



# Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative Community Newsletter

September 22, 2011



Follow TAVIS on TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/tavis\\_tps](http://www.twitter.com/tavis_tps)



Join TAVIS on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TAVISTPS>

The 2011 Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative (NTI) commenced on June 13. As part of this initiative, sixty-four additional police officers and three support staff were assigned to two different neighbourhoods to conduct patrols and work together with the community – all in an effort to create sustainable, safe neighbourhoods.

The TAVIS officers focused their efforts in the Weston-Mount Dennis (12 Division) and Eglinton East-Kennedy Park (41 & 43 Divisions) neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods were chosen using violent crime trend analysis, hotspot occurrence mapping and community consultation. The neighbourhoods were identified because they were experiencing a disproportionate level of criminal activity for their size.

TAVIS officers walked and cycled throughout the area and:

- intervened and prevented violence
- introduced themselves to neighbourhood residents and business owners
- participated in local activities and events
- expanded current relationships and partnerships and created new ones
- provided the community with information about the TAVIS concept of policing
- worked with citizens, the community, and the City of Toronto to mobilize the community with the goal of creating a safer neighbourhood

## Weston-Mount Dennis TAVIS Initiative

Officers conducted numerous follow ups to Liquor Licence inspections in the NTI area throughout the week in response to ongoing community complaints regarding the sale of liquor to minors, serving after hours and other related liquor offences. As a result of the follow up inspections, officers laid several charges under the Liquor Licence Act pertaining to establishments licensed to sell liquor.



Officers increased the focus of their bike patrol in between the buildings of Martha Eaton Way in response to recent complaints from the tenants of increased drug use and sales occurring in the stairwells. Officers were able to arrest a male for related drug offences in the area. The tenants of the buildings thanked the officers for their efforts as the male was being escorted out to a police car.

Officers participated in a graffiti eradication project at the rear of 30 Denarda Street, a Toronto Community Housing facility. The area of graffiti was approximately 6000 sq feet. With the help of Home Depot and Benjamin Moore, supplies and paint were

made available for the project. As a result, the area was greatly improved.

Members responded to ongoing complaints of drug use and after hours loitering in the parks and schools in the NTI area. Officers continued their patrols through those areas and investigated several people in relation to the complaints. Members arrested a male for drug offences as a result. Members of the community in these areas were extremely grateful to see the continued police presence and commitment to their complaints.

With the school year beginning, NTI officers attended the local schools as a deterrent for street robberies before school, during lunch break and after school. No incidents were reported to police and the students were grateful of the officers being in the area.

Officers attended the Weston Lions Park on a daily basis in response to the ongoing community complaints of drug use, drug trafficking, and liquor offences. Officers investigated and arrested several people in the park during the week, and by the end of the week, there were children playing in the park with their parents and teenagers playing frisbee and soccer with their friends. Parents and children both commented on how hard police have worked to remove the drug dealers and drug users from the park and how a child-friendly atmosphere has been created in a park that was previously plagued by drugs and crime.

The positive relationship formed between NTI officers and the Toronto District School Board allowed for new lines to be painted on the outdoor basketball court at the Frontlines Community Centre and at the rear of 5 Bellevue Crescent (Toronto Community Housing Property). TDSB supplied the materials, machinery and staff in order for this project to be completed. Several youth were seen using the newly painted courts following the work and thanked the officers and the TDSB employees for improving their play area.



Officers spoke with numerous local businesses throughout the week. Business owners were very happy with police because there are no longer patrons loitering in and around their establishments smoking or doing drugs. Customers have commented to these store owners that they now feel more confident and safe when entering the stores.

NTI officers attended the 12 Division CPLC meeting and discussed the NTI project. In addition, NTI officers attended the “All Candidates Meeting” at the Jane Street Hub. Unfortunately, the candidates cancelled prior to the meeting. However, officers stayed and mingled with community members and other attendees to discuss policing issues in the community.

During this two week period, 12 Division NTI officers spoke with almost 2400 community members, 150 city and community organizations and 190 local business employees.



## ARRESTS:

NTI officers were in Weston Lions Park for a festival and baseball tournament. While patrolling throughout the park, the officers observed several males sitting on the steps. A male was observed whom one of the NTI officers had dealings with a week prior and was known to be on bail conditions. The 23-year old male was on conditions to abstain from going within 500 metres of the area he was in. He was arrested and charged for breaching his bail conditions.

