides the Board with the Service's 2023 Audit Work Plan and 2022 Ongoing/Not Yet Started Projects.

Acting Staff Superintendent Joseph Matthews will be in attendance to answer any questions the Board may have regarding this report

### **Recommendation:**

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This report recommends that the Toronto Police Services Board (Board) receive this report.

### **Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation(s) contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office

### **Attachments:**

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Appendix A – 2023 Audit Work Plan  
Appendix B – 2022 Ongoing/Not Yet Started Projects

## Appendix A – 2023 Audit Work Plan

Project	Synopsis	Projected Total Hours
Risk Assessment and Work Plan Development	I.I.A. <i>Standards</i> require A.&Q.A. to conduct a yearly risk assessment in the preparation of its work plan to ensure adequate resources are deployed to audit high-risk areas. Research and consultation is undertaken to identify projects that are then assessed using risk and opportunity factors to determine the relevant ranking of these projects. The Work Plan is then prepared giving careful consideration to prioritizing the projects so A.&Q.A.'s resources can be utilized efficiently and effectively and add the greatest overall value to the Service.	200
Quality Assurance and Improvement Program – Continuous Improvement	As part of A.&Q.A.'s commitment to a continuous improvement process, the unit will perform peer reviews on projects, prepare project and work plan status reports, track outstanding recommendations and review the unit's conformance with I.I.A.'s 52 <i>Standards</i> and Code of Ethics on an ongoing basis. A yearly report on these activities will be prepared and presented to the E. A.C.	300
Electronic Working Papers Cloud Migration	The Electronic Working Papers (E.W.P.) software vendor (Ideagen) indicated that all future software deployments will be offered only as a Software as a Service option and that further upgrades to the current software version will not be performed, rendering our on premise version out of date. This project entails both an upgrade to the latest cloud-native version of the Ideagen Audit software package as well as the migration of the current E.W.P. data into the Cloud environment (Cloud security to meet all regulations and standards). Further software improvements as well as User Experience and User Interface enhancements are expected.	300

<b>Project</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Projected Total Hours</b>
Changes Related to Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards	A.&Q.A. has decided to continue to follow the International Professional Practices Framework (I.P.P.F.) provided by the I.I.A., but will be including select Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards that are not included in the I.P.P.F. to ensure A.&Q.A.'s audit process can satisfy the requirements of both sets of standards.	50
Property and Video Evidence Management Unit – General Warehouse and Specialized Units	The Property and Video Evidence Management Unit audit is a provincially mandated audit that is conducted on a rotational cycle. This rotation is comprised of the general warehouse, drugs, firearms and video evidence sections to ensure adequate coverage of all areas. Each area is subject to a comprehensive audit every four years. The 2023 audit will assess the effectiveness of key internal controls on managing seized, found and surrendered general property and the security and safekeeping of this property.	800
Ministry of Transportation Inquiry Services System Compliance Audit	This audit will identify and report on compliance issues, in accordance with the Inquiry Services System Oversight Framework for Policing Services of the Ministry of Transportation (M.T.O.). Per the framework, this audit includes identifying a lawful purpose for transactions selected by the M.T.O. and performing user exception testing (i.e. volume of searches, searches on colleagues, family, public figures, and vanity plates).	300

<b>Project</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Projected Total Hours</b>
Major Case Management	A review of Service compliance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 354/05, Major Case Management and the Ontario Major Case Management Manual (O.M.C.M.M.). This audit will assess whether major cases have been properly identified and managed as prescribed. This audit has been included in the Work Plan in response to Recommendations 13.8 and 13.9 of the Missing and Missed report issued by Justice Epstein.	1200
329 Fund	Cash counts/accounting for outstanding advances. Examination of compliance to policy and procedures by users of fund. Review of actual practice in the field and review of controls.	350
Flashroll	An audit of fund usage and cash count as well as a review of procedure and controls. Off-site visits to review actual usage of fund and controls.	150
Serial Predator Notification Process	A review of the process in place to notify the provincial Serial Predator Criminal Investigations Coordinator and an assessment of the Service's compliance with notification criteria as per the O.M.C.M.M. This audit has been included in the Work Plan in response to Recommendations 28 and 29 of the Missing and Missed report issued by Justice Epstein.	300
Body Worn Cameras	The Board has outlined mandatory annual audit requirements for the Service's use of body worn cameras. This ongoing audit will be conducted by the Inspections Team.	500
Special Projects	Assistance provided to other units at the request of the Chief of Police/Strategy Management/E.A.C.	400



<b>Project</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Projected Total Hours</b>
Information Technology Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (Cybersecurity)	This audit will review the Information Technology Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plans, procedures and processes that should support critical systems' availability and restoration of data integrity and access to the Service's Information and Communication assets after the potential disruptive events, which could jeopardize the Service's core mission and its critical business and operational processes. Well established and thoroughly tested Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plans, procedures and processes must be in place to increase the probability of a successful and timely restoration of the normal business and operational processes after the unanticipated disruptive events.	1200
After-Action Reports & Recommendations	Review of the collection, analysis, maintenance, planning and procedural/operational changes as a result of After-Action reports.	1000
Review of Implemented Recommendations - Police Reform	A review of the directions that have been identified by the Service as having been fully implemented out of a total of 81 directions included in the Policing Reform initiative. This review will consider how these directions were assessed as "implemented" and will include review of supporting documentation used to endorse the implementation status, as well as review of the Police Reform Implementation Dashboard on the Board's website.	800
Destruction of Records	A review of the policies and process for the destruction of adult fingerprints, photographs and records of dispositions associated with non-conviction dispositions.	500

