



Budget Committee Public Meeting

**Tuesday, August 27,
2024 at 6:00PM**



BOARD'S BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 6:00PM

Livestreamed at: <https://youtube.com/live/EvkzVcIDb7U?feature=share>

The following *draft* Minutes of the hybrid public meeting of the Toronto Police Service Board's Budget Committee that was held on August 27, 2024.

Attendance:

The following Members were present:

Lisa Kostakis, Acting Chair
Chris Brillinger, Member
Nick Migliore, Member
Shelley Carroll, Councillor and Member

The following individuals were also present:

Dubi Kanengisser, Executive Director, Toronto Police Service Board
Diana Achim, Board Administrator, Toronto Police Service Board

Declarations:

There were no declarations of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

This is an Extract from the Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Toronto Police Service Board's Budget Committee that was held on August 27, 2024

P2024-0827-1.0. Board Budget Committee Meeting

The Board's Budget Committee Members were in receipt of a presentation provided by Dubi Kanengisser, Executive Director. A copy of the [presentation](#) is attached to this Minute.

Deputations:

Dave Shellnutt (virtual)
Amy Platt (in person)
Rabbi Joe Kanofsky (virtual) ([written submission included](#))
Giuseppe Scoleri ([written deputation only](#))
Daniel Tate ([written deputation only](#))
Rafi Yablonsky ([written deputation only](#))
Nicole Corrado ([written deputation only](#))
Seth Goren ([written deputation only](#))
Jonathan Levy ([written deputation only](#))
Daniel Held ([written deputation only](#))
Heather Singer ([written deputation only](#))
Raquel ([written deputation only](#))
Carl Sheldon Zeliger ([written deputation only](#))
Ryla Braemer ([written deputation](#))

Acting Chair Kostakis thanked all the deputants for their verbal and written deputations.

Board Members discussed this item. For a detailed account of the discussion, see the YouTube recording starting at Minute 50:10 here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/EvkzVclDb7U?si=hT-4U37XQNrAqIF-&t=3008>

The Board and received the deputations and the foregoing presentation.

Moved by: S. Carroll
Seconded by: N. Migliore

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Board Member and Councillor Shelley Carroll and seconded by Board Member Nick Migliore.

Next Board's Budget Committee Meeting

Date: October 2, 2024

Location: TBA

Minutes Approved by:

-original signed-

Lisa Kostakis
Acting Chair

Members of the Toronto Police Service Board's Budget Committee

Ann Morgan, Chair
Nick Migliore, Member

Shelley Carroll, Member & Councillor

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE BOARD'S BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

August 27, 2024



AGENDA



- Overview
- Legislative Mandate
- Budget Consultation Guiding Principles
- Consultation and Draft Priorities
- Budget Process and Timeline
- The Strategic Vision and Priorities We Heard
- Discussion

OVERVIEW



- The Board is responsible for establishing the Board's budget and approving the Service's budget.
- The Board will commence its process for the development of the 2025 Budget. This includes consultation with the public, through budget committee meetings.
- The Board's budget will be guided by its Strategic Plan, which is currently under development, in line with the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (*the Act*), and its associated regulations. The draft priorities within the plan will be validated and refined through public and community engagement.
- The objective of the Strategic Plan is to outline the priorities, objectives and core functions of the Service, which ultimately informs the Board and Service's annual budget.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATE



The Act lays out the requirements for all police boards to develop a Strategic Plan that is in accordance with the regulations outlined in *the Act*. Under *the Act*, the Board must ensure the development and implementation of a strategic plan for policing that addresses, at a minimum, the following areas:

1. How the Board will ensure effective policing that meets community needs.
2. The objectives, priorities and core functions of the police service.
3. Quantitative and qualitative performance objectives and indicators.
4. Interactions with, youth, members of racialized groups, and members of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.
5. Interactions with persons who appear to have a mental illness or a neurodevelopmental disability.
6. Information technology.
7. Resource planning.
8. Police facilities.

Each of these areas have budgetary impacts and must be considered in budget development.

BUDGET PROCESS GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Community Safety and Well-being

Using community safety and well-being principles as a guide to ensure the Board and Service are working collaboratively across different sectors and governments to support overall public safety.



Police Reform

Advancing the goals outlined in the 81 Recommendations for Police Reform, the 2025 Budget will prioritize advancing the goals identified across reform themes.



