



The Ottawa Police Services Board



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Councillor
Eli El-Chantry



VICE CHAIR
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MEMBER
Councillor
Jan Harder



MEMBER
Carl Nicholson



MEMBER
L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood



MEMBER
Councillor
Tim Tierney



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the June 2016 issue of the Ottawa Police Services Board's newsletter - a vehicle for sharing information about the work of the Police Services Board. Additional information about the Board is available on the [website](#). In this issue:

- New start time for Board Meetings
- Board Committee meetings to be advertised
- Board Chair Elected President of Provincial Association
- Member Nicholson Re-appointed to Board
- 2015 OPS Annual Report
- Reports Recently Received by the Board.

Eli El-Chantry, Chair

NOTICE:

STARTING WITH THE JULY 25TH MEETING
THE BOARD'S REGULAR MEETINGS
WILL BEGIN AT **4 P.M.** INSTEAD OF 5 P.M.
For a complete list of Board meetings visit the [website](#).

BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO BE ADVERTISED

At its June 27th meeting the Police Services Board voted to begin advertising meetings of its four committees. Meetings of the Board have always been advertised and held in public, with agenda material and minutes publicly available. Members of the public have always been welcome to attend and speak at Board meetings on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board also has four committees (Complaints, Finance and Audit, Human Resources, and Policy & Governance) comprised of three members each that meet as required. They have no decision-making authority. The Board had been following common practices among police services boards with regard to these committee meetings in that they were not advertised. As a result of recent questions, the Board undertook a review of procedures related to these meetings.



The Board believes it is important that the public see that civilian governance is happening. Therefore, in the interests of openness and transparency the Board approved that committee meetings will be advertised, committee chairs will report to the Board at regular board meetings on matters discussed; and minutes of committee minutes will be included on Board meeting agendas for information. Matters discussed at the committees will continue to be submitted to the Board for consideration. For information about upcoming meetings, visit the [Board's website](#).

BOARD CHAIR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION



The Ottawa Police Services Board is pleased to announce that its Chair, Councillor Eli El-Chantiry, was elected President of the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) at the association's Annual General Meeting on May 13th in Niagara Falls. Chair El-Chantiry was Vice President of the OAPSB's Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 term. He also previously served on the OAPSB Board in 2005-2006 and in 2007-2008. Upon being elected, Chair El-Chantiry stated, "I am honoured to be elected by my colleagues to lead the OAPSB and I look forward to continuing the important work that is already underway to modernize the Province's *Police Services Act* and improve policing in our communities."

Councillor El-Chantiry has been a member of the Ottawa Police Services Board from January 2003 to the present, with a six-month break in service between January and June 2007. He served as Chair from October 2005 to December 2006, and from January 2009 to the present. During his years on the Police Services Board, Councillor El-Chantiry has been a leader in advocacy with the Provincial Government, including calling for changes to the *Police Services Act* with regard to the police arbitration process, suspension of officers with pay when they have been charged with serious criminal offences, and the need for sustainability of policing to address escalating costs.

MEMBER NICHOLSON RE-APPOINTED TO BOARD



Board member Carl Nicholson, first appointed to the Police Services Board in September 2010, has been re-appointed for a further two year term by Order-in-Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. His term now expires on 14 September 2018.

Mr. Nicholson has been Executive Director of the Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI) since 1994 as well as Executive Director of the Catholic Immigration Centre Foundation since 1996. Carl has extensive experience on boards and other governance organizations in the Not for Profit sector generally and the Immigrant Serving sector in particular.

Carl has been recognized several times for his contributions to the community. In 2004 he was given the 'Investing in People Award' by the Community Foundation of Ottawa; in 2003 he was recognized by United Way Centraide Ottawa with a 'Community Builder Award' as part of the partnership Local Agencies Serving Immigrants (LASI). In 2007 he was presented with the Lignum Vitae award by

the National Institute of Jamaican Canadians. In 2008 he was recognized by the Social Planning Council of Ottawa with the Marion Dewar Defender of the Public Good award and in January 2011, he was the recipient of the Ottawa Community Leadership Award bestowed by the 'Dreamkeepers' in honour of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was inducted into the Order of Ottawa in 2013.

Board Chair Eli El-Chantiry stated, "All of us on the Board are delighted that we will be able to continue working with Carl. He brings invaluable insight and wisdom to our discussions, and is a strong and dedicated contributor to the Board and the community."

Stated Nicholson, "I am very pleased to be given this additional chance to be of service. Another two year term will give me the opportunity to further deliver on the investment that our community and the Board have made in me."

2015 OPS ANNUAL REPORT

The Police Service released its 2015 Annual Report at the Board meeting on 27 June 2016. A range of performance figures and key statistics are presented, including use of force, public complaints, staff complement and the cost of policing. The inclusion of the *Crime, Police, and Traffic Statistics Report* -- citywide and by ward -- also provides residents and visitors with a better understanding of crime and road safety in Ottawa.