## Appendix B – 2022 Ongoing/Not Yet Started Projects

Project	Synopsis	Projected/Actual Total Hours
Major Case Management	<p>The O.M.C.M.M. is being updated by the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Once it is approved and released, the new Service procedure on Major Case Management can be finalized and published.</p> <p>This audit is being carried forward until such time as the updated O.M.C.M.M. and the new Service procedure come into effect.</p>	1200
Serial Predator Notification Process	<p>The Serial Predator Notification Process is expected to be included in the new Service procedure on Major Case Management.</p> <p>This audit is being carried forward until such time as the updated O.M.C.M.M. and the new Service procedure come into effect.</p>	300
Body Worn Cameras	This audit was presented to the E.A.C. on June 7, 2023.	500/900

<b>Project</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Projected/Actual Total Hours</b>
Audit of Facial Recognition	<p>The Service's use of facial recognition software, while a valuable tool for investigators, raises concerns from community members in relation to improper use and surveillance. The Information Security unit conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment on facial recognition in 2017 which included a recommendation to have A.&amp;Q.A. conduct an audit on its internal controls after facial recognition has been in place for over a year. This audit will include compliance with the Board's policy on the use of artificial intelligence and related information systems (e.g. NEC neo face reveal, Evidence.com, Intellibook and Traffic Jam).</p> <p>This audit was presented to the E.A.C. on September 27, 2023.</p>	700
After-Action Reports and Recommendations	This audit is currently in the initial planning stage.	1000
Audit of Identity and Access Management (Cybersecurity)	<p>Identity and Access Management ensures the right individuals access the right information at the right times for the right reasons. Given past issues identified, with a focus on privileged access, this audit will review the Service's policies, procedures, and controls in relation to identity and access management.</p> <p>At the time of the audit, Information Technology Services reported that various units were involved in their own improvement program related to this topic. As a result, this audit has been postponed to 2024.</p>	900

<b>Project</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Projected/Actual Total Hours</b>
Operational Plans / Search Warrants (Search of Premises)	Audit of operational plans and related processes, especially with respect to proper consultation and approval by required parties. Extended work to incorporate search warrants with an emphasis on coordination, planning and training.  This audit is currently in progress.	1200



## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 5, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Alleged Sexual Assault of Complainant 2022.27**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Summary:**

The Special Investigations Unit Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) investigation determined the conduct of the designated official was not in compliance with the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.S. procedures.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

Whenever the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) investigates an incident involving death, serious injury, the discharge of a firearm at a person or the allegation of a sexual assault, provincial legislation requires the chief of police, of the relevant police service, to conduct an administrative investigation. This is the Chief's report in respect of this incident.

#### ***Relevant Board Policies and Compliance***

- Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures
- *Special Investigations Unit Act (S.I.U.A.), 2019*
- *Police Services Act (P.S.A.)*

## ***Incident Narrative***

On May 19, 2022, at 1106 hours, the Toronto Police Service Communications Services received a call for service related to an incident of intimate partner violence at an address on Birchmount Road. The caller, identified as Alleged Sexual Assault Complainant 2022.27 (2022.27) reported that her husband had struck her and taken her cellular telephone. Uniformed Police Constable Ramdial Lokenath (10431) and his partner from 41 Division responded to the call.

The officers arrived on scene, met 2022.27 in the lobby of the building, obtained preliminary information and then attended at the unit. The officers interviewed her husband, and as a result of their investigation, placed him under arrest for assault.

Both officers took the husband to their marked police vehicle and placed him in the rear seat.

While Constable Lokenath's partner maintained custody of the arrested party, Constable Lokenath returned to the apartment unit to take an audio statement from 2022.27.

Constable Lokenath started both an audio and visual recording on his issued Body-Worn Camera (B.W.C.) of his interaction with 2022.27 in relation to the events that gave rise to the police attendance. Soon after the recording began, and some preliminary discussions, Constable Lokenath stopped both the audio and visual recording on his B.W.C.

Shortly afterwards, Constable Lokenath returned to his partner and learned that the husband was experiencing some medical issues. Toronto Paramedic Services (Paramedics) attended the scene and transported the husband to hospital for diagnosis and treatment of his medical condition. He was held in custody at the hospital while being treated for minor health issues. He was subsequently released from custody and charged with Assault and Mischief under \$5000.00.

On June 29, 2022, Inspector Donovan Locke (7949) of Professional Standards (P.R.S.) received a telephone call from the Assistant Crown Attorney prosecuting the criminal charges against 2022.27's husband. The purpose of the call was to advise the Inspector of allegations of a sexual assault perpetrated upon 2022.27. These allegations were communicated by the husband's defence counsel, during a bail variance hearing at the courts.

2022.27 alleged that Constable Lokenath had sexually assaulted her when he had returned to take a statement. Furthermore, Constable Lokenath returned to her residence that evening after he finished work and allegedly sexually assaulted her for a second time. She alleged that Constable Lokenath told her that if she complied with his demands, he could '*make the charges against her husband go away*'.

The S.I.U. was notified and invoked its mandate.

The S.I.U. designated Police Constable Ramdial Lokenath (10431), who has 12 years and 8 months of service, as subject official; one other officer was designated as a witness official.

Constable Lokenath was suspended from duty on July 6, 2022 and remains suspended from duty as of the date of this report.

On May 5, 2023, as a result of the S.I.U. investigation, Constable Lokenath was charged by the S.I.U. with one count of Sexual Assault contrary to section 271 of the *Criminal Code* (C.C.) of Canada and one count of Breach of Trust contrary to section 122 of the C.C. of Canada

Constable Lokenath is currently before the courts answering to these charges.

Constable Lokenath has been charged under the P.S.A. with three counts of Discreditable Conduct, one count of Corrupt Practice and one count of Insubordination. Notices of Hearing have been served and marked *sine die* until the conclusion of the criminal case.

### ***Summary of the Toronto Police Service's Investigation***

The Professional Standards – S.I.U. Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) conducted an administrative investigation as is required by provincial legislation.