Engagement

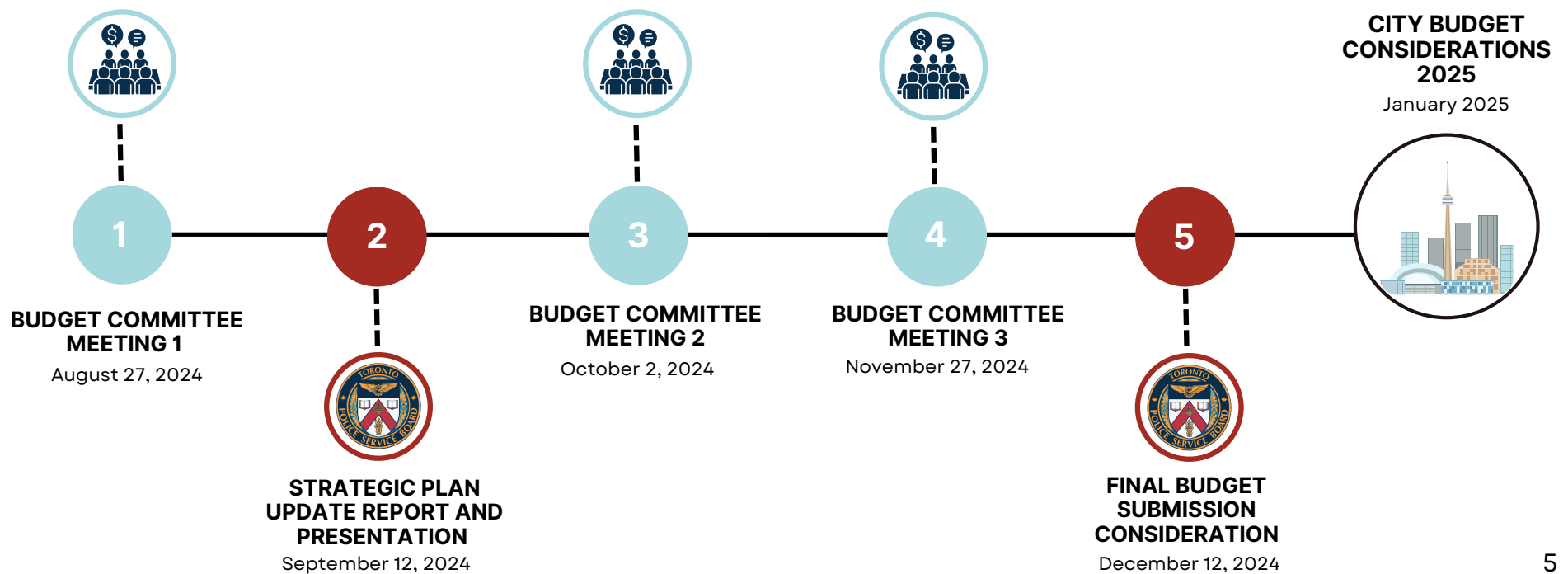
The Budget Committee's meetings will be public, and as with all public Board meetings, members of the public will have an opportunity to participate through our established deputation process. Meetings will take place at different times and locations to increase the public's ability to participate.



Transparency

Ensuring that the 2025 budget process is transparent to increase accessibility for Torontonians, who will be able to participate and engage more deeply and be better educated on the budget development process.

BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMELINE



CONSULTATION AND DRAFT PRIORITIES



In 2023, the Board's Phase 1 consultations on the Strategic Plan identified draft priorities:

CONSULTATION:

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

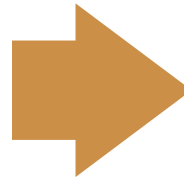
- Focus groups with community members from Community Police Liaison Committees, justice partners, and community partners through 10 focus group sessions;
- Discussion and written feedback from the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic School Board;
- Respondents to public survey.

CITY COUNCILLORS

- All City Councillors invited to share feedback

INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- Focus groups with uniform and civilian members representing all ranks, classes, and all four Commands



NEXT STEPS:

Draft Plan Presented to the Board:
September 2024

Additional public and community
consultations to validate priorities and actions

Internal engagement with TPS to refine KPIs
and implement monitoring plan

THE STRATEGIC VISION AND PRIORITIES WE HEARD



To be the most trusted police service, in the safest city in the world.



**Strategic Investment
in Our People**



Accelerate Police Reform



**Deliver Efficient and
Effective Policing Services**



**Enhance Safety
Through Partnerships**

DISCUSSION



- How well do these draft priorities align with what you believe are the key priorities for the Toronto Police Service? Are there any key areas or concerns that you feel are missing?
- What specific actions or initiatives should the Service and Board focus on to effectively achieve these draft priorities? How can these actions be communicated or emphasized to the public?
- What types of investments - financial, human resources, technological or community partnerships - do you think are necessary to successfully achieve these priorities? How do you think the budget should be adjusted to support these investments?

