

JUNE 2011 Board Matters



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA

Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe

A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

The Ottawa Police Services Board:

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the June 2011 issue of the Ottawa Police Services Board's newsletter - a vehicle for sharing information and enhancing understanding about the work of the Police Services Board.

In this issue:

- public interest meeting on Community Solutions for Preventing Youth Crime
- Report on the Community / Police Awards Ceremony held on June 2nd;
- Reports recently received by the Board.

I hope you find the newsletter informative; additional information about the Board and its work is available online at www.ottawapoliceboard.ca.

Eli El-Chantiry, Chair

Next Police Services Board Meeting

Monday, July 25, 5:00 p.m.

Champlain Room, Ottawa City Hall

Agenda available July 22nd online at www.ottawapoliceboard.ca

PUBLIC INTEREST MEETING

Community Solutions For Preventing Youth Crime

On April 26, 2011 the Board hosted a public interest meeting on *Community Solutions for Preventing Youth Crime*, moderated by **Mr. Adrian Harewood** of CBC News. Guest speakers were **Imam Dr. Zijad Delic**, Muslim Care Centre, **Ms. Hawa Mohamed**, Somali Mothers Association, and **Staff Sergeant Steve Bell**, Ottawa Police Service.

The Ottawa Police Services Board is responsible for establishing policies and strategic priorities for the Police

Service, and for ensuring that adequate and effective police services are provided in the City of Ottawa. To fulfill these responsibilities it is important for the Board to hear about the community's concerns and ideas. One of the ways in which the Board obtains community input is through holding several public interest meetings each year. Input acquired at these meetings informs the Board's future policy-making and strategic priority-setting work.

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The goal of the meeting on April 26th was to identify, through dialogue, actions that various community members can take to help prevent young people, particularly new Canadians, from becoming involved in crime. Participants came to discuss what can be done individually and collaboratively to help young people develop into positive and productive community members instead of turning to crime.

There was consensus that there are many contributors who can play a role in helping young people avoid criminal activity and grow into responsible members of the community. Parents, youth, schools, religious organizations, police and service agencies can all play an important role in ensuring youth have the supports they need.

COMMUNITY / POLICE AWARDS CEREMONY

On June 2, 2011 Police Chief Vern White and the Ottawa Police Services Board hosted the 2011 Community / Police Awards Ceremony. **Certificates of Valour** were awarded to a total of 10 community members for an act of exceptional bravery performed in assistance to the Ottawa Police Service. The **Certificate of Merit** was presented to 7 members of the community for outstanding service in the community performed in assistance to the Police Service, and to one sworn member of the Police Service in recognition of an act of outstanding service in the community.

Thomas G. Flanagan, S.C. Scholarship Certificate

Since 1993, this scholarship certificate has been presented annually to a visible minority or Aboriginal woman who has expressed an interest in a policing career, to assist them in continuing their post-secondary education in a law-related field. This year's recipient was Ms. Alanna Mar. Information about how to apply for this annual scholarship award is on the Ottawa Police website.

RECENT REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

In the second quarter of 2011 the Board received the following reports that may be of interest to you; most reports are available on the Board's website (ottawapoliceboard.ca):

- **New Central Cellblock Video Surveillance System** - The Ottawa Police Service continues to implement a number of significant changes to cellblock operations. On May 2nd the Police Services Board approved a contract for the supply and installation of a digital video surveillance system for the Central Cellblock that will be fully integrated with the standard Integrated Security Management System

The evening concluded with agreement that we need to build on these conversations and construct ways to follow-up on the dialogue. The Board heard from the audience that we need to work together and involve both youth and school boards in further discussions. The Police Services Board and the Ottawa Police Service plan to hold a more comprehensive consultation in the fall addressing the needs of youth, with the involvement of the other stakeholders mentioned. A more detailed report on the meeting is available at www.ottawapoliceboard.ca.