This investigation was reviewed by Specialized Criminal Investigations – Sex Crimes Unit in accordance to T.P.S. Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit).

This investigation examined the circumstances of the alleged sexual assault in relation to the applicable legislation, services provided, procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation reviewed the following T.P.S. procedures:

- Standards of Conduct 1.2 (P.S.A. Code of Conduct);
- Standards of Conduct 2.1.1. (General Responsibilities);
- Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit);
- Procedure 13-17 (Notes and Reports);
- Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera).

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation also reviewed the following legislation:

- *Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019*

**Conclusion:**

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined that the T.P.S.'s policies and procedures associated with this alleged sexual assault were lawful, in keeping with current legislation, and written in a manner that provided adequate and appropriate guidance to the member. None of the examined policies and procedures required modification.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined the conduct of Constable Ramdial Lokenath (10431) was not in compliance with the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.S. procedures.

Specifically, it is alleged Constable Lokenath acted in a disorderly manner or in a manner prejudicial to discipline or likely to bring discredit upon the reputation of the Service, that he improperly used his character or position as a member of the Service for private advantage and while on duty and equipped with a B.W.C. did not utilize it in an appropriate manner and stopped recording while engaged in an improper act.

Notices of Hearing have been served on Constable Lokenath and adjourned *sine die* until the conclusion of the criminal case.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation:**

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It is recommended that the Board receive this report for information.

**Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*original copy with signature on file in Board office





## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 5, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Custody Injury of Complainant 2023.03**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Summary:**

The Professional Standards (P.R.S.) – Special Investigations Unit Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) investigation determined the conduct of the designated officials was in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

Whenever the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) investigates an incident involving death, serious injury, the discharge of a firearm at a person or the allegation of a sexual assault, provincial legislation requires the chief of police of the relevant police service, to conduct an administrative investigation. This is the Chief's report in respect of this incident.

#### ***Relevant Board Policies and Compliance***

- Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures
- *Special Investigations Unit Act, (S.I.U.A.) 2019*

## **S.I.U. Terminology**

**Complainant** – Refers to the Affected Person

**SO** – Subject Official

**WO** – Witness Official

**BWC** – Body-Worn Camera

## **S.I.U. Investigative Conclusion**

In a letter to the Chief of Police dated August 28, 2023, Director Joseph Martino of the S.I.U. advised, *“The file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject official.”*

The following S.I.U. *Incident Narrative and Analysis and Directors Decision* has been reprinted from the S.I.U. Director’s report, number 23-TCI-009, which can be found via the following link:

[https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors\\_report\\_details.php?drid=2548](https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors_report_details.php?drid=2548)

## **S.I.U. Incident Narrative**

*“The evidence collected by the SIU, including interviews with the Complainant and the SO, and video footage that captured the incident in parts, gives rise to the following scenario.*

*In the afternoon of January 6, 2023, police officers were dispatched to the area of Bathurst Street and St. Clair Avenue West following reports of a robbery at the TD Bank at the northwest corner of the intersection. A male was reported to have presented a note to a teller demanding money and indicating he had a gun. The male then left the bank travelling east on St. Clair Avenue West towards Bathurst Street.*

*The SO was among the officers responding to the call for service. Arriving in the area in his cruiser, the officer observed a person matching the description of the suspect that had been provided, that is, a male with a bottle wearing black clothing, including a black jacket with the hood over the head, and a face mask. The SO continued his search of the area and observed the same male again. As the male was no longer wearing the black jacket, the SO’s suspicions grew and he decided to stop the male.*

*The Complainant was the male. Called by the SO, the Complainant fled from the officer running west on the northside of St. Clair Avenue West.*

*The SO caught up with the Complainant in the westbound lanes of St. Clair Avenue West, just west of Tweedsmuir Avenue, and grabbed hold of his left arm. The Complainant struggled to free himself and swung his bottle in the SO's direction. The officer was able to force the Complainant to the roadway where the struggle continued. The SO delivered three punches to the Complainant's face, proceeded to roll him over into a prone position, and struck him several more times with punches directed at the head.*

*Within moments of the parties going to the ground, WO #1 arrived and inserted himself in the struggle. WO#1 took hold of the Complainant's right arm and removed a folding knife from his right hand, tossing it aside. The officer then took the arm and positioned it behind the Complainant's back, after which he moved to assist the SO who was trying to release the Complainant's left arm out from under his torso. From the Complainant's left side, the SO had struck him in the head an additional three times before the Complainant's arms were controlled and handcuffed behind his back.*

*The Complainant was seen at hospital following his arrest and diagnosed with a fractured right orbital bone."*

### **Analysis and Director's Decision**

*"The Complainant was seriously injured in the course of his arrest by TPS officers on January 6, 2023. In the ensuing SIU investigation of the incident, one of the officers – the SO – was identified as the subject official. The investigation is now concluded. On my assessment of the evidence, there are no reasonable grounds to believe that the SO committed a criminal offence in connection with the Complainant's arrest and injury.*

*Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Criminal Code, police officers are immune from criminal liability for force used in the course of their duties provided such force was reasonably necessary in the execution of an act that they were required or authorized to do by law.*

*I am satisfied that the Complainant was subject to lawful arrest for a bank robbery. He matched the description of the suspect who had just been reported escaping on foot on St. Clair Avenue West, and he seemed to disguise his appearance by discarding the jacket he was wearing soon after being noticed by a police officer in the area. The confluence of these and other factors provided the SO a legitimate basis to take the Complainant into custody.*

*I am also satisfied that the quantum of force used by the SO in aid of the Complainant's arrest, most if not all of which was captured by police BWCs, was legally justified. The Complainant was dead set against his arrest and immediately fled when confronted by the SO, thereafter swinging a bottle at the officer when he was caught. That conduct made the takedown that followed reasonable as the SO could better expect to manage any additional resistance on the ground. Indeed,*