**Toronto Police Service Board
Budget Meeting
August 27, 2024**

**** Speakers' List ****

1. Board Budget Committee Meeting

Deputations: Dave Shellnutt (virtual)
Amy Platt (in person)
Rabbi Joe Kanofsky (virtual) (written submission included)
Giuseppe Scoleri (written deputation only)
Daniel Tate (written deputation only)
Rafi Yablonsky (written deputation only)
Nicole Corrado (written deputation only)
Seth Goren (written deputation only)
Jonathan Levy (written deputation only)
Daniel Held (written deputation only)
Heather Singer (written deputation only)
Raquel (written deputation only)
Carl Sheldon Zeliger (written deputation only)
Ryla Braemer (written deputation)



קהילת שערי תורה דטורונטו KEHILLAT SHAAREI TORAH OF TORONTO

Rabbi Joseph A. Kanofsky, Ph. D.
הרב יוסף אהרן קאנעווסקי

August 26, 2024

To the Attention of Toronto Police Services Board:

I am the clergyperson of a Toronto synagogue that has been attacked on six separate occasions this year, and I write with two purposes: one to let you know how much the protection and presence of the Toronto Police Service staff has meant to the hundreds of congregants in my community, and two to implore you in every possible way I can not to decrease but to increase significantly the Toronto Police Services budget allocation for the coming year. We are afraid, and the Jewish Community of Toronto needs your help.

Rightly judging that hostilities on the other side of the globe had the potential to impact citizens of Toronto; Chief Demkiw and his leadership team deployed police presence and protection to the many institutions of the Jewish community immediately after the attacks on Israel on October 7th, 2023. This has no doubt put a heavy strain on TPS's available resources, but I can tell you from our point of view, this deployment was and remains desperately needed.

In language, signage, and public rhetoric, the tone of protests against Israel has been one of violence, destruction, and annihilation-not figurative, but literal annihilation. The actions of a government in another part of the world have serious impact on Jewish communities here and around the world. No one who has smashed the windows of our synagogue, or left dead animals on our property, or set our signage afire, polled us to ask what if any views we hold on Israel's military. No one who shot bullets at a Jewish school in Toronto checked first for an endorsement of Israel's government. Our children were anxious for their very lives to attend school when a threatened "Day of Rage" sent a wave of fear through our community, to say nothing of the parents who were forced to choose between sending their children to school or keeping them home with doors locked. Those who wish the Jewish state, and by extension the Jewish people ill see us all as one entity deserving of hate, violence and threats just for being who we are. Hatred like this knows no reason or boundaries or limits.

When a group of clergy met with parliamentarians in Ottawa in February, we heard one member of the government tell us in these words; “We realize that it is not safe to be a Jew in Canada nowadays.” It is difficult for someone who has not experienced it to imagine what it is like to feel unsafe walking the streets of the city where you live, and to fear that simply attending your chosen house of worship or “looking Jewish” comes with the threat of violence against you or your family.

This is a time of reckoning for Toronto and Canada: should its citizens be afraid to walk the streets and gather in worship? We all need the protection and support of Toronto Police Services.

Of course, the blame for this predicament is not on TPS’s shoulders. Toronto Police have been at our synagogue every day to express a presence and a shield that has no doubt deterred many other and more severe hate crimes from taking place. We are deeply grateful every day for the constables and detectives who have done all they can to keep us visibly protected, and to attempt to bring to justice those who have attacked our community.

In the future, we hope that this will not prove necessary, and that our community, like hundreds of others in the GTA, will be able to serve God in our way without fear of violence or hatred. But today, at this moment, we need all the protection we can muster.

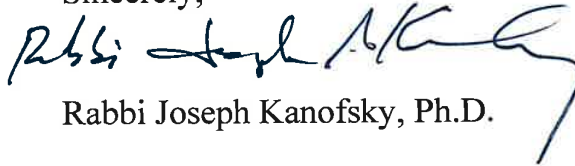
My community, Kehillat Shaarei Torah of Toronto, is comprised of people who were born here and who have immigrated to Canada from over a dozen countries. A number of us fled our native lands when the threats of violence and bloodshed threatened the safety and well-being of citizens, and they knew that Canada would prove to be a safe haven. It is unthinkable that today, those same people live in fear. Yet given the multiple attacks on our own synagogue and against others in Toronto and across Canada, that is our feeling, and it is justified. We are anxious every morning that we will come to the synagogue and find more damage. We fear that every unexpected package may explode. We worry that every stranger who approaches our building may seek to harm us or worse.

This is why it is absolutely critical that Toronto Police Services receives **increases** in their resources at this time to be able to continue their protective presence, and be able to investigate hate crimes and apprehend offenders. We look forward to a time where this will not be necessary, but for the foreseeable future the Jewish community of Toronto needs these resources.

