



Community Safety Advisory Sub-Committee

931 Yonge Street,
Toronto, M4W 2H2

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The Community Safety Advisory Sub-Committee (“CSAC”) of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (“TCHC”) held a hybrid Public meeting on September 29, 2023, via Webex and in-person at City Hall, Committee Room 1, 100 Queen Street West, commencing at 9:50 a.m.

CSAC Directors Present: Councillor Paula Fletcher (Chair)
Debbie Douglas
Ubah Farah

CSAC Directors Absent: Marcel Charlebois

Management Present: Tom Hunter, Interim President & Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”)
Nadia Gouveia, Acting Chief Operating Officer (“COO”)
Darragh Meagher, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Jessica Hawes, Acting Chief Development Officer (“CDO”)
Barbara Shulman, Chief People & Culture Officer
Allen Murray, Vice President, Facilities Management
Paula Knight, Vice President, Strategic Planning & Communications
Arsema Berhane, Acting Director, Programs & Partnerships
Allan Britton, Acting Senior Director, Community Safety Unit
Mona Bottoni, Acting Senior Manager, Corporate Services, Community Safety Unit

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(“CSU”)
 Ceilidh Wilson, Assistant Corporate Secretary

A quorum being present, Councillor Fletcher, serving as Chair, called the meeting to order, and Ms. Wilson served as recording secretary.

ITEM 1 CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the Acknowledgement of the Land. The Chair also gave special recognition for Orange Shirt Day, a Canadian holiday to recognize of the legacy of the Canadian residential school system, and encouraged everyone to take part in the event happening at Nathan Phillips Square.

DEPUTATIONS

The Chair polled for any deputations to be heard at the meeting. The following verbal deputations were presented:

- Item 6 – Violence Reduction Program (*Miguel Avila-Velarde*)

The following written deputation was received:

- Item 6 – Violence Reduction Program (*Miguel Avila-Velarde*)

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Farah and carried, the CSAC unanimously approved the Agenda for its Public meeting of September 29, 2023.

ITEM 3 CHAIR’S POLL RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair requested members of the CSAC to indicate any agenda item in which they had a conflict of interest, together with the nature of the interest.
No conflicts were declared.

**ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF CSAC PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF
March 8, 2023**

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Farah and carried, the CSAC confirmed the above-captioned minutes as amended.

**ITEM 5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
AND ACTION ITEMS UPDATE**

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms. Farah, seconded by Ms. Douglas and carried, the CSAC received the updates provided as Business Arising from the Public Meeting Minutes and Action Items Update.

**ITEM 6 VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAM
UPDATE – Q1 & Q2 2023** CSAC:2023-10

The above-captioned report was circulated to CSAC members prior to the meeting.

A verbal deputation was received from Miguel Avila-Velarde with respect to this item.

A written deputation was received from Miguel Avila-Velarde with respect to this item and was circulated to the CSAC.

Mr. Britton, Ms. Berhane, Ms. Bottoni and Ms. Gouveia were available to answer questions of the Sub-Committee. Highlights of the discussion include:

- With respect to calls for service, there was a notable increase in Q1 and Q2 2023 when compared to Q4 2022. The increase in Q1 2023 can be attributed to the higher number of calls related to Trespass to Property, Parking, Neighbour Disputes, and Cause Disturbance/ Loitering incidents. The increase in Q2 2023 was due to calls for Parking, Check Welfare, Theft and Cause Disturbance incidents.
- The Community Safety Unit (“CSU”) Violence Reduction Program (“VRP”) team is closely monitoring these trends, and working with the

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- community partners to address underlying issues and reduce the need for Toronto Police Service (“TPS”) involvement and intervention.
- For crimes against persons, there was an increase in both Q1 and Q2 2023 when compared to Q4 2022. The increase in Q1 2023 can be attributed to reported assaults and sexual assaults incidents. There was also a decrease in assault with weapon incidents as well as an 11% decrease in serious violent incidents. In Q2 2023, the increase was due to the rise in reported assaults, assaults with weapons and sexual assaults incidents. There was also a decrease in discharged firearms by two incidents.
 - Many of the sexual assault incidents occurred in units with known offenders, and the incidents took place throughout the city. Once a matter is categorized as a sexual assault, CSU immediately contacts TPS, who send out their own trained investigators. CSU then assists and shares information with TPS related to the matter. With consent of the victims, Tenant Access & Support staff will engage with the victims and/or their families to make the relevant referrals to third party social service organizations, including crisis centers. TCHC Community Service Coordinators (“CSC”) work with the communities and would be aware of both the local health centers and crisis centers available to support victims.
 - For crimes against property, there was an increase in Q1 and Q2 2023 compared to Q4 2022. The Q1 2023 increase was due to reported mischiefs, thefts, breaking and enter incidents, whereas in Q2 2023, there was rise in reported thefts and mischief incidents.
 - The overall increases in crimes against persons and properties in 2023 can be attributed to a greater number of people being outdoors after the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to an increase in anti-social behaviour.
 - CSU is currently working on providing accurate data related to shooting incidents in VRP communities and hoping to report back to the Sub-Committee in Q1 2024. TPS is currently facing operational demands and has not been able to allocate resources to this effort. CSU continues to collaborate with TPS and the City of Toronto (the “City”) to create more accurate, streamlined shooting incidents data.
 - Programs & Partnerships staff continue to collaborate with CSU and coordinate efforts between internal staff and partners at the City, TPS, and other community agencies.

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- With respect to the 600 turkeys donated to TCHC for holiday meals, the donor initially contacted a Community Safety Advisor (“CSA”), who in turn coordinated efforts to distribute the donations to the appropriate units within TCHC communities.
- CSAs, non-sworn members of the CSU, are responsible conducting safety audits and perform safety work after a crime occurs, including working closely work with affected families.
- It was noted that CSAC is looking at options for a community development model rather than a strictly enforcement model to address the needs of tenants.

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms. Douglas, seconded by Ms. Farah and carried, the CSAC received Report CSAC:2023-10, being the VRP Update report for the first and second quarters of 2023 for its information, and forwarded it to the TSC for its information.

TERMINATION

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Ms. Farah and seconded by Ms. Douglas. The CSAC resolved to terminate the public meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Secretary

Chair, Community Safety Advisory
Sub-Committee