*the Complainant was not deterred and continued to struggle against the officer's efforts to secure him in restraints prompting about ten punches to the head by the SO. That was certainly a significant amount of force but made proportionate by the exigencies of the moment, namely, the fact that the Complainant had a knife in his hand and had swung a bottle at the officer (possibly striking the officer in the head), and the prospect that he had just robbed a bank and could have a gun in his possession. In other words, it was imperative that the Complainant be taken into custody as quickly as possible and the officer was entitled to use decisive force to that end. Once the handcuffs were in place, no further blows of any kind were struck.*

*There is an account of what happened, describing a more severe use of force by the SO and WO #1, but it would be unwise and unsafe to rest charges on the strength of this evidence. The account is simply not borne out by the video footage of the incident.*

*In the result, while I accept that the force used by the SO fractured the Complainant's right orbital bone, there are no reasonable grounds to believe the injury is attributable to any unlawful conduct on the part of the officer. Accordingly, there is no basis for proceeding with criminal charges in this case.*

*The file is closed."*

### **Summary of the Toronto Police Service's Investigation**

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison conducted an administrative investigation as is required by provincial legislation.

This investigation examined the circumstances of the custody injury in relation to the applicable legislation, policing services provided, procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation reviewed the following T.P.S. procedures:

- Procedure 01-01 (Arrest);
- Procedure 01-02 (Search of Persons);
- Procedure 01-03 (Persons in Custody);
- Procedure 05-02 (Robberies/Hold-Ups)
- Procedure 10-06 (Medical Emergencies);
- Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit);
- Procedure 13-17 (Notes and Reports);
- Procedure 15-01 (Incident Response (Use of Force/De-Escalation))
- Procedure 15-02 (Injury/Illness Reporting);
- Procedure 15-17 (In-Car Camera System); and
- Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera).

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation also reviewed the following legislation:

- *Special Investigations Unit Act (S.I.U.A), 2019*

**Conclusion:**

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined that the T.P.S.'s policies and procedures associated with this custody injury were lawful, in keeping with current legislation, and written in a manner, which provided adequate and appropriate guidance to the members. None of the examined policies and procedures required modification.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined the conduct of a designated official was in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.P.S procedures, and the officers' training.

The following additional comments are provided.

Minutes prior to this interaction, the Complainant had robbed a bank and had indicated to bank staff that he was armed with a firearm. When the Subject Official (S.O.) attempted to place the Complainant under arrest, he resisted and a violent struggle ensued. During the struggle, the Complainant struck the S.O. with a bottle of alcohol and produced a folding knife which he attempted to open during the struggle. The S.O. responded to the Complainant's violent resistance by using force, in an attempt to distract and subdue him.

The force used to subdue and disarm the Complainant has been examined and found to be authorized, justified and reasonably necessary to bring this event under control effectively and safely.

The existence B.W.C. footage which capture the Complainant's arrest was a pivotal piece of evidence which provided the S.I.U. with an unparalleled perspective of what occurred and why and assisted them in coming to their investigative conclusion.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation:**

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This report recommends that the Board receive this report for information.

**Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*original copy with signature on file in Board office



## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 5, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Custody Injury of Complainant 2023.20**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Summary:**

The Professional Standards (P.R.S.) – Special Investigations Unit Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) investigation determined the conduct of one of the designated officials was not in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

Whenever the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) investigates an incident involving death, serious injury, the discharge of a firearm at a person or the allegation of a sexual assault, provincial legislation requires the chief of police, of the relevant police service, to conduct an administrative investigation. This is the Chief's report in respect of this incident.

#### ***Relevant Board Policies and Compliance***

- Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures
- *Special Investigations Unit Act, (S.I.U.A.) 2019*

## ***S.I.U. Terminology***

**Complainant** – Refers to the Affected Person

**SO** – Subject Official

**WO** – Witness Official

## ***S.I.U. Investigative Conclusion***

In a letter to the Chief of Police dated August 8, 2023, Director Joseph Martino of the S.I.U. advised, *“the file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject officials.”*

The following S.I.U. *Incident Narrative and Analysis and Directors Decision* has been reprinted from the S.I.U. Director’s report, number 23-TCI-104, which can be found via the following link:

[https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors\\_report\\_details.php?drid=2518](https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors_report_details.php?drid=2518)

## ***S.I.U. Incident Narrative***

*“The evidence collected by the SIU, including interviews with the Complainant and BWC footage that captured the incident in parts, gives rise to the following scenario. As was their legal right, neither subject official agreed an interview with the SIU or the release of their notes.*

*In the late afternoon of April 10, 2023, the Complainant was arrested for drug trafficking by SO #1 and SO #2 outside the A & W restaurant at the northwest corner of Yonge Street and Grosvenor Street. The Complainant was taken to the ground, handcuffed and searched by the officers. He was subsequently stood up, placed against a police cruiser, and subjected to a further search. Multiple items, including illicit substances, were recovered during the searches.*

*The Complainant was placed into the rear of a police cruiser for transportation to the police station. En route, he was able to retrieve another baggie with drugs and insert it into his mouth. Suspecting that the Complainant had ingested drugs, WO #1, and occupant of the cruiser, decided to re-direct the Complainant to hospital.*

*The Complainant was taken to hospital and treated for the wrapping that had become lodged in his throat, which was surgically removed. He had suffered a hypoxic cardiac arrest.*



## **Analysis and Director's Decision**

*"The Complainant lapsed into medical distress while in the custody of TPS officers on April 10, 2023. In the ensuing SIU investigation of the incident, SO #1 and SO #2 were identified as subject officials. The investigation is now concluded. On my assessment of the evidence, there are no reasonable grounds to believe that either subject official committed a criminal offence in connection with the incident.*