Violence and intimidation against any minority group cannot be allowed to have the upper hand. It is wrong, and it is usually only the beginning. It is within living memory for the oldest of our congregants that shattered windows across Germany signaled the beginning of a holocaust. So when our windows are smashed, we cannot wish it away or ignore it.

On behalf of members of my community, and on behalf of all citizens who may be targets of hatred, intimidation, and violence in the future, I ask you to do your utmost to continue to fund and **increase** the very necessary and very much appreciated Toronto Police presence not just for the Jewish citizens of this city, but for all its citizens. Everyone deserves to attend school, places of worship, and walk the streets in safety without fear of intimidation, violence, or worse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rabbi Joseph Kanofsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Rabbi Joseph Kanofsky, Ph.D.

Toronto Police Services Board
40 College Street
Toronto, ON Canada M5G 2J3

August 26, 2024

Dear Board Members,

My deputation is regarding the Board Budget Committee process for the 2025 Toronto Police Services Budget.

Statistics would the importance of a budget that allows the police to hire and training new recruits ensuring the level of attrition is replaced properly and the police can respond to priority 1 calls in a timely manner. It's incumbent upon the Police Services Board to at the very least allow a budget to help cut the inadequate time by at least 50 percent. 22 minutes is totally unacceptable in the City of Toronto. What do we need to do to get it down to similar response times like NYPD at 5 minutes or LAPD at 6 minutes. Why can't Toronto be at least close to this or faster? How can the city entertain 150 million dollars for a 2 km bike lane pass yet allow response times to be 20 plus minutes for priority one calls? This is completely irresponsible for the mayor and city councilors to not make this a top priority. Our safety is the TOP PRIORITY and YOUR CIVIC DUTY. Toronto Police Service is vastly underfunded and under resourced; with a growing population and increase violent crimes statistics you must give the police the funds to hire and train adequate resources. This defund the Police narrative must stop immediately, ADD resources for mental health and social works to help Police. Do not take away from the Police to add to other areas. This is criminally neglectful and not in the interest of the silent majority of Torontonians.

Thank you

Giuseppe Scoleri
Etobicoke, Ontario

As we move into 2025, it is imperative that the Toronto Police Service receives the necessary funding and resources to deliver high-quality policing to the people of Toronto. We find ourselves in a turbulent environment where threat actors—whether local, national, or international—are actively working to disrupt our society. From arms trafficking and car theft rings often directed by foreign entities to shadowy groups intent on cyber-attacking critical infrastructure, and the ever-present danger of domestic and international terrorism, the need for a strong, resilient, and confident police force has never been more urgent.

Currently, the Toronto Police Service is underfunded, under-resourced, and ill-equipped to counter the evolving and complex threats facing our city. As I mentioned in my previous deputation, the TPS has fewer officers than it did in 2001—a startling statistic for a city of our size, well below the UN's recommended per-capita policing levels. Additionally, as Councillor Malik pointed out last week, there are as many as 500,000 undocumented immigrants in the GTA—a staggering figure that will only further strain police resources.

We must restore a merit-based, highly trained police force capable of responding to the complex demands of modern policing. With the rise of aggressive protests that often devolve into vandalism and hate speech, and with individuals sympathetic to terrorist organizations, it is more crucial than ever that our police service is prepared for the challenges ahead. The TPS is our last line of defense, essential to protecting our safety and way of life.

Finally, we must address the low morale, attrition, and exhaustion that have become hallmarks of policing in 2024. Investing in our rank-and-file officers and support staff is crucial to fostering a positive, tough, and resilient culture within the force. We owe it to those who protect us to ensure they are supported and empowered to meet the demands of their duty.

Thank you,

Daniel Tate
August 26, 2024

Dear members of the Toronto Police Service Board,

My name is Rafi Yablonsky and I am a resident of Armour Heights. I am here today as a concerned citizen to speak to you about the importance of maintaining, if not increasing, the budget allocation for our police services in the upcoming fiscal year.

Over the past year, our community has been deeply impacted by several incidents, including protests and other disturbances, that have directly affected our day-to-day lives. The need for additional police presence in Armour Heights has become increasingly evident, and I urge this Board to consider the unique challenges our neighborhood faces when deliberating the budget.

1. The Need for Additional Resources

First, I want to address the need for more resources to ensure a sufficient police presence in our community. Armour Heights, like many other neighborhoods in Toronto, is a vibrant and diverse area. However, the recent surge in protests and disturbances has disrupted the peace and security that we have come to expect and cherish. The police presence during these times has often been insufficient, leading to prolonged disruptions and increased anxiety among residents.

