

July 9, 2020

Dear Toronto Police Service Board,

Re: Town Hall Meetings to address Reform of the Toronto Police Services

Thank you for holding these Town Hall meetings. I will try to be brief in addressing my concerns.

1. TPS needs to be held financially accountable for the tax-payers dollars spent on their service. I recognize that in some instances, such as payment made to CIs that this would not be possible since listing your informants and the amount paid to them would put them at risk, but I do believe that there needs to be financial accountability.
2. I agree with the calls for a mental health unit to respond to calls for mental distress. However, there needs to be recognition that there are persons who “play games” and abuse the system in order to drive neighbours out of an area, just so it is only their “community” living in a certain area. These persons are more than familiar with how to use coded phrases that are meant to trigger an unjustified police response. Mental health issues should be dealt with mental health teams which I feel that police should be a part of only in the case of the person being armed with guns. Perhaps TPS could look at Sweden’s response and work with EMS to formulate something similar.
https://apolitical.co/en/solution_article/worlds-first-mental-health-ambulance-arrives-sweden?share=copy&uuid=article
3. Police abuse of powers need to be addressed and taken seriously. On Feb 14, 2018 I sat at 55 Division and listened to an OPP Officer admit that the Officer and their fellow officers had been harassing my family since 2013 with an “open investigation” in which the officer admitted to having various “neighbours help out”. I have seen this OPP Officer here on my landlord’s property and the officer’s various “informants” in tow for the past two years. The OIPRD Investigator admitted that it was not an investigation directed by the OPP but by the officers themselves and their “friends”. When my son was badly beaten at his elementary school by another student who was wearing a cast who had been threatening my child verbally and on the premises of my building for the two months prior, your officer who responded - the next day of the incident - waved away what I had to say and simply stated “I am going to listen to what the teacher has to say in the matter and what you have to say about it means nothing since you are nothing”. The TPS Officer then went into the office of the Principal and then started bragging about how he knows the Ford family and how important he is. My child required medical attention. My child was repeatedly punched in the head, back and kicked in the stomach. My child was walking away from the aggressor when the other child attacked. No ambulance was called by the school. I did not find out my child had been brutally beaten until an hour later when I called the school to find out where my child was since they hadn’t arrived home. Your officers not only did not respond, but were completely disrespectful and did nothing. The child who assaulted my child has been bragging since the incident about how they have “cop friends” and how their “neighbour made sure I

could get away with it by coaching me and my mom for months before it happened”. Not only was your officer biased before approaching the scene, but the admittance by the child that the scenario was completely set-up and done with the intent to cause bodily harm to my child which the police would disregard because “we are all friends and set the autism kid up. His Mom needed to be put in her place”. The abuse of power here is disturbing. A police officer is sworn to serve and protect. Did you protect my child’s rights by failing to respond until the next day and only if we met at the school where I understand a coaching session occurred prior to my arrival? Did you serve in the interest of the community by failing to attend the school immediately upon the abuse being reported? My child suffered for weeks afterwards with a sore back and headaches and as a direct result was not able to perform as well as they could have in various activities. There needs to be a mechanism that snaps into place the instant a child beats another child using a weapon. Why did the principal not call TPS immediately about the assault? The cast on that child’s hand was a weapon. It was aggravated assault, which was planned in advance. I am still waiting for an explanation. And as you can tell, I obviously haven’t “learned my place”.

4. Police need to stop sharing their locations with members of the public. Last night a member of the public knew your parking attendants would be arriving to monitor our street. This member received a phone call and then called his friend to move their vehicle prior to parking enforcement arriving. This is not the first time we have seen this individual have knowledge of police activity in the area where they receive a phone call and tell their friends to “scatter” just minutes before an officer arrives. However it is happening, the sharing of privileged information, such as police vehicle movements and investigations need to not be shared with members of the public. I do not care if they are friends or if it is a way to pay off a confidential informant. It places the community at risk of further abuse, harassment and intimidation because they know where and when you, TPS are, and can control a neighborhood because they have “cop friends” who will help them out.
5. Residential Zones, such as has been established in Miami Beach, need to be made here in Toronto. I would highly recommend transforming the area of Danforth to Main to O’Connor to Victoria Park as such a zone. The Airbnb and short term rental market are not only putting unnecessary demands on police resources and time to respond to crime committed by persons for criminal activity, but it would free up police resources to focus on more positive community engagement - bbqs, fun fairs, etc - all things that police participated in when I was a child. Perhaps other communities could look at establishing these kinds of programs. I have attached the map of Miami Beach which clearly outlines where short term rentals may be.
<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Short-Term-Rentals-3.pdf>
6. I disagree with cutting the police budget. Instead, I would recommend further training of police officers to be part of the TPS mandate. A well trained officer equipped with knowledge and an understanding of the community they serve without bias would be invaluable. This is what TPS should strive for every time they respond to a call. To serve the community without bias or prejudice.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Prinsen