*The offences that arise for consideration are failure to provide the necessities of life and criminal negligence causing bodily harm contrary to section 215 and 221 of the Criminal Code, respectively. Both require something more than a simple want of care to give rise to liability. The former is predicated, in part, on conduct that amounts to a marked departure from the level of care that a reasonable person would have exercised in the circumstances. The latter is premised on even more egregious conduct that demonstrates a wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons. It is not made out unless the neglect constitutes a marked and substantial departure from a reasonable standard of care. In the instant case, the question is whether there was any want of care on the part of SO #1 and SO #2, sufficiently serious to attract criminal sanction that endangered the Complainant's life or contributed to his predicament. In my view, there was not.*

*There is no issue taken with the lawfulness of the Complainant's arrest. He was in possession of illicit drugs and had engaged in what appeared to be a drug-trafficking transaction with another male in view of SO #1 and SO #2. Once lawfully under arrest, the officers were authorized to search the Complainant for evidence or potential weapons, and this is precisely what they did.*

*With respect to the care afforded the Complainant while he was in police custody, I am unable to reasonably conclude that either subject official transgressed the standards prescribed by the criminal law. The only real question relates to the sufficiency of the searches conducted by the officers at the scene of the arrest. That is to say, how was it that the Complainant remained in possession of drugs on his person, which he was able to retrieve and ingest while in the police cruiser?*

*Whatever the answer to that question, the evidence falls short of establishing conduct on the part of the officers that deviated markedly from a reasonable standard of care. A review of the video footage that captured the searches in part reveals that the officers went to some length to ensure that the Complainant's clothing had been fully inspected. SO #1 even cut through various layers of clothing to get at items conceal within the lining of the Complainant's jacket and pants he was wearing underneath another pair of pants. This included the right side of the Complainant's pants, which the evidence suggests, is where he was able to retrieve the drugs inside the cruiser. In the final analysis, I am satisfied that the failure by the officers to locate and seize the drugs in question was not for any want of reasonable efforts on their part.*

*On the aforementioned-record, there are no reasonable grounds to conclude that the subject officials comported themselves other than within the limits of the criminal law in their dealings with the Complainant. As such, there is no basis for proceeding with charges in this case.*

*The file is closed.”*

### **Summary of the Toronto Police Service’s Investigation**

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison conducted an administrative investigation as is required by provincial legislation.

This investigation examined the circumstances of the custody injury in relation to the applicable legislation, policing services provided, procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation reviewed the following T.P.S. procedures:

- Procedure 01-01 (Arrest);
- Procedure 01-02 (Search of Persons);
- Procedure 01-03 (Persons in Custody);
- Procedure 10-06 (Medical Emergencies);
- Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit);
- Procedure 13-17 (Notes and Reports);
- Procedure 15-01 (Incident Response (Use of Force/De-Escalation));
- Procedure 15-02 (Injury/Illness Reporting);
- Procedure 15-17 (In-Car Camera System); and
- Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera).

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation also reviewed the following legislation:

- *Special Investigations Unit Act (S.I.U.A), 2019*

### **Conclusion:**

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined that the T.P.S.’s policies and procedures associated with this custody injury were lawful, in keeping with current legislation, and written in a manner, which provided adequate and appropriate guidance to the members. None of the examined policies and procedures required modification.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined the conduct of one of the designated officials was not in compliance with T.P.S. Procedure. Specifically, it was substantiated this officer failed to start his Body-Worn Camera as is required by T.P.S. Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera). This misconduct was adjudicated at the unit level.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation:**

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This report recommends that the Board receive this report for information.

**Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*original copy with signature on file in Board office



## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 5, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Vehicle Injury of Complainant 2023.21**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Summary:**

The Professional Standards (P.R.S.) – Special Investigations Unit Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) and Traffic Services (T.S.V.) investigation determined the conduct of the designated official was in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

Whenever the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) investigates an incident involving death, serious injury, the discharge of a firearm at a person or the allegation of a sexual assault, provincial legislation requires the chief of police, of the relevant police service, to conduct an administrative investigation. This is the Chief's report in respect of this incident.

#### ***Relevant Board Policies and Compliance***

- Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures
- *Special Investigations Unit Act (S.I.U.A.), 2019*

## **S.I.U. Terminology**

**Complainant** – Refers to the Affected Person

**SO** – Subject Official

**WO** – Witness Official

## **S.I.U. Investigative Conclusion**

In a letter to the Chief of Police dated August 9, 2023, Director Joseph Martino of the S.I.U. stated, *“The file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject officials.”*

The following *S.I.U. Incident Narrative and Analysis and Directors Decision* has been reprinted from the S.I.U. Director’s report, number 23-TVI-106, which can be found in its entirety via the following link:

[https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors\\_report\\_details.php?drid=2521](https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors_report_details.php?drid=2521)

## **S.I.U. Incident Narrative**

*“The evidence collected by the SIU, including interviews with the Complainant, gives rise to the following scenario. As was their legal right, neither subject official agreed an interview with the SIU. SO #1 did authorize the release of his notes.*

*In the evening of April 10, 2023, the TPS received reports of a group of motorcyclists operating dirt bikes on community walking trails in North York. Officers were alerted to the situation.*

*About an hour later, WO #3 and WO #4 located three motorcyclists operating dirt bikes and stopped one of them after his vehicle stalled. The other two motorcyclists left the area with their lights off going through red lights. Neither rider was wearing a helmet. The officers broadcast what had occurred.*