A greater allocation of resources would allow for a more consistent and visible police presence in our area, which is crucial for both deterring potential disturbances and responding effectively when they occur. Our community members, including myself, would feel safer knowing that the police are adequately staffed and equipped to handle any situation that may arise.

2. The Need for Rapid Response

Second, I want to emphasize the importance of rapid response capabilities. When disturbances occur, the ability of the police to respond quickly and effectively is paramount. Delays in response not only exacerbate the situation but also undermine the community's confidence in our police service. We need a police force that can act swiftly and decisively, and that requires appropriate resources, including staffing, training, and equipment.

Ensuring that our police have the necessary resources will enable them to intervene more effectively in critical situations, preventing them from escalating and ensuring the safety and security of all residents.

3. Concerns Regarding the Avenue Road and 401 Bridge Incident

Finally, I must address the incident that occurred on the Avenue Road and 401 bridge. As a Jewish member of the community and a parent of three young children, this event was particularly distressing to me. The handling of the situation was, in my view, inadequate. The response seemed slow and uncoordinated, leaving many of us feeling vulnerable and unprotected.

This incident highlights the critical need for the police to have the resources and capabilities to manage such situations more effectively in the future. The safety of our community, especially our children, should never be compromised due to a lack of resources. I believe that with better

funding and more resources, the police will be better equipped to handle such incidents, ensuring that they are resolved quickly and appropriately.

In conclusion, I urge the Toronto Police Service Board to carefully consider the impact that any budget cuts could have on communities like Armour Heights. The need for additional resources, rapid response capabilities, and effective handling of sensitive incidents is clear. Our community relies on the police to maintain safety and order, and it is crucial that they have the support they need to fulfill this role.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that my concerns will be taken into account as you make decisions regarding the budget for the next fiscal year.

Sincerely,



Rafi Yablonsky
33 Lyonsgate Drive, Toronto, ON M3H 1C7
647-449-6342
rafiyablonsky@rogers.com

While the Police Board is needed for oversight of the police, the police board must remain a civilian organization that is consisting of members of the public. It should be open to the public to join, and I would suggest having the members elected, similar to a school board.

Police have traditionally taken a large part of the city budget. Much of that money would be better spent on removing the motivation behind crime and poor mental health, which is poverty, low literacy, lack of appropriate food and housing, etc. Money would be better spent on libraries, schools, transportation, housing, and plant based food security programs.

Nicole Corrado



Board of Directors

Chair

Adam Breslin

Vice Chair

Eric Green

Treasurer

Gregory Baylin

Members at Large

Ashley Bahar

Gary Diamond

Jeffrey Feldman

Noah Fenyes

Avi Greenspoon

David Horwood

Debra Kwinter

Mark Redinger

Noam Samson

Janet Winkler

CEO

Rabbi Seth Goren

August 26, 2024

Dear Toronto Police Services Board,

On behalf of Hillel Ontario, I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of continued budgetary support for the Toronto Police Services to ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, and faculty members.

The 2023–2024 academic year was particularly challenging for Jewish students on campus, with incidents of antisemitic behavior and threats creating a climate of fear and intimidation. Recent protests, encampments and demonstrations have disrupted the daily life of students on our campuses, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and concern. This has been exacerbated by the involvement of non-campus actors who have participated in disruptive behaviour in our university spaces, contributing to a hostile and hateful campus environment.

Hillel Ontario is proud to work collaboratively with administration and campus safety offices across Toronto universities to ensure a more inclusive, open, and safe environment for Jewish students. While we have high esteem for what these administrative divisions are able to accomplish, regrettably, there is a strong possibility that incidents requiring the support of Toronto Police Services will play out in the coming academic year. Should there be instances where universities seek this support as part of a broader effort to enforce university rules, regulations, and policies, it is essential that they have the resources required to operate effectively and respond swiftly.

Since October 7, the entire Jewish community has been vigilant against threats of various kinds, and we remain in a state of heightened alert; unfortunately, when it comes to antisemitism, experience has shown that when hate targeting our community spikes, that level of hate may decrease, but often becomes the new normal. As such, we ask that the allocation of police resources to keep



Board of Directors

Chair

Adam Breslin

Vice Chair

Eric Green

Treasurer

Gregory Baylin

Members at Large

Ashley Bahar

Gary Diamond

Jeffrey Feldman

Noah Fenyes

Avi Greenspoon

David Horwood

Debra Kwinter

Mark Redinger

Noam Samson

Janet Winkler

CEO

Rabbi Seth Goren

communities safe from hate be sustained for as long as necessary to meet that objective.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your continued partnership in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students and community.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Seth W. Goren
CEO, Hillel Ontario

Subject: Urgent Support Request for Continued Police Resources

Dear Toronto Police Services Board,

On behalf of TanenbaumCHAT, Toronto's only Jewish Community High School, I am writing to urgently request your continued support in addressing current and emerging needs within our community.

