

Recently Approved Base Budget and 2006 Proposed Enhancements to Initiatives Supporting Community Safety

Issue / Background:

The City of Toronto is taking a comprehensive approach to promoting community safety. The approach combines law enforcement and intervention and the prevention initiatives which are part of the Community Safety Plan. In addition, there are a number of other initiatives benefiting children and youth which directly contribute to community well-being and enhanced public safety. This note outlines initiatives under the Community Safety Plan which have either been approved in 2005 by Council or are proposed or requested as enhancements as part of the 2006 budget process. Most of these enhancements are targeted to the 13 priority neighbourhoods identified in the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy with particular focus on the seven Community safety areas.

Community safety is a key component of one of Council's nine priorities for the 2004-06 term: Strengthen our at-risk neighbourhoods, to achieve:

- the right balance between prevention and response to neighbourhood problems
- improved services and programs for youth
- improved community safety

Key Points:

2005-06 Base Budget Enhancements

Toronto Community Housing Corporation: \$10 million expenditure including video surveillance, landscaping and lighting, extra security, employment programs and youth leadership programs.

Social Development, Finance and Administration:

- Service Development grants of \$215,000 to six agencies in priority neighbourhoods
- \$124,400 from the Youth Justice Renewal Fund to the City of Toronto for a community-based post-charge program, called the YouthAction project in Scarborough [still to be confirmed by Council].

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

- \$875,000 in City of Toronto Homeless Initiatives Fund and Off the Streets Into Shelter Funds to support the continuation of three youth pre-employment training programs: Get in Gear Project (\$350,000), Malvern Youth Community Employment Program (\$350,000) and Jane and Finch Retail Training Project (\$175,000).

Toronto Police Service: In 2005, Council approved the hiring of 250 new police officers all of whom would be deployed by May 2007.

2006 Proposed Base Budget Enhancements

Children's Services: 1,810 new child care spaces in 41 expansion sites in priority neighbourhoods from provincial Best Start funding of \$18 million for 2005 and 2006.

Children's Services/ Parks, Forestry and Recreation: 3,600 after-school childcare spaces in 2006 enabling 360 youth employment opportunities (\$3.7 million from social assistance stabilization reserve fund).

Social Development, Finance and Administration:

- \$312,500 to establish a Community Crisis Response Team to intervene when a violent incident results in crisis or trauma in a specific neighbourhood or community and provide immediate mobilization and coordination of City resources; working with other community based service providers, the police and community leaders. The team would also work with Human Resources to provide appropriate training and protocols for City staff.
- \$425,600 to expand Neighbourhood Action work to six additional priority communities. Community development supports are required to coordinate City and community activity and to provide outreach, support and engagement with local residents in vulnerable communities. This work will result in new service partnerships both within and outside the corporation, working at the neighbourhood level.
- \$175,000 to develop a youth outreach program for young people who are involved or at high-risk of involvement with the gang culture to assist this target group to access alternatives including employment, education and other social supports to help them disengage with gangs.
- Federal funding of \$1.9M for YELL (Youth Employment & Local Leadership) program.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation:

- \$5.923 million to offset the provision of recreation services to children and youth in the City's vulnerable neighborhoods, including:
 - \$1.89 million for programming in Priority Centres in priority neighbourhoods
 - \$1.5 million (net) for programming for Non-Priority Centres in priority neighbourhoods
 - \$2.1 million to implement the Youth Outreach Strategy
 - \$401,464 broadly allocated to Priority Centres

The proposed enhancements to Social Development and Parks Forestry and Recreation base budgets (above) would be funded through resources that have become available as a result of a change in the funding arrangement for Public Health. The provincial-municipal funding ratio in 2006 will increase to 65:35, freeing up resources for investment in other City programs which promote health, well-being and safety.

2006 Budget Requests

Toronto Public Health: Budget request includes \$963,900 (net) for enhanced service to priority neighbourhoods including two additional sexual health clinics, increased community crisis response capacity, substance abuse prevention for youth, teen prenatal and parenting programs, and an improved ratio for public health nurses in schools.

Toronto Public Library: Budget request includes \$575,500 to strengthen services in vulnerable neighbourhoods by increasing hours of operation, supporting strategic community development activities and establishing a reading services specialist.

Toronto Police Service: Budget request includes \$1.9 million (net) for the hiring of 150 new police officers. (NB: In January 2006, the Government of Ontario announced an additional \$5 million in funding for the TPS).

Toronto Transit Commission: Budget request of \$556,100 to hire 21 new special constables in 2006.

Summary of New and Proposed Safety Initiatives

Program Area	2005-06 Base Enhancements	2006 Proposed Base Enhancements	2006 Budget Requests
Parks, Forestry & Recreation		5,923,000	
Children's Services		18,000,000	
Children's Services/PF&R		3,700,000	
TCHC	10,000,000		
Social Development	339,400	2,813,000	
Public Health			963,900
Shelter, Support	875,000		
Toronto Public Library			575,500
Toronto Police Service			1,900,000
Toronto Transit Commission			556,100
Total	\$11,214,400	\$30,436,000	\$3,995,500