*SO #1 was on patrol at the time operating a cruiser. With him in the passenger seat was his partner, SO #2. They were travelling north on Victoria Avenue towards Finch Avenue East to render assistance to WO #3 and WO #4 when they observed the other two dirt bikes accelerating south towards them. One was travelling on the east sidewalk. The other had cut across the northbound lanes before continuing in the southbound curb lane. SO #1 executed a U-turn and began to follow the dirt bike.*

*The Complainant was operating the dirt bike in the southbound curb lane. He was proceeding at relatively slow speed, his bike in close proximity to the sidewalk curb when SO #1 pulled the cruiser beside him in the same lane. At*

*about the same time, SO #2 maneuvered his upper body partially through the open passenger window. As this was happening, the Complainant lost control of his dirt bike. His vehicle struck the curb and he was thrown from the bike in the area of the right turn lane at the Van Horne Avenue intersection.*

*SO #1 brought his cruiser to a stop just south of the Complainant, after which he and SO #2 exited and ran towards the Complainant on the ground. The Complainant was handcuffed behind the back and subsequently complained of pain in his left shoulder.*

*The Complainant was transported from the scene in ambulance to hospital where he was diagnosed with a fractured left clavicle.*

### ***Analysis and Director's Decision***

*"The Complainant was seriously injured in a motor vehicle collision on April 10, 2023. As he was being pursued at the time by TPS officers, the SIU initiated an investigation of the incident. The officers – SO #1 and SO #2 – were identified as the subject officials. The investigation is now concluded. On my assessment of the evidence, there are no reasonable grounds to believe that either subject official committed a criminal offence in connection with the Complainant's injury.*

*The offences that arise for consideration are dangerous driving causing bodily harm and criminal negligence causing bodily harm contrary to sections 320.13(2) and 221 of the Criminal Code. With respect to the former, a simple want of care will not suffice to give rise to liability. Rather, the offence is predicated, in part, on conduct that amounts to a marked departure from the level of care that a reasonable person would have observed in the circumstances. The latter is premised on even more egregious conduct that demonstrates a wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons. It is not made out unless the neglect constitutes a marked and substantial departure from a reasonable standard of care. In the instant case, the issue is whether there was a want of care on the part of the subject officials, sufficiently serious to attract criminal sanction that caused or contributed to the Complainant's collision. In my view, there was not.*

*I accept that SO #1 and SO #2 were within their rights in seeking to stop the Complainant for traffic infractions. He was operating what they suspected was a stolen dirt bike without lights, and doing so while not wearing a helmet.*

*I am unable to reasonably conclude on the evidence that either subject official transgressed the limits of care prescribed by the criminal law throughout their engagement with the Complainant. The decision to pull up alongside the Complainant in the same lane was questionable. That limited the space available to the Complainant in which to operate the bike and placed him in a precarious position. That said, I do not accept, as the Complainant suggests, that this maneuver effectively forced him off the road. The evidence suggests*

*that safely bringing his dirt bike to a stop was an option that was available to the Complainant. Similarly, SO #2's decision to extend his upper body partially out through the window towards the Complainant, presumably, to communicate with the Complainant, was dubious, but the evidence establishes he did not make contact with the Complainant. Lastly, it is worth noting that the officers' cruiser was only very briefly engaged with the Complainant, during which time there is no evidence that other users of the road were placed at any risk.*

*In the result, as there are no reasonable grounds to believe that the subject official comported themselves other than within the confines of the criminal law in their dealings with the Complainant, there is no basis for proceeding with criminal charges in this case. The file is closed."*

### **Summary of the Toronto Police Service's Investigation**

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) and T.S.V. conducted an administrative investigation mandated by provincial legislation.

This investigation examined the circumstances of the vehicle injury in relation to the applicable legislation, policing services provided, procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

The S.I.U. Liaison and T.S.V. investigation reviewed the following T.P.S. procedures:

- Procedure 01-01 (Arrest);
- Procedure 01-03 (Persons in Custody);
- Procedure 07-01 (Transportation Collisions);
- Procedure 10-06 (Medical Emergencies);
- Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit);
- Procedure 13-17 (Notes and Reports);
- Procedure 15-01 (Incident Response (Use of Force/De-Escalation));
- Procedure 15-10 (Suspect Apprehension Pursuit);
- Procedure 15-17 (In-Car Camera System); and
- Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera)

The S.I.U. Liaison and T.S.V. investigation also reviewed the following legislation:

- *Special Investigations Unit Act, (S.I.U.A.) 2019*
- *Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8*

### **Conclusion:**

The S.I.U. Liaison and T.S.V. investigation determined that the T.P.S.'s policies and procedures associated with these vehicle injuries were lawful, in keeping with current

legislation, and written in a manner which provided adequate and appropriate guidance to the members. None of the examined policies and procedures required modification.

The S.I.U. Liaison and T.S.V. investigation determined the conduct of the designated subject official was in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.S. procedures.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation:**

This report recommends that the Board receive this report for information.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office





## PUBLIC REPORT

October 5, 2023

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Custody  
Death of Complainant 2023.23**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### Summary:

The Professional Standards (P.R.S.) – Special Investigations Unit Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) investigation determined the conduct of the designated officials was in compliance with the applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures.

### Discussion:

#### ***Background***

Whenever the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) investigates an incident involving death, serious injury, the discharge of a firearm at a person or the allegation of a sexual assault, provincial legislation requires the chief of police, of the relevant police service, to conduct an administrative investigation. This is the Chief's report in respect of this incident.

