

February 1, 2020

Dear Neighbours,

Last night, a shooting incident occurred in CityPlace at 85 Queens Wharf Road. Toronto Police report that three men were killed and others were injured. It started inside a unit that was being rented through Airbnb. The incident is still under active investigation.

If you have any information that might be helpful to the investigation, please contact **Toronto Police at 416-808-2222** or **Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416 222 TIPS (8477)**.

Incidents like this are extremely distressing and 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 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 also remain in 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 need a comprehensive plan to combat the root causes of violence in our communities, and we also need to ban handguns right across this country. 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 complete handgun ban across Canada. Every illegal gun begins as a legal one. Handguns represent an unacceptable risk to our communities. We need a national handgun ban.

This brutal and traumatic incident also underscores the urgent need for proper regulation and oversight of short-term rentals including Airbnb. The increasing proliferation of "ghost hotels" in many of our neighbourhood's buildings – condo units purchased by investors and companies to operate as year-round permanent short-term rentals – creates issues of safety and liveability for the long-term residents who are trying to live their lives and raise families here. These kinds of short-term rentals also remove a large number of condo units from the housing market, increasing prices and rents for everyone else in the middle of a housing affordability crisis. I strongly support regulation of short-term rentals to ensure safety, liveability, and affordability.

Unfortunately, the regulations approved by City Council two years ago have been held up by a lengthy legal appeals process that is outside of the City's jurisdiction. While we wait for the completion of this legal process, City Council has called on AirBnb and other operators to immediately implement the city's rules, including de-listing all non-primary residence units. Absolutely nothing is stopping AirBnb from doing this today. They can and should.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cressy', with a long, sweeping underline.

Councillor Joe Cressy  
Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

416 392 4044

[councillor\\_cressy@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_cressy@toronto.ca)

[www.joecressy.com](http://www.joecressy.com)