In recent months, Toronto's Jewish community has experienced a dramatic uptick in hate-motivated crimes, which has left our community feeling vulnerable and afraid. TanenbaumCHAT has not been immune to these threats. During the 2023/2024 school year the school received two bomb threats requiring evacuation, students were threatened on the street near school, and parked cars were vandalized. These incidents have underscored the critical need for ongoing and heightened security measures.

We have also witnessed a wave of hateful protests rife with violent hate speech taking place throughout the city, creating an environment of fear and tension. These incidents are not only alarming but pose a significant threat to the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community members.

The presence of well-equipped law enforcement officers has been crucial in maintaining peace and order. We are deeply appreciative of the strengthened patrols and new mobile command centers that the Toronto Police have deployed in response to these events. These measures have made a dramatic difference in ensuring the safety and security of our community.

Toronto Police have been a valued partner in our shared commitment to making our city safe for all its citizens. We rely on your expertise and presence to ensure that unruly protests do not escalate into violence. No citizen should feel vulnerable or unsafe on Toronto's streets, and we are grateful for the dedication and service of the police in protecting our community.

We recognize, however, that protecting communities requires sustained resources. Given the persistent and growing nature of antisemitism, we request that the increased resources allocated to keep our community safe from hate be sustained for as long as necessary. Experience has shown that when hate targeting our community spikes, it rarely decreases but rather becomes the new normal. We must be prepared to meet this challenge with adequate support and resources.

We kindly urge the Toronto Police Services Board to consider the sustained budgetary needs of Toronto Police to ensure the continued safety of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Levy, Ph.D

Head of School

TanenbaumCHAT



JEFFREY ROSENTHAL
Chair of the Board
KEN TANENBAUM
Vice-Chair of the Board
ADAM MINSKY
President & CEO

UJA Federation of Toronto
Deputation to Toronto Police Services Board Budget Committee Meeting
August 27, 2024

Overview

Following the coordinated attack in Israel committed by Hamas on October 7th, UJA Federation Toronto has been on high alert to ensure the safety and security of Toronto's Jewish community. UJA Community Security deeply appreciates the ongoing support from our partners in law enforcement, including the Toronto Police Service (TPS).

In light of persistent threats to our community, we have called for an immediate, strong, and sustained deployment of police in Jewish neighbourhoods. We recognize that heightened community security and its budgetary impact are subject to review by the Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB). For this reason, we support a sustained increase in TPS resources to maintain public peace and order.

Project Resolute: Example of TPS Leadership and Resource Demands Post Oct-7

We wish to thank Toronto Police Service and their City-wide community engagement campaign, *Project Resolute*. The campaign underscores the need for dedicated resources to maintain local public safety in response to local events. According to the [Toronto Police Service 2023 Annual report](#) (page 65 PDF), the Service has managed/overseen more than 700 protests, demonstrations, and events, with an estimated cost of \$16.5 million. In total, the increased demand for policing has amounted to 16,200 hours of staff time.

We applaud the newly unveiled [TPSB Hate Crimes Dashboard](#), which includes all verified hate crime occurrences by date and allows for a retrospective analysis of hate crime data. The Dashboard's data presents a concerning trend of antisemitism in Toronto. As of [last report](#) (July 30 2024) hate crimes for religious bias represent an 86% increase over the previous year. Reports within the bias category "Jewish" are far greater than other bias category groups, with a total of 130 reported cases in 2023. According to Police Chief Demkiw's [remarks](#) to the TPSB in July 2024, antisemitism continues to account for more reported hate crimes than any other category. Of the 273 hate crimes so far in 2024, 45 per cent were antisemitic.

Preparing for Sustained Hate Crimes and Associated Demand on TPS Resources

Unfortunately, the scale and scope of threats to the Jewish community are expected to continue into the near future. Multiple synagogues, schools and other institutions in our community have been vandalized, threatened and targeted with gun violence.

Just last week, it was [reported](#) that over 100 synagogues, Jewish organizations and doctors in multiple cities across the country had received a bomb threat. Such threats are part of a global trend; last weekend a synagogue in southern France was targeted in a [terrorist attack](#).

For this reason, **we are calling for an immediate, strong, and sustained deployment of police in our Jewish community.** UJA Community Security continues to coordinate with our network of Jewish security officials across the community to provide guidance and reinforce vigilance at synagogues, day schools, JCCs, and other Jewish facilities.

But when it comes to keeping the community safe, there is nothing that can replace the role of a strong police presence. As we liaise with Toronto Police Service in the wake of these developments, we are urging *an immediate and sustained* deployment of officers throughout the community.

