

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: September 18, 2008

SUBJECT: OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY 2008 MID-YEAR REPORT

INFORMATION ITEM:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report for information.

FUNDING

No funding implications.

BACKGROUND

On August 19, 1998, the Commission approved Oleoresin Capsicum spray as a use of force option for TTC Transit Special Constables on a one-year trial basis. The Commission authorized permanent issuance on May 8, 2000. To reduce the risk of cross contamination associated with the enclosed environment and air flow issues, Transit Special Constables were issued an oleoresin capsicum product that emits a foam stream rather than an aerosol. Consistent with Toronto Police Service policy and the Provincial Use of Force Model, TTC policy authorizes Transit Special Constables to use Oleoresin Capsicum foam as a use of a force option to:

- prevent being overpowered when violently attacked;
- prevent a person from being taken from their custody or from escaping custody;
- disarm an apparently dangerous person armed with an offensive weapon;
- control a violent situation when other use of force alternatives are not viable;
- for any other lawful and justifiable purpose.

DISCUSSION

As reflected in the table below, there were six (6) incidents involving usage of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray between January 1 and June 30, 2008. Each incident was reported to the Toronto Police Service, and has been reviewed by Special Constable Services' management and training personnel to ensure all policies and procedures have been complied with, and the usage was justified.

OC INCIDENTS					
	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 RD QUARTER	4 TH QUARTER	TOTAL
2008	2	4	N/A	N/A	6
2007	1	0	2	2	5
2006	3	2	6	4	15
2005	1	2	3	3	9
2004	3	3	1	2	9
2003	2	3	0	5	10
2002	1	2	3	1	7
2001	3	1	0	1	5
2000	2	4	2	1	9
1999	N/A	N/A	6	4	10

JUSTIFICATION

Transit Special Constables continue to exercise discretion and good judgement in their use of force options. The use of Oleoresin Capsicum spray as a force option will continue to reduce the risk of injury to patrons, Transit Special Constables and suspects.

August 7, 2008
28-20
Attachments