

Mayor Jim Watson
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1J1

Via email: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Dear Mayor Watson,

At the December general meeting of the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA), representatives adopted the following motion:

“that the FCA write to the mayor, members of the Ottawa Police Services Board, and chief of Police to ask that they help make publicly available comprehensive crime statistics at the neighbourhood-level.”

The motion was introduced by representatives from the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) who are engaged in the development of a crime prevention strategy for their community. They have determined that the current means of reporting and releasing crime statistics in Ottawa is not detailed enough to allow communities to understand crime patterns in their neighbourhoods. To overcome this, the LCA suggest making available five years of crime data for each neighbourhood in Ottawa, broken down by month, type of crime and time of day.

The representatives from the other communities in attendance at the meeting agreed that being better informed of the nature and patterns of crime in their neighbourhoods would provide a significant public good that would benefit all communities. Providing a clear overview of crime patterns by neighbourhood would provide community associations, neighbourhood watch groups, and other interested stakeholders with the information needed to have an informed, evidence-based dialogue on crime prevention and crime fighting strategies in their community.

We understand that the Ottawa Police Services will soon present a new IT Roadmap strategy, which we hope will allow the public to obtain a much clearer understanding of crime patterns in their community. Currently, Ottawa ranks poorly compared to other large Canadian cities in this regard. Making detailed crime data publicly available would be consistent with a current term of council priority to “increase the percentage of open data sets available to the public”.

Representatives from the LCA would be pleased to provide City Council with more information on this topic and make themselves available to do a short presentation.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Sealey, 2 January, 2016
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c.c. Ottawa City Council