

Ontario Association of Police Services Boards
180 Simcoe St, London, ON N6B 1H9
oapsb@oapsb.ca
1-800-831-7727

June 7, 2022,

The Honourable David Lametti
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
6023 Monk Blvd. Montréal, Quebec
H4E 3H5

The Honourable Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
Confederation Building, Suite 203
House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Lametti and Minister Mendicino:

RE: SUPPORT FOR REQUESTS BY TORONTO POLICE SERVICES BOARD RELATED TO FEDERAL BAIL REFORM

“The need for evidence-based bail reform”

Please accept this letter as formal endorsement by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, for the legislative proposals for bail reform advanced to you by the Toronto Police Services Board on May 25, 2022.

The requested legislative changes communicated to you by Toronto Police Services Board Chair Jim Hart and Executive Director Ryan Teschner are both thoughtful and measured. The comprehensive report provided to them by Chief of Police, James Ramer, outlined the significant collaborative initiatives within the city designed to prevent gun violence through proactive interventions and improved investigative outcomes. It also acknowledged the small portion of the population where proactive and early intervention strategies have proven to be unsuccessful in deterring their engagement in violent gun crimes. It is in response to this high-risk segment of the population that the Toronto Police Services Board seeks changes to federal legislation that would;

- Require that Bail Hearings for the most serious firearm offences be heard by a judge of the Ontario Court or Superior Court, clearly conveying Parliament’s view of the seriousness of these offences (and their impact on the public) as well as reflecting the views and concerns of the public about these incidents
- Add an additional route to First Degree Murder under Section 231 of the *Criminal Code*, by including death resulting from the discharge of a firearm in a congregate setting; this would act as a strong deterrent, clearly express society’s disapprobation of such conduct and help

- maintain public confidence in the justice system; and
- Increase parole ineligibility to 2/3 of an individual's custodial sentence, for any offence where the court finds that the offender discharged a firearm in a congregate setting (including those who are found to be parties to such offences).

We recognize that the complexities of the issues impacting community safety and wellbeing require a collaborative multi-sector commitment to be successful. This is no exception. Emergency services, community services, health services, local councils, provincial governments and the federal government need to recognize the crucial role each plays in the collective effort to make each of our communities safe.

Toronto Police Services Board is asking for this reform, because the tools currently available to the police and their partner agencies have been in-effective at preventing tragic events within the city. We applaud the Toronto Police Services Board and the Toronto Police Service for their leadership on this issue. This issue is not isolated to the City of Toronto, it impacts all communities.

As the leading voice for police governance in Ontario, we encourage you to prioritize the Toronto Police Services Boards proposed legislated changes related to Federal Bail Reform.

Yours truly,



Patrick Weaver
Chair, OAPSB



Lisa Darling
Executive Director, OAPSB

cc:

Deputy Minister Di Tommaso

Jamie McGarvey, President Association Municipalities Ontario (AMO)

Chief Nishan Duraipppah, President Ontario Association Chiefs of Police (OACP)

Jim Hart, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

Ryan Teschner, Executive Director and Chief of Staff, Toronto Police Services Board

Bill Clancy, Executive Director, Durham Regional Police Services Board

Jennifer Malloy, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG)

Board of Directors & Members Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB)