



The Ottawa Police Services Board



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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the September 2015 issue of the Ottawa Police Services Board's quarterly newsletter - a vehicle for sharing information about the work of the Police Services Board. Additional information about the Board is available at [www.ottawapoliceboard.ca](http://www.ottawapoliceboard.ca). In this issue:

- Ottawa Police Service Gala
- Ottawa Police Service 2014 Annual Report
- Street Check Consultations
- OPS Business Plan Community Consultation
- Board Member Appointed to National Board
- Reports Recently Received by the Board.

Eli El-Chantiry, Chair

### OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE GALA

When: November 7  
Where: Shaw Centre

Since 2010 the Ottawa Police Service has proudly hosted an annual Ottawa Police Gala in support of local charities. In the last five years, over \$450,000 has been raised in support of some great causes such as Project S.T.E.P, the Ottawa Mission, the Youth Services Bureau, Christie Lake Kids and Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa. This year, the **Ottawa Food Bank** and the **Caring and Sharing Exchange** will be the beneficiaries of the proceeds.

Tickets are \$175 each and can be purchased through the [Ottawa Food Bank](http://www.ottawapoliceboard.ca) and [Caring and Sharing Exchange](http://www.ottawapoliceboard.ca) websites. The event is sure to be a sellout so get your tickets early! Additional info, including sponsorship opportunities, can be found on the [Ottawa Police website](http://www.ottawapoliceboard.ca).



## OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Police Service released its 2015 Annual Report at the Board meeting on 27 July 2015. 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 31,467 reported *Criminal Code of Canada* offences (excluding traffic) in the City of Ottawa, the level of crime declined by -2% in the past year or 721 fewer incidents.
- Ottawa's Crime Severity Index (CSI) declined by -30% over the last five years, falling by almost -8% last year alone. In 2014 the violent crime CSI fell -7% to 45, while the non violent crime CSI fell nearly -8% to 42.
- The level of violent crime declined by -3% in 2014 (-174 offences). Fewer assaults (-7%) and robberies (-23%) accounted for the majority of the overall decrease in this category.
- In 2014, there were 7 homicides, a -30% decrease over 2013, with the solvency rate for the most serious offence type of 71%.
- The solvency rate for total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic) fell slightly to 37% in 2014 just below the five year average of 38%.
- Property Crimes account for 66% of all reported crimes in the City. In 2014 the number of property offences declined by -2% (-530 incidents) while the solvency rate declined by -2 percentage points to 24%.
- The decline in non-violent offences was driven by fewer theft \$5,000 and under (3%) and break and enters offences (-8%) last year.

The [2014 Annual Report: A Year in Review](#) is available on the Ottawa Police Service website.

## STREET CHECK CONSULTATIONS

On June 16, 2015, the Ontario government announced it would begin public consultations during the summer as part of a plan to standardize Street Checks across the province. The aim is to establish rules around Street Checks to ensure these encounters are consistent, without bias, and carried out in a manner that promotes public confidence in order to maintain the use of a valuable tool for police.

The OPS was already engaged in an operational review of how Street Checks are performed prior to the provincial announcement. The OPS review, requested by the Board in January 2013, has included research and initial consultations with members of the public, academics, community organizations, members of the police service and other stakeholders to identify key issues. With the community engagement





- **Purchase of Night Vision Devices and Goggles** - The Board approved a request for this equipment for the OPS Tactical Unit. They are beneficial for use during low light or no light tactical operations where public and officer safety is at risk. Several reviews, including that of the shooting on Parliament Hill on October 22, identified a requirement for this type of capability.
- **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 2015 reports were received:

- **Board Monitoring Requirements Status Report: Second Quarter 2015** - An annual Calendar of Monitoring Requirements sets clear expectations for OPS staff and the Board with regard to when reports of a monitoring nature are due. It assists the Board in meeting its legislative obligations to monitor, on a regular basis, certain aspects of Police Service business such as the status of the budget, administration of the public complaints system, and the achievement of Business Plan objectives, as well as compliance monitoring required by several of the Ministry Policing Standards.
- **Performance Report** – the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) monitors and evaluates information on a variety of performance metrics, such as total calls for service, emergency response calls for service, response time on priority 1 calls, amount of time spent on calls, and the number of Criminal Code offences per sworn officer.
- **Financial Status Report** – the quarterly financial report summarizes the current financial position of the organization. Currently, a balanced position is projected by year-end. The second quarter report also included the 2014 Asset Management Report.
- **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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday). All meetings are open to the public and take place at 5:00 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 the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Board and they submit a written request at least one week in advance. A complete schedule of meetings is available [online](#).*