

**Councillor Case Ootes
Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West, Suite C45
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Phone: 416-392-4032
Email: councillor_ootes@toronto.ca**

July 7, 2006

Dear Ward 29 Resident,

Re: **Community Safety Meeting - July 6, 2006**

On July 6, 2006 I hosted a community safety meeting in Ward 29. In the latter part of June, two separate shooting incidents occurred in the Pape Avenue and Cosburn Avenue area.

I advertised the meeting to the community by way of 4,000 flyers delivered to area homes, a full-page advertisement in the June 30th edition of the East York Mirror, an e-bulletin to people who are on my office mailing list, flyers were posted at the East York Community Centre, and an electronic sign displayed the meeting information at Dieppe Park.

The meeting was well attended, and special guests included Inspector Tom Fitzgerald and Staff Sergeant Barry Legear, from Toronto Police Service, 54 Division.

Approximately one hundred and fifty people attended the meeting, including many community leaders and organization representatives:

- Faiza Ansari, Greektown on the Danforth Business Improvement Area
- Susette Clunis, Touchstone Youth Centre
- Angela Kennedy, Trustee, Toronto Catholic District School Board
- Dennis Merotto, Pape Neighbourhood Association
- Dan Shibata and Pauline Adams, East York Strategy
- Rita Smith, Pape Village Business Improvement Area
- Jennifer Story, on behalf of Jack Layton, M.P. Toronto Danforth
- Peter Tabuns, M.P.P. Toronto Danforth

Meeting attendees spoke about a variety of issues. Many people expressed the desire to become more involved with our community. I, along with the police, strongly encourage this, as a means to forming relationships with neighbours, and each of us doing our part to become a neighbourhood participant and ambassador, rather than mere observers. Increased community involvement is proven to assist in combating crime, and is a critical factor in the health and well-being of Ward 29.

When you suspect or see criminal activities, the police want to hear from you!

Toronto Police Service	Emergency	9-1-1
Toronto Police Service	Non-Emergency	416-808-2222
Toronto Police Service	54 Division	416-808-5400
Toronto Police Service	Staff Sergeant Barry Legear	416-808-5419
	Email: barry.legear@torontopolice.on.ca	

Please find out more about these organizations that work very hard to make our community a better place to live, work and play. They really want your help!

East York Strategy	website: www.eastyorkstrategy.com	416-425-9472
Pape Neighbourhood Association	Email: admerotto@rogers.com	
Pape Village Business Improvement Area	Email: ritasmithpic@bellnet.ca	
Touchstone Youth Centre	Susette Clunis Email: sclunis@touchstoneyc.com	416-696-6932 ext: 23
Toronto Crime Prevention Association (formerly Crime Concern)	website: www.cptoronto.org Email: office@cptoronto.org	416-225-1102

- Call to find out how to organize a Neighbourhood Watch group in your area.

I committed to contact the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, to urge them to leave their properties' lights on. Apparently, some school properties are no longer lit as a means of saving money. It is not appropriate to make budget cuts by turning off outdoor lighting on school properties.

I also committed that I will bring forward a petition, signed by area residents, requesting that Gamble Park be locked overnight, in an effort to prevent loitering.

Prior to my July 6th meeting, I attended a great community event at Bethany Baptist Church on June 29, and on June 28 I participated in a walk-about and spoke with business owners in the Pape/Cosburn area. However, long before the recent shooting incidents, I was actively working with the East York Strategy, the Pape Neighbourhood Association and the Pape Village Business Improvement Area, and attended a variety of meetings, focused on increasing neighbourhood participation and community awareness.

The recent crime incidents in our neighbourhood were unusual, and therefore of great concern to residents and businesses. However, we must keep in mind that our area is still a safe place, especially in the context of some other Toronto neighbourhoods. We absolutely want to make it better, and that can only happen if we help police, by helping ourselves. That means becoming involved and being active, rather than sitting on the sidelines, hoping that problems will go away, or hoping that others will deal with them.

I am a very proud supporter and champion of our East York community, and will continue to work with the various organizations mentioned above, and work with individual residents to improve our quality of life here in Ward 29.

Please contact me with any municipal issue or concern with which you require assistance.

Sincerely,



Councillor Case Ootes
Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth