

August 6, 2019

Dear Neighbours,

Over the weekend, two shootings took place in our Liberty Village community – two of 14 shootings that took place across the city over the long weekend. Both of these incidents are still under active investigation. As the investigations continue, I am in regular contact with Toronto Police and will share any available updates with the community.

If you have any information that may be helpful for the investigation, please contact **Toronto Police 14 Division** at **416-808-1400** or contact **Crime Stoppers** anonymously at **416-222-TIPS (8477)**.

Incidents like this are extremely distressing, but can be especially traumatic when they happen so close to home. The City of Toronto's Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) has been mobilized to provide immediate and ongoing support for the community. This program works across Toronto providing support and resources to communities impacted by violent and traumatic events. CCRP staff will be in the neighbourhood over the coming days to connect community members with the appropriate resources and supports, and have prepared an outreach letter with information on how to contact them.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to connect with these resources, please contact Community Development Officer Stephanie Mazerolle from the CCRP at [Stephanie.Mazerolle@toronto.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Mazerolle@toronto.ca). Please feel free to contact my office at any time as well.

As we work to protect and comfort neighbours in the immediate aftermath of violence, our work to build stronger neighbourhoods long term must remain our focus. There is no single solution to addressing gun violence. We need to invest in our communities to prevent violence. Youth employment, strong mentorship, social development plans – all of these are part of building strong and safe neighbourhoods. We must continue to significantly increase investment in our Youth Violence Prevention Plan, Community Crisis Response Program, and community violence prevention programs. We must expand community-based enforcement, through programs like the Toronto Police Neighbourhood Officer program, which is set to be expanded into Liberty Village.

We need a comprehensive plan to combat the root causes of violence in our communities, but we also need to get handguns out of Toronto. Rigorous gun control is a critical part of addressing gun violence in our communities, and across our country. Toronto City Council has spoken out strongly in favour of a ban on handguns, and approved my request to call on the Federal Government to implement a handgun ban in Toronto. Every illegal gun begins as a legal one. Handguns represent an unacceptable risk to our communities. We need a national handgun ban.

We must continue the necessary work to keep our neighbourhood safe, as we have in the past. I know that our community will come through this incident both united and stronger. I will continue to share updates on these investigations, but please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to speak further.

Sincerely,



Joe Cressy  
City Councillor  
Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York