NTI officers attended a restaurant in the Black Creek Drive and Eglinton Avenue West for a Health Protection and Promotion Act. Officers entered the restaurant and while inspecting the establishment, they found a large bag of marihuana located in the kitchen on top of the garbage can. A small amount of cocaine and hashish was located as well. Close to \$1200 in cash was seized in addition to the 150 grams of marihuana. Officers arrested a 54 and a 47-year old male as well as a 43-year old female. All were charged with numerous drug possession and trafficking charges.

A suspect threw a water bottle at an NTI officer as the officer rode her bicycle near Weston Road and Ray Avenue. The suspect was arrested and during the arrest, she resisted the officers and was eventually restrained. The 24-year old female was charged with Assault and Assault with Intent to Resist Arrest.

## Eglinton East-Kennedy Park TAVIS Initiative

Officers chatted with members of the Gordonridge community and addressed several complaints within the complex. NTI officers paid extra attention to the Knobhill Plaza as there had been an observed increase in unruly activity in the area. Members of the community have also shown a great appreciation for the presence of officers.

NTI officers focused their attention on 31 Gilder Drive, performing a walkthrough and visiting with multiple community members from the building that they have met since starting the initiative.



Officers attended the Don Montgomery Arena and participated in an ice skating session with local senior citizens from the community and interacted with the children who were at hockey school.

Officers also spent time doing walkthroughs at 140 Adanac Drive due to information of increased drug activity and a rash of recent break and enters within the building.

NTI officers attended St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for the Police Appreciation Day. In attendance was the Chief of Police Bill Blair, Superintendent Fenton, Inspector Button and other members of the Toronto Police Service. Pastor Rev. Duncan Cameron conducted the morning service. After service, Chief Bill Blair did the honorary cutting of the cake

for Alzheimer awareness.

Community members of the Knobhill Plaza advised officers that the plaza property has seen a noticeable change in criminal activity since the beginning of the summer and were very grateful for the attention officers have given. Officers spent time attending various community agencies and presenting certificates of appreciation for their assistance in this summer's NTI.

During this two week period, 43 Division NTI officers spoke with almost 800 community members, 40 city and community organizations and 50 local business employees.





## **ARRESTS:**

While on patrol of the Knobhill Plaza NTI officers observed a known drug user loitering in the area. Investigation revealed the female to be violating the house arrest condition of her bail. The 42-year old female was arrested and charged for breaching her bail conditions.

NTI officers stopped a car for a Highway Traffic Act investigation near 2680 Eglinton Avenue East. Officers spoke with the male driver who verbally identified himself as the registered owner. The officers obtained information that the driver did not match the description of the registered owner. The male produced a university ID with a different name on it than what he initially told the officers. The 19-year old male was arrested for obstruct police and he was taken to 41 Division in order to confirm his identity. Upon further investigation, his true identity was revealed and it was neither of the two names he provided. He was discovered to have several outstanding warrants for charges including Sexual Assault, Sexual Interference, 6 counts of Fail to Comply with Probation and Fail to Appear in Court.

NTI officers investigated a male loitering at Brimley Road and Eglinton Avenue East. Further investigation revealed the 25-year old male was before the courts on a number of drug charges with conditions. One of the conditions was to obey a curfew (that he happened to be breaching at the time of investigation). He was subsequently arrested and charged.

A driver was stopped for a Highway Traffic Act investigation by NTI officers near Midland Avenue and Eglinton Avenue East. Further investigation revealed that the 42-year old female was currently on bail, with a condition of house arrest. Officers noticed a large bag of new clothing in the vehicle and questioned the driver about it. She could not provide details about its purchase or produce a receipt. The driver also had wire cutters in her purse after it had been searched incident to arrest. The property was seized and she was charged accordingly.

## Conclusion of 2011 Neighbourhood TAVIS Initiative

Officers attended their respective NTI neighbourhoods and spoke to residents, business owners and community groups in regards to the TAVIS Exit Strategy. Members of the community were advised that the relationships established throughout the NTI program over the summer period will continue to grow. Community members were also advised that their continued support, initiative and leadership in the community is critical to the ongoing success of the NTI program, and to maintain the improvements established over the summer. Community members were advised to maintain contact with officers as officers will be out in their neighbourhoods working hard to ensure they are vibrant and safe places to live, work and play! Residents and business owners were encouraged to follow regular TAVIS updates via social media on Facebook @ [TAVISTPS](#) and Twitter @ [TAVIS\\_TPS](#).