#### ***Relevant Board Policies and Compliance***

- Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures
- *Special Investigations Unit Act* (S.I.U.A.) 2019

## **S.I.U. Terminology**

**Complainant** – Refers to the Affected Person

**SO** – Subject Official

**WO** – Witness Official

**ETF** – Emergency Task Force

## **S.I.U. Investigative Conclusion**

In a letter to the Chief of Police dated August 25, 2023, Director Joseph Martino of the S.I.U. advised, *“The file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject officials.”*

The following S.I.U. *Incident Narrative and Analysis and Directors Decision* has been reprinted from the S.I.U. Director’s report, number 22-TCD-127, which can be found via the following link:

[https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors\\_report\\_details.php?drid=2545](https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors_report_details.php?drid=2545)

## **S.I.U. Incident Narrative**

*“The events in question, clear on the evidence collected by the SIU, may briefly be summarized. As was their legal right, neither subject official agreed an interview with the SIU or the release of their notes.*

*In the morning of April 28, 2023, TPS officers were conducting surveillance at the intersection of Wellesley Street East and Jarvis Street following community complaints about drug-trafficking. The Complainant was observed in what appeared to be a drug transaction. The surveilling officers called for his arrest.*

*SO #1 and SO #2, on patrol travelling on bikes, heard the call and proceeded to arrest the Complainant in the northwest corner of the intersection. The arrest was uneventful. The Complainant was taken to the ground where he was held pending the arrival of WO #1 and WO #2 in their cruiser.*

*Arriving within minutes, WO #2 handcuffed the Complainant behind the back, after which he was stood up and subjected to a search. The search was conducted simultaneously by SO #1 and SO #2. A number of personal items were collected during the search, but no drugs were found.*

*Following the search, the Complainant was placed in the driver’s side rear seat of WO #1 and WO #2’s cruiser for transport to the station. While en route, the Complainant shifted his body, shuffled his feet, and reached with his handcuffed hands to the area of his waistband and left pant pocket. Asked by WO #2 what he was doing, the Complainant said the handcuffs were too tight. The*

*Complainant continued to manipulate his body to the point that he came to rest on his left side, his legs lying across the passenger's side rear seat.*

*No longer visible in the officer's rearview mirror, WO #2 stopped the cruiser on Homewood Avenue at the Carlton Street intersection. He and WO #1 exited to check on the Complainant. The Complainant had propelled himself face first onto the rear driver's side foot well and managed to place a plastic bag with a white powder in his mouth. The officers told him to spit the bag out and tried to remove him from the cruiser. WO #2 eventually dislodged the bag from the Complainant's mouth. By that time, most of the white powder was gone.*

*Suspecting that he had ingested drugs, the officers called for paramedics and then decided to transport the Complainant to hospital themselves. They arrived at hospital at about 10:45 a.m. The Complainant was pronounced deceased at hospital at 7:46 p.m."*

### ***Analysis and Director's Decision***

*"On April 28, 2023, the TPS contacted the SIU to report that the Complainant, whom they had arrested earlier that day, subsequently passed away in hospital. The SIU initiated an investigation, naming SO #1 and SO #2 as the subject officials. The investigation is now concluded. On my assessment of the evidence, I am satisfied there are no reasonable grounds to believe that either subject official committed a criminal offence.*

*The offence that arises for consideration is criminal negligence causing death contrary to section 220 of the Criminal Code. The offence is reserved for serious cases of neglect that demonstrate a wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons. It is predicated, in part, on conduct that amounts to a marked and substantial departure from the level of care that a reasonable person would have exercised in the circumstances. In the instant case, the question is whether there was a want of care on the part of the subject officials, sufficiently egregious to attract criminal sanction, that caused or contributed to the Complainant's death. In my view, there was not.*

*There are no questions raised on the evidence around the lawfulness of the Complainant's arrest for drug trafficking. He had apparently been observed engaging in a drug transaction, and SO #1 and SO #2 were within their rights in taking him into custody. That being the case, the officers were also entitled to search the Complainant for evidence and potential weapons pursuant to their common law powers.*

*With respect to his time in the custody of SO #1 and SO #2, I am satisfied that the officers comported themselves with due care and regard for the health and safety of the Complainant. The only real issue is with the adequacy of the search they performed in light of their apparent failure to locate and dispossess the Complainant of a bag containing, presumably, an illicit substance. This issue,*

*however, is quickly settled by a review of the video footage that captured the search. It establishes, in my view, that the officers conducted a diligent search over the course of two-and-a-half minutes: they patted the Complainant over his clothing, lifted his shirt bottoms, turned out his jacket, sweater and pants pockets, turned over his sock tops, and checked his pant waistlines.*

*It might have been that the Complainant had concealed the drugs in his underwear or within his person, and that a strip search would have located the substance, but I am not persuaded that the conditions were in place justifying such a search. In R v Golden, [2001] s SCR 679, the Supreme Court of Canada observed that strip searches, as an incident of lawful arrest, must be premised on reasonable and probable grounds to justify the search in order to discover evidence or weapons. In addition, given their serious infringement on privacy and personal dignity, strip searches should generally only be performed at the police station except in the case of exigent circumstances. It would not appear that this was an exceptional case justifying a strip search executed in the field. The Complainant, who appeared coherent throughout, repeatedly denied that he was in possession of drugs.*

*In the result, while it is highly regrettable that the Complainant was able to access drugs on or in his person while in police custody, and that he appears to have died as a result of consuming the drugs, his death is not attributable to any transgressions by either subject official of the limits of care prescribed by the criminal law. As such, there is no basis for proceeding with charges against the officers.*

*The file is closed.”*

### **Summary of the Toronto Police Investigation:**

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison conducted an administrative investigation as is required by provincial legislation.

This investigation was reviewed by the Specialized Criminal Investigations – Homicide and Missing Persons Unit as required by T.P.S. Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit).