Highlights of the Crime, Police, and Traffic Statistics report:

- With approximately 31,100 reported *Criminal Code of Canada* offences (excluding traffic) in the City of Ottawa, the level of crime declined by -1% in the past year.
- The level of reported violent crime declined by 1% in 2015. However, the overall severity of violent crime increased by 7%, driven by increases in Attempted Murder, Robbery, Assaults, Sexual Violations and Abduction offences. The clearance rate for violent crime improved by 1% to 56%.
- After falling by more than 17% in the past five years, Ottawa's Crime Severity Index (CSI) rose by 3% last year. The violent crime CSI increased by 7% to 48.8, while the non violent crime CSI increased by 2% to 42.2.
- There were 7 homicides in 2015, all of which were solved. One historical case was also solved, bringing the clearance rate to 114%.
- The clearance rate for total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) remained constant in 2015 with 36% of all cases cleared by charge or cleared otherwise.
- In 2015 the volume of reported Non-Violent crime in Ottawa decreased 1%; driven by fewer Arson, Mischief and Theft under \$5000 offences. The clearance rate declined by less than 1% to 32%.
- The number of calls received and entered into the OPS dispatch system declined by -2% to almost 334,500. Mobile Response calls requiring an on scene police presence remained constant at 246,300.
- In 2015, the Victim Crisis Unit responded to 5,530 calls and supported more than 6,648 crisis and post-trauma interventions. This is a 79% increase over the calls for service supported in 2014 due mainly to a revised partnership agreement with Ottawa Victim Services.





The 2015 Annual Report is on the Ottawa Police Service [website](#).



REPORTS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

In the second quarter of 2016 the Board received the following reports that may be of interest to you; reports are available on the [Board's website](#):

- **Board Policy on Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances – Prohibitions and Duties** – At its June meeting, the Board approved a new policy required under Ontario Regulation 58/16 under the *Police Services Act* that provides rules for voluntary police-public interactions in certain circumstances (“regulated interactions”), designed to ensure the interactions are without bias or discrimination.
- **Professional Standards Section – 2015 Annual Report** - presented statistics on the number and type of complaints made by either the public or the Chief of Police about the conduct of police officers. It also presents statistics on complaints about policies or services provided by the OPS.
- **Annual Financial Report 2015** - presented the year-end financial position of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and outlines the operational issues that affected the Service’s finances in 2015. The results are subject to external audit.
- **Report on SIU Investigations** - Results of Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigations were reported to the Board.
- **Audit Plan 2016** – The Board approved the Service’s Audit Plan for 2016.
- **Byward Market Street Ambassador Program** - The Board received the 2015 Annual Report on the activities of the Street Ambassadors who work in the ByWard Market area each summer assisting the police and community in dealing with aggressive panhandlers and public drunkenness. They also provide assistance to tourists. The Board approved funding in the amount of \$10,000 towards the program's operation in 2016.
- **Semi Annual Report from National Capital Area Crime Stoppers** – Twice a year, the President of Crime Stoppers provides an update to the Board on the Program.
- **Information Management / Information Technology (IM/IT) Roadmap and Implementation Approach** – The Board approved a comprehensive Information Management/ Information Technology Roadmap and Implementation Plan for the OPS. This initiative is required to equip Ottawa Police Services with the necessary capabilities to continue to meet the needs of citizens and improve service delivery in an increasingly digital world.
- **Service Initiative Update** - The OPS launched the Service Initiative (SI) Program several years ago to enhance the sustainability of the OPS’ policing model. This report provided an update on progress and also announced a public consultation strategy to gather input from residents, partners, and stakeholders on what they value most about community policing.



- **Letters of Commendation** – Members of the Ottawa Police Service come into contact with residents of Ottawa and visitors on a daily basis, often going above and beyond the call of duty. When they do, the Chief and the Board like to know about it. Each month the Board receives a Commendation Report comprised of excerpts from letters commending Ottawa Police members for their assistance in a time of need or for their personal contributions beyond the call of duty.

The following second quarter 2016 reports were received:

- **Financial Status Report** – the quarterly financial report summarizes the current financial position of the organization. Currently, a balanced position is projected by year-end.
- **Workforce Management Report** – presents statistical information on workforce activities such as hiring, retirements, resignations and promotions.
- **Complaints Report** – Part V, *Police Services Act* – presents statistics on conduct complaints made by the public and the Chief of Police, as well as policy and service complaints made by the public.
- **Legal Services Status Report** – includes statistical information and analysis of trends on variances against the approved budget, claims and actions against the Board, appeals and applications for judicial review, and any issues of significance the Board should be advised of.

The Ottawa Police Services Board is a civilian body established by provincial legislation that provides governance and oversight for the Ottawa Police Service. It is accountable to the Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services, and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. If you are interested in viewing past issues of the "Board Matters" newsletter or other information about the Ottawa Police Services Board, please visit www.ottawapoliceboard.ca.

The Police Services Board holds regular business meetings on the fourth Monday of each month except August (there is no meeting in August) and December (the meeting is on the 3rd Monday). There are other irregularities in 2016 due to civic holidays; please check the online schedule. All meetings are open to the public and take place at 4:00 p.m. in the Champlain Room, Ottawa City Hall. Members of the public are welcome to speak to any item on the agenda or can speak to an issue not on the agenda but of concern to them provided: at least one week's advance notice is provided, the matter is within the jurisdiction of the Board, and the Board Chair has consented to include the matter on the agenda. A complete schedule of meetings is available online.