We are also calling for a sustained increase in police resources to protect our community. Law enforcement resources in Greater Toronto are immensely stretched in ordinary times, let alone in an environment of growing hate and extremism. We must give police the resources they need to address persistent threats to our local safety and security.

Conclusion

In the midst of current and emerging threats, we implore the Toronto Police Services Board to ensure the Toronto Police receive the budgetary support it needs to sustain its operations. The safety and security of our community relies upon your support.

Name: Heather Singer

Format: Written only

Plain text:

Dear members of the Toronto Police Services Board,

As a long standing resident of the Armour Heights community and a member of the Jewish faith I ask that you please continue to provide services that address the ongoing concerns of hatred that have targeted our neighbourhood.

As I'm sure you can imagine, our neighborhood, which is predominantly families with children still living at home, has incurred huge amounts of stress due to the distressing targeting of this purposeful hatred.

Additionally, as we are directly off the highway, our neighborhood is targeted for quick in and out crimes.

Please, the availability of the ability for rapid response to any type of disturbance or crime would be truly appreciated by us all.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration

Heather Singer and Family

Name: Raquel

Format: Written only

Plain text:

To The Budget Committee of the Toronto Police,

My name is Raquel, I am a resident in Armour Heights, I was born and raised in Toronto. I am a mother. I am a Jewish woman, I have two beautiful young children, the eldest a boy turning 4, the youngest a boy yet to be 5 months. The last ten months have been a disaster in Toronto. Our lives are threatened daily just for being born. Toronto used to be safe. A city I couldn't wait to raise my family in. Now I'm looking to other cities hoping my children won't be kidnapped, threatened and/or killed just for being Jewish or wearing a necklace. My 4 year old is attending summit elementary school. A Toronto public school, where he will be taught that everything he is, is wrong, because no one bothered vetting our history books with the teachers teaching them. That where he comes from is deemed as evil from people who have no problem threatening young children who think villains are made up in Spider-Man. We had to start telling my son 10 months ago, at the ripe age of 3 YEARS OLD, why people want us dead, (we still don't understand,) what scary people really do: storm bridges in our neighbourhood, Throw smoke bombs at our houses and his bedroom window, scream with megaphones for all of us to die in an intifada while covering up and hiding their faces. I have to tell him why synagogue used to be a place of peace, but during the next holidays, for him to keep his eyes open and stay close to mommy and daddy and that we will be standing by an emergency exit if we even go at all. But then, we cower if we don't. My sons are Canadians. 3rd generation, and born to an Canadian/Israeli father who has nothing to do with anything going on. Yet somehow we are pigeon held and scapegoated for people who aren't even Canadian. My grandparents and parents, helped build the foundation of our streets. Cutting or lowering police budgeting to protect us, spits in the faces of every Canadian before you. You hide behind the rhetoric of liberal unification. You're dividing us. Putting one against each other. The fact that this is even a question further shows the abhorrent leadership of this city; Turning our Canadian haven into Gotham City. Protect us. All of us. Fund the police. Give them the tools and resources they need to make our city great again. They need this. We need this. Our Police DESERVE BETTER. Lets go back to the days of children playing safely and carefree in the streets and out in the city. Not hiding and looking over their shoulders. We all want the same thing. To wake up everyday with our loved ones, go to work, come home. See our friends and family. Now I'm just agreeing and wanting for security cameras in my neighbourhood, hoping my car stays in the driveway, praying my doors aren't broken down, crossing my fingers no one drives by in a car threatening the very lives of my family. Constantly panicking when my phone rings that it's another friend who was targeted, or another Jewish day school, or another synagogue, or bakery, or coffee shop, or a restaurant, or a family having a picnic at a park, or a tunnel graffitied, or neighbour pushed then gaslit... I'm truly hoping you see my point. If you don't, you are lost and are a part of poisoning our city. If these words have any impact, let it be of someone who wants to believe in Toronto Police Again.

Name: Carl Sheldon Zeliger

Organization: Pride Of Israel Synagogue

Format: Written only

Plain text:

I am the Vice Chair of the Pride of Israel Synagogue in North York, Ontario, and make this written deputation on behalf of myself and our Synagogue.

I was born and raised in Toronto and I am 71 years old and have never witnessed the extent of the antisemitism that now exists in our community and since October 7, 2023. I never believed that I would see professors and lecturers in our schools of higher learning and protestors in our streets openly celebrating the cold-blooded murder of civilian men, women, and children, the rape of women, and hostage-taking. October 7th was the largest murder of Jews since the Holocaust.