This investigation examined the circumstances of the custody death in relation to the applicable legislation, policing services provided, procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison reviewed the following T.P.S. procedures:

- Procedure 01-01 (Arrest);
- Procedure 01-02 (Search of Persons);
- Procedure 01-03 (Persons in Custody);

- Procedure 10-06 (Medical Emergencies);
- Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit);
- Procedure 13-17 (Notes and Reports);
- Procedure 15-01 (Incident Response (Use of Force/De-Escalation));
- Procedure 15-02 (Injury/Illness Reporting);
- Procedure 15-17 (In-Car Camera System) and;
- Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera)

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison investigation also reviewed the following legislation:

- *Special Investigations Unit Act (S.I.U.A)*, 2019, SO 2019, c.1, Sch 5

**Conclusion:**

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined that the T.P.S.'s policies and procedures associated with this custody death were lawful, in keeping with current legislation, and written in a manner, which provided adequate and appropriate guidance to the members. None of the examined policies and procedures required modification.

The P.R.S. – S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined the conduct of the designated officials was in compliance with the applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.S. procedures.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation:**

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This report recommends that the Board receive this report for information.

**Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office



## PUBLIC REPORT

**October 5, 2023**

To: Chair and Members  
Toronto Police Services Board

From: Myron Demkiw  
Chief of Police

**Subject: Chief's Administrative Investigation into the Alleged Sexual Assault of Complainant 2023.26**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Summary:**

The Special Investigations Unit Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) investigation determined the conduct of the designated officials was in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.S. procedures.

### **Discussion:**

#### ***Background***

Whenever the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) investigates an incident involving death, serious injury, the discharge of a firearm at a person or the allegation of a sexual assault, provincial legislation requires the chief of police, of the relevant police service, to conduct an administrative investigation. This is the Chief's report in respect of this incident.

#### ***Relevant Board Policies and Compliance***

- Toronto Police Service (T.P.S.) procedures
- *Special Investigations Unit Act* (S.I.U.A.), 2019

### ***S.I.U. Investigative Conclusion***

In a letter to the Chief of Police dated September 1, 2023, Director Joseph Martino of the S.I.U. advised, *“The file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges in this case”*.

The S.I.U. has not made the Directors Report public stating in part, *“pursuant to section 34(6) of the Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019, the SIU Director may exercise a discretion, subject to prior consultation with the complainant, to not publish the report if the Director is of the opinion that the complainant’s privacy interest in not having the report published clearly outweighs the public interest in having the report published.”*

### ***Incident Narrative***

Between August 2022, and October 2022, a series of armed car-jackings, armed retail and financial institution robberies, and car thefts were being investigated by members of the T.P.S. Hold Up Squad (H.U.S.). A number of individuals were identified as being directly involved in these crimes and H.U.S. investigators sought and received judicial authorization to arrest and search the premises of the involved suspects.

On May 5, 2023, members of the H.U.S. accompanied by the Emergency Task Force (E.T.F.) attended a building on Emmet Avenue to execute a *Criminal Code* (C.C.) Search Warrant in relation to this investigation.

Members of E.T.F. made entry into the apartment at approximately 0640 hours. Within the apartment were two females, two males and four Pit Bull dogs. One of the males was the identified target of the warrant and he was arrested without incident. The other occupants were detained while a search of the apartment took place.

Alleged Sexual Assault Complainant 2023.26 (2023.26), who is the father of the arrested party became aggressive with officers and was removed into the hallway outside the apartment. While in the hallway, 2023.26 became actively resistant and E.T.F. arrested him.

2023.26 was handed over to uniform Police Officers from 12 Division who guarded him until the search of the apartment was complete. Both of these officers were equipped with Body-Worn Camera (B.W.C.) that recorded their involvement with 2023.26.

Once the search of the apartment was completed, and the arrested party was transported to 12 Division for processing, 2023.26 was released. 2023.26 was not criminally charged.

On May 5, 2023, at approximately 0800 hours, 2023.26 called the front desk of 12 Division and reported that he had been sexually assaulted when he was detained and wished to speak to a supervisor.

The Officer-in-Charge of 12 Division spoke with 2023.26 who reiterated his allegation that he had been sexually assaulted by officers during the time he was detained.

The S.I.U. was notified and invoked its mandate.

The S.I.U. designated one officer as a subject official; three other officers were designated as witness officials.

### ***Summary of the Toronto Police Service's Investigation***

The Professional Standards – S.I.U. Liaison (S.I.U. Liaison) conducted an administrative investigation as is required by provincial legislation. This investigation was reviewed by Specialized Criminal Investigations – Sex Crimes Unit in accordance to T.P.S. Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit).

This investigation examined the circumstances of the alleged sexual assault in relation to the applicable legislation, policing services provided, procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation reviewed the following T.P.S. procedures:

- Procedure 01-01 (Arrest);
- Procedure 01-02 (Search of Persons);
- Procedure 02-18 (Executing a Search Warrant);
- Procedure 05-02 (Robberies/Hold-Ups);
- Procedure 05-05 (Sexual Assault);
- Procedure 10-05 (Incidents Requiring the Emergency Task Force);
- Procedure 13-16 (Special Investigations Unit);
- Procedure 13-17 (Notes and Reports);
- Procedure 15-01 (Incident Response (Use of Force/De-Escalation));
- Procedure 15-20 (Body-Worn Camera).

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation also reviewed the following legislation:

- *Special Investigations Unit Act (S.I.U.A.), 2019*



**Conclusion:**

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined that the T.P.S.'s policies and procedures associated with this alleged sexual assault were lawful, in keeping with current legislation, and written in a manner that provided adequate and appropriate guidance to the members. None of the examined policies and procedures required modification.

The S.I.U. Liaison investigation determined the conduct of the designated officers w in compliance with applicable provincial legislation regarding the Standards of Conduct and applicable T.P.S. procedures.

Staff Superintendent Peter Code, Professionalism and Accountability, will be in attendance to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this report.

**Recommendation:**

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It is recommended that the Board receive this report for information.

**Financial Implications:**

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There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

\*copy with original signature on file at Board Office