

RETHINK POLICING

Working together for community safety

DRAFT OF EMAIL TO CITY COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor:

We are writing to urge you to take action on community safety at upcoming Council votes this winter. We need to invest in communities, not expand policing.

It was an exciting moment last February when City Council unanimously adopted a motion to immediately begin developing a more extensive and systematic multi-year plan to reassign interventions with vulnerable people from the police to more appropriate local services.

In the intervening several months, some high-level discussions about ways to implement pilots have not yet resulted in a detailed multi-year approach. This January and February, during the vital budget discussions, we want to see a recommitment to building a coherent plan to expand non-police responses and adopt a strategy and timeline for engaging the community.

The Rethink Policing initiative, based on Toronto Neighbourhood Centres' **Reimagining Community Safety – A Step Forward for Toronto**, has a clear call to action: redirect policing resources to non-policing alternatives in four key areas: youth and those experiencing homelessness, mental health crises and gender-based violence. Proven community-based responses, services and supports are the right answer.

We ask you to continue to carefully examine the alternative options available through the Police Reform Unit and SafeTO: A Community Safety & Well-Being Plan. We ask you to assess the proven strategies that work, broaden the conversation with your colleagues and make the bold decisions that are needed in December and going forward. Let's keep the promise.