The protests that erupted in Toronto included components of intimidation, harassment, vandalism, and obstruction directed at Jewish Canadians and their property. The Jewish community had reason to be worried. I unfortunately believe that initially, either as a function of motivation or resources, the Toronto Police Service was slow to act. For example, with numerous overpasses on the 401 Highway, protestors chose to close down an overpass leading to a largely Jewish neighborhood in what I believe was a clearly targeted antisemitic act of harassment and intimidation that was allowed to persist for weeks before the Police acted to restore the functioning of this roadway. Masked protestors obstructing roadways were permitted to behave unlawfully. I believe the failure of both politicians and the police to act more definitively and earlier further emboldened the protestors. We have seen more dangerous acts of antisemitism such as shots fired at a religious girls' school, and the vandalism of Jewish schools, institutions, and Synagogues.

On June 30, 2024, my Synagogue, the Pride of Israel Synagogue, was vandalized in what the police consider a suspected hate crime. The perpetrator at about 2:30 am on that date demolished two large glass panels above the main entrance to our Synagogue by hurling two rocks and then damaged a stained glass window by throwing stones through it and into our sanctuary. He attempted more damage to our Synagogue and then traveled to another Synagogue on Bayview Avenue in North York to vandalize that Synagogue. That Synagogue has now since October 7th faced acts of vandalism five times.

We have, however, noticed a much-needed and appreciated meaningful change in the level of Police involvement over the last number of months. On the Walk For Israel on June 9, 2024, and other rallies I have attended, although protestors did threaten and attempt to intimidate us, the police with a significant show of force were able to keep the protestors in check and ensure our safety. This is not easy when emotions can rise and the Toronto Police Service is to be commended.

In response to the vandalism of our Synagogue on June 30th, we organized our event at our Synagogue, on July 31, 2024, An Evening of Solidarity Against Hate, to make it clear that desecrating a house of worship in Canada could never be justified, nor can the beliefs of its congregants justify such vandalism.

The event attracted numerous speakers including government officials from all levels of government, and Police Inspector Desrochers. Over 1,000 attended the event. The way the Toronto Police Service assisted with security at our event was thorough, thoughtful, efficient, and effective. Protestors on Synagogue property bent on disrupting the event and preventing attendees from entering our Synagogue were removed from blocking the steps and metal detectors. Outside, protestors and counter-protestors were kept apart by a well-prepared professional police force.

On two occasions on weekdays over the last two weeks, I dropped by my Synagogue and found police cruisers in our parking lot. Just this last Saturday, during our Sabbath morning services, an officer parked his vehicle in front of the Synagogue and kindly and thoughtfully came in to inquire as to whether we had any concerns. We have learned that not only are Police at 32 Division asked to drive by our Synagogue periodically but they on occasion walk around the Synagogue to test whether the doors are locked. We have a great deal of praise for the way the Toronto Police Service is now trying to assist us. Their actions are preventative and reassuring. It is unfortunately needed during this horrendous upswing in acts of antisemitism.

I understand that the resources now provided by the Toronto Police Service that impact us are significant but I would on behalf of our Synagogue implore you to continue to maintain a high level of support to assist during these difficult times.

Carl Zeliger

Vice Chair
Pride of Israel Synagogue
59 Lissom Crescent
North York, Ontario

Name: Ryla Braemer

Organization: Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

Format: Written only

Dear Toronto Police Services Board,

On behalf of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Center (MNjcc), we are writing to urgently request your support for the allocation of continued resources for Toronto Police to meet current and emerging needs.

Over the past few months, there have been rallies and protests outside of the MNjcc that have escalated to disruptive levels, posing a significant security risk to those utilizing our facilities. There were also incidents of antisemitic and hostile graffiti on and around our building. These incidents have caused fear and concern among our community members, especially during events such as religious services, school activities, daycare provision and fitness and cultural events.

As the Jewish community centre in the heart of downtown, MNjcc serves as a vital hub for the Jewish and broader downtown community, creating a space of belonging, diversity, and inclusion. We bring people together to participate in various activities including education, recreation, and religious observances. The unique location of the MNjcc and our diverse population of members, patrons and partners provide unique challenges and opportunities that all necessitate ensuring everyone is safe and secure while utilizing our services. We believe that the cooperation and support of Toronto Police Services is critical to our ability to operate – with sensitivity and awareness- during these difficult times.

We acknowledge the challenges and sensitivities surrounding police-community relations, but we firmly believe that a cooperative effort with the Toronto Police Services is essential to address the security threats we currently face. By working together, we can ensure the protection of our community members and uphold the values of safety, inclusivity, and respect.

We kindly urge the Toronto Police Services Board to consider budgetary needs and respond accordingly.

With thanks,

Ryla Braemer
Executive Director, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre