



## PUBLIC REPORT

**April 9, 2025**

**To:** Members  
Toronto Police Service Board

**From:** Councillor Shelley Carroll  
Chair

**Subject:** **Authorization for the Chief to Participate in Government Advocacy on Towing Industry Matters**

**Purpose:**  Information Purposes Only  Seeking Decision

### **Recommendation(s):**

This report recommends that the Board authorize the Chief of Police, in consultation with the Chair, to engage with the Government of Ontario to promote policies that enhance public safety through changes to provincial laws, regulations, and operational policies and procedures related to the towing industry.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report

### **Discussion:**

The tow truck industry provides a valuable service to motorists in distress. Tow truck operators commonly work in dangerous conditions near live traffic in all weather and at all times of day. In cities like Toronto, tow trucks have been highly regulated for decades and the vast majority of operators are ethical, law-abiding citizens. However, over the years there have also been bad actors within the industry who have engaged in criminal activity that harms the public through unethical business practices that lead to violence that has hurt and killed innocent people.

In 2024, tow truck-related violence was a significant public safety issue. The Toronto Police Service reported that of 461 total shootings and gun discharges in the city, 63 were related to the towing industry. In response to that violence, TPS launched Project

Beacon, which resulted in four arrests and 177 charges last August related to 12 tow truck-related shootings. So far in 2025, 25% of all shootings and gun discharges are related to the towing industry. TPS's Project Dodger was launched in January to build on the success of Project Beacon as the Service continues to combat towing industry violence.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Government of Ontario assumed responsibility from municipalities for regulating the towing industry across the province. While TPS continues to investigate criminality within this industry, the Service also has valuable insights to provide provincial policymakers who are looking at opportunities to improve towing industry laws, regulations, and operating policies and procedures to advance public safety and consumer protection.

Based on the recommendations contained in Justice John Morden's 2012 independent review of certain policing matters, it is the Board's role to authorize the Chief of Police to engage in public policy advocacy.

### **Conclusion:**

It is, therefore, recommended that the Board authorize the Chief of Police, in consultation with the Chair, to engage with the Government of Ontario to promote policies that enhance public safety through changes to provincial laws, regulations, and operational policies and procedures related to the towing industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Carroll  
Chair