



# Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative Community Newsletter

June 21 to July 5, 2010



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The 2010 Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative (NTI) commenced on May 24, as part of this initiative, ninety additional police officers and six support staff are assigned to three different neighbourhoods to conduct patrols and work together with the community – all in an effort to create sustainably, safe neighbourhoods.

The TAVIS officers will be focusing their efforts in the Albion-Finch (23 Division), Jane-Finch (31 Division) and the Scarborough Village (Markham-Eglinton: 43 Division) neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods were chosen using crime trend analysis, hotspot occurrence mapping and community consultation. The neighbourhoods were identified because they are experiencing a disproportionate level of criminal activity for their size.

This summer the TAVIS officers will be walking and cycling throughout the area:

- to intervene and prevent violence
- introducing themselves to neighbourhood residents and business owners
- participating in local activities and events
- expanding current relationships and partnerships and creating new ones
- providing the community with information about the TAVIS concept of policing
- working with citizens, the community, and the City of Toronto to mobilize the community with the goal of creating a safer neighbourhood



Due to the demands of the G20 Summit in Toronto, many units and subunits had limited TAVIS activity during this time period.

## Albion-Finch TAVIS Initiative

On July 2, TAVIS officers met with various community members regarding the Sunday, July 18 summer clean up program in the Pittsboro Drive and Orpington Crescent area, which will entail conducting a community clean-up, planting flowers and providing florescent light bulbs to residents with information regarding turning them on at night to increase safety in their neighbourhood. The light bulbs are being provided free of charge by Toronto Hydro in support of the *Light the Night* community safety program. Information will also be provided that explains the turning porch lights on between the hours of 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. will cost approximately one cent. Other items, such as tools, lawn mowers and shovels are being provided by Toronto Hydro and Home Depot.



On July 5, TAVIS officers organized a soccer game at Smithfield Park for youth ranging in age from 16 to 19 years.

## Jane-Finch TAVIS Initiative

On June 22, Inspector Tony Riviere participated in the Jane-Finch Neighbourhood Action Meeting at Firgrove Public School. The meeting was facilitated by the City Neighbourhood Action Team and TAVIS was one of the items discussed on the agenda.

On June 27, Inspector Tony Riviere conducted a presentation on TAVIS to the Jane-Finch Church Coalition (JFCC) at the Northminister Baptist Church. The JFCC is comprised of 12 different churches and is conveniently positioned to assist the police in enhancing the quality of life for Jane-Finch residents. The JFCC, 31 Division officers and TAVIS officers have been working together to build bridges in the community and assist in the ongoing transformation of the Jane-Finch neighbourhood.

Highly visible TAVIS patrols continued to develop community interest in the TAVIS initiative. TAVIS officers attended local plazas and community centres where they introduced themselves and explained the TAVIS initiative.

TAVIS officers participated in a community BBQ at the Northwood Park Community Centre. This BBQ was hosted by members of the Kenyan community. Officers explained TAVIS to the community members in attendance.

TAVIS officers attended the Canada Day celebration at Downsview Park that was attended by approximately nine thousand community members. The officers also attended a swearing in ceremony for the recently appointed Canadian citizens. Officers interacted with the attendees and numerous people praised police for their efforts during the G20 summit.



## Scarborough Village TAVIS Initiative

After returning from the G20 Summit, TAVIS officers resumed their efforts in educating local business owners and residents regarding the Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative. Officers handed out hundreds of TAVIS cards and pamphlets and engaged community members in meaningful discussions regarding the TAVIS initiative.

Initially, management at both 3420 and 3434 Eglinton Avenue East had decided not to open their outdoor swimming pools for the summer due to ongoing disorderly issues. Management at both buildings reconsidered and decided to open up their pools for the summer because of the constant TAVIS presence in the neighbourhood.

Positive aesthetic changes have taken place at 3190 Kingston Road. As a result of TAVIS officer suggestions, graffiti has been removed from the fence at the main entrance into the complex. Some graffiti still exists in other locations and follow-up with the Toronto Community Housing will be done in an effort to rid the area of all graffiti.

At 15 Cougar Court, TAVIS officers observed that numerous suggestions that had been made during previous weeks had been repaired, including potholes and the roof hatch. Other deficiencies still exist and officers will contact the apartment management to determine the repair timeline.

TAVIS officers patrolled 140 Adanac Drive and found that the apartment building lobby windows that previously had mirrored coverings, have since been removed. TAVIS officers had previously advised building management that the lack of visibility created by the window covering was a safety issue. Officers are responding to resident concerns regarding persons loitering in the building by conducting enhanced patrols.



## Other Toronto Police Service Units that are Supporting TAVIS

TAVIS is not solely supported by the ninety TAVIS officers; the Toronto Police Service has a wide variety of specialty support units. Although these specialty units are dealing with issues everywhere in the city, this summer they will be focusing extra attention in the Neighbourhood TAVIS initiative areas.



### **Police Dog Services**

The Police Dog Services unit assisted with several radio calls, conducted patrols and provided perimeter support during the execution of several search warrants in the Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative areas.



### **Street Sweeper Locates Stolen Cars**

The Parking Enforcement Unit has been utilizing Street Sweepers in the Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative areas. Street Sweeper vehicles are equipped with automatic number-plate recognition technology. This technology permits officers to patrol Toronto neighbourhoods while the street sweeper technology immediately identifies stolen vehicles.

### **Stolen Vehicles Recovered in Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative Divisions:**

23 Division:	6
31 Division:	6
43 Division:	3



## **tavis Toronto Anti-Violence Rapid Response Team**

### **Bail Violator Arrested**

A motorist was stopped by TAVIS officers after committing a traffic violation near Martin Grove Road and Eglinton Avenue West. The driver initially identified himself with his brother's identification. Further investigation revealed the driver's true identity and that he was violating his bail condition. The driver was arrested and charged failing to comply with his bail conditions and obstructing police.

### **Probation Violator Arrested**

The suspect was investigated near his Kipling Avenue residence and was found in possession of a knife. The suspect was currently on probation and one of his probation conditions was not to possess a weapon. As a result of suspect possessing the knife, he was arrested for failing to comply with probation conditions and charged accordingly.