

January 13, 2009

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young  
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Copper Theft at Exhibition Place**

Summary:

This report responds to a question raised by the Board concerning the level of grounds security and patrol by Exhibition Place Security Services as they relate to the specific theft of copper at Exhibition Place. Exhibition Place staff will bring forward to the Board for its information a full report on the five-year security plan for grounds surveillance for its information.

**Recommendation:**

**This report is submitted for the information of the Board.**

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to this report.

Decision History:

At its meeting of December 10, 2008, the Board requested that staff report to the next meeting on the role of Exhibition Place Security and issues related to theft of these copper fascia and other similar thefts at Exhibition Place buildings.

Issue Background:

Exhibition Place, like many places in Toronto, has experienced some incidents of theft of copper fascia or other copper products (ie copper electrical wire). The reason for this is the high value that copper can demand in the marketplace. The high number of thefts across Toronto has caused the Police Department to establish a special unit that investigates these types of incidents. PC Bateman in the Toronto Police Services Major Crimes Unit is the officer in charge and Exhibition Place Security Supervisor has contacted this unit, provided information on the thefts and received advice on directions to take.

Comments:

The first theft at Exhibition Place occurred on or about April 15, 2008 when copper flashing was stolen from parts of the Horse Palace Building roof. This incident was reported to the Toronto Police Services and Security Services increased patrols of the Horse Palace; reviewing all access points to the Horse Palace roof and taking further action to secure them from entry; and mounting additional video surveillance cameras to provide a view of the Horse Palace roof which video is both monitored by a security officer and recorded in real time continuously. There

was no further activities concerning thefts until June 11, 2008 when the theft of copper lights from the Centennial Square Fountain was discovered. Again, the incident was reported to the Toronto Police Department. For both of these thefts, insurance claims were submitted and Exhibition Place will be receiving the full cost of replacement of these losses from the insurer.

On November 3, 2008, Exhibition Place Security Services investigated a report of missing copper flashing from the Gossip Restaurant and again, this incident was reported to the Toronto Police Services. The security service provider for Gossip reviewed their own video surveillance records and produced an image of a suspected individual but it was not clear enough to identify the suspect. On November 4, 2008 Security Services responded to a call from Gossip regarding a theft in progress. Toronto Police Services were called and they apprehended the individual fleeing the scene along Lakeshore Boulevard. The incident was followed up with the Toronto Polices Services and the individual, well known to Police 51 Division, pleaded guilty to multiple charges relating to these thefts. It was determined that the individual involved was neither a current nor previous Exhibition Place employee.

As stated above, because of the high value of copper in the marketplace, theft of this and other precious metals is extremely high across the City. After the first occurrence on the grounds, Exhibition Security Services alerted all officers to be more aware and vigilant when checking the grounds, especially on the night shift when the thefts are most likely to occur. However, while Security Services increased its patrols of the specific areas, Exhibition Place did not increase the number of officers scheduled at night.

Typically, for the shift 12 midnight to 8 a.m., Security Services has 5 security officers on duty. Of these, two are assigned strictly to the Direct Energy Centre – one on patrol, one in the Control Room. The other three Officers work out of the General Services Building – a Control Room Officer, a Senior Officer and a patrol Officer. In addition to patrols, these last two officers are responsible for responding to calls for assistance from staff / tenants / vendors, alarms and any report of suspicious activity across the grounds. Depending upon activity at BMO Field and / or Ricoh Coliseum, security officers may be in attendance up to two hours for those specific sites. In addition to our standard operating procedures of a detailed patrol including perimeter check, door "rattles" and flash light inspection of each building once per shift, after the copper thefts occurred Security Services increased patrols of these areas.

Finally, while Exhibition Place Security Services will notify tenants if they notice some issues around a tenants building or in the vicinity, there is no obligation in any of the tenant leases to provide any type of security or security patrols of tenant's properties. In fact, during lease negotiations Exhibition Place was always firm in its position that each tenant must supply its own security to the extent it believes is necessary in order to avoid a substantial liability to the Board.

Contact:

Sandy Douglas Director HR, Security, OH&S

Telephone: 416-263-3233

Fax: 416-263-3690

Email: [sdouglas@explace.on.ca](mailto:sdouglas@explace.on.ca)

Submitted by:

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Dianne Young  
Chief Executive Officer