



June 10, 2021

Superintendent Bryan Bott
32 Division Toronto Police Service
30 Eglerslie Avenue
Toronto, ON
M2N 1X8

Superintendent Bott:

Subject: Auto Theft – Bedford Park-Nortown Neighbourhood

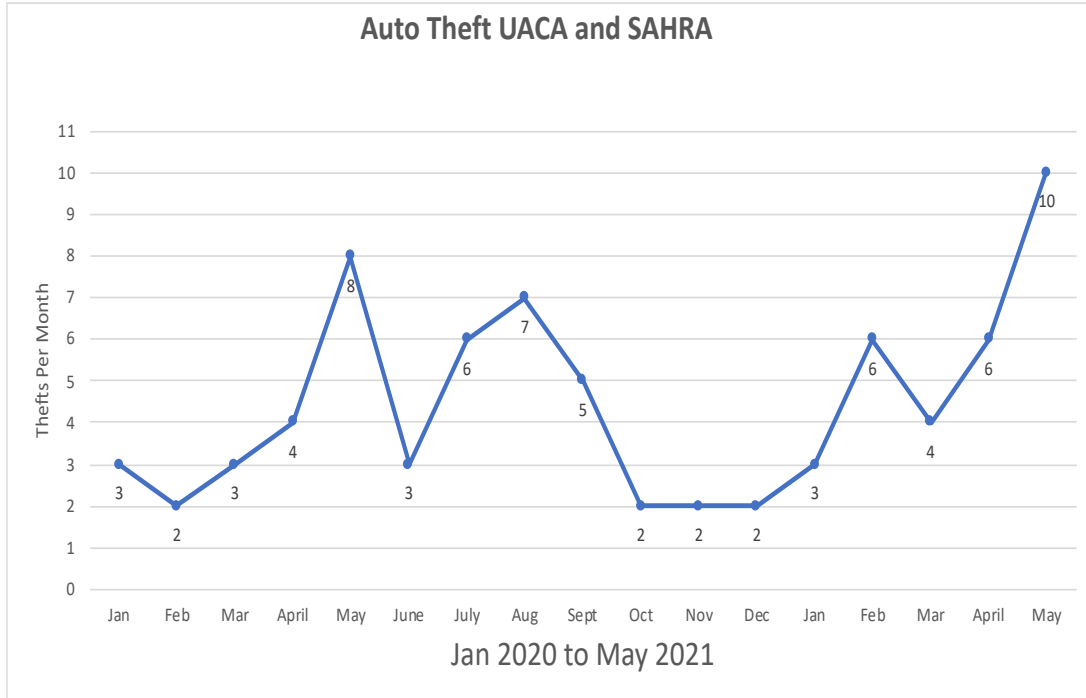
We had the opportunity to meet in person at a Community Police Liaison Committee meeting when you joined 32 Division early in 2019. To reintroduce ourselves, we represent the residents of most of the Bedford Park-Nortown Neighbourhood (BPN) in Toronto through the South Armour Heights Residents' Association and the Upper Avenue Community Association. One of our mandates is to monitor crime data and report to residents in the area. Our two resident associations represent approximately 3500 homes in the BPN area. The two key areas of concern in our area are B&E's and Auto theft.

We initiated our Safety Committee in late 2018 due to the high volume of B&E's we were seeing in the area. As part of our Committee launch, we began analysing all crime data for the area and held a community-wide meeting to increase awareness using TPS data showing the major crime indicators. We are very happy to report that B&E's have continued a downward decline since their peak in 2017 and we attribute a break-through in B&E reduction to a focused TPS team working solely on B&E's in 2018. The data speaks for itself indicating a high of 65 in 2017 to 11 in 2020.

In 2019, we began seeing a significant uptrend in auto theft. We realize this issue is a city-wide problem, if not nation-wide. There are areas of the city however that are being impacted more severely than others. BPN is one of them. To provide a picture of what we are seeing, the chart below shows the thefts by month and the significant upward trajectory we are seeing.

The annual increase is alarming:

<u>Year</u>	<u># Thefts</u>
2019	36
2020	47
2021	70 estimated based on the first 5 months in 2021



You will note on the graph, that during the months of Oct/Nov/Dec 2020, we experienced significant relief in auto theft. We attribute this to the excellent work done by the cross divisional Auto Suppression Team (AST). The focused team's work and the positive results were almost immediate. We saw the same impact with B&E's in 2018.

Data mining is only useful if it is used. The purpose of our letter is three-fold:

1. We would like to formally request that the AST be rejuvenated.
2. If that is not possible, publish a list of specific corrective actions of what is being done to address the auto theft issue in our area.
3. Follow up to ensure that the auto theft rates are being positively impacted.

Our Committee has now begun to monitor thefts on a daily basis due to the alarming rate of activity. SAHRA had 5 thefts in the span of a week during the month of May. On a monthly basis we communicate to our members encouraging preventive measures as provided by TPS and the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

We would appreciate your response to our requests. If a teleconference would be helpful, please let us know. Your response by June 30, 2021 is requested.

Regards,

Pam Main
Upper Avenue Community Assoc.

Jim Sadler
South Armour Heights Residents Assoc.

Cc: Councillor Mike Colle, Ward 8 City of Toronto