Recognition of Former Members of the Police Services Board

Over the past few months, four members of the Police Services Board concluded their terms on the Board. Community members Des Doran and Diane Guilmet-Harris, and City Councillors Maria McRae and Bob Monette were recognized with the presentation of a small gift from Board Chair El-Chantiry and Chief White, in acknowledgement of their significant contribution to the community and the Ottawa Police Service.

Introduction of Spiritual Leaders

Chief White introduced the following 6 spiritual leaders who provide spiritual and emotional support to members of the Service and their families through the Chaplaincy/Spiritual Program: Rabbi Arnold Fine, Dr. Safaa Fouda, Reverend Canon Robert Heard, Ms. Jo MacQuarrie - Metis Elder, Father William Penney, and Mr. Baldev Singh Vij.

used by the City and OPS.

- **2010 Annual Financial Report** – presents the year-end financial position of the OPS and outlines operational issues that affected finances in 2010. The Service ended the year with an operating surplus of \$1.9 million due primarily to savings in retirement costs. In addition, the OPS received \$1.7 million from the City as its share of the tax account surplus in 2010. The surplus will be used to fund previously approved projects that are ineligible for debt financing.

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- **ICrime, Police and Traffic Statistics 2010 Annual Report** - contains more detailed statistical information than the OPS Annual Report released in March, allowing for city-wide and ward-by-ward comparisons. The information helps the Police and community to identify problem areas and target problem-solving efforts.
 - **Tenure Program 2010 Annual Report** – This report provides an overview of the design, governance structure and process for the Tenure Program introduced in 2009, as well as results in 2010. Tenure relates to the mandatory rotation of sworn personnel amongst various units after a specified time period, to meet current and future needs while enhancing support and supervision to a younger workforce.
 - **Presentation on the Auxiliary Policing Program** – Members of the OPS Auxiliary Police Program introduced in 2009 reported on their successes last year. On average, the Auxiliary members volunteered over 137 hours each month to their community and spent a total of 1,963 hours for all events and training in 2010. Their activities include: training, patrol “ride-alongs”, helping at community events and parades, Crime-Free Multi-Housing evaluations, car seat installations, and other activities. A report will be brought to the Board in the fall at the conclusion of the two-year pilot project.
 - **Byward Market Street Ambassador Program** - The Board received the 2010 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. At the same time, the Board approved funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the program's operation in 2011.
 - **Anti-Idling Initiative** – On May 25th a joint OPS / National Research Council (NRC) news conference was held to showcase new Idle Reduction technology being used by the OPS in a pilot project. Through a partnership with the NRC, the OPS is the first police service in Canada to develop and implement an idling reduction program at this level. Idle-Reduction technology will reduce carbon emissions, save on fuel costs and reduce vehicle maintenance costs. The average front-line patrol vehicle idles for two-thirds of each shift. Patrol cars run for three shifts per day, and at the current price of gas, that's a cost of \$60 a day or \$22,000 per year. At a cost of \$7,000, the new technology will pay for itself in 12 months assuming that idling drops by the initiative's goal of 40%. The OPS plans to install up to 30 units in 2011 and 2012, and increase this as the NRC develops and advances this technology.
 - **Crime Stoppers Statistics** – At the May 30th Board meeting, Chief White reported that in May 2011, 275 tips were received from Crime Stoppers which resulted in 23 arrests, 148 criminal charges and the resolution of 9 criminal cases. This resulted in the recovery of \$61,775 of drugs and \$1,700 in crime related property, 7 firearms plus 3 prohibited weapons and fines by the Ministry and By-law against 2 stores for illegal sales of tobacco. Information was received on drugs, thefts, arson, stolen vehicles, prostitution and a lot more. Crime Stoppers paid \$2,665 in rewards in May.
 - **Drug Unit Statistics** – Chief White reported that from December 2010 to April 2011, PROJECT BYPASS resulted in: \$11,000,975 worth of marijuana seized; \$500,000 in marijuana growing equipment seized; and over \$285,000 in currency seized.
 - **Professional Standards Section 2010 Annual Report (Complaints)**- 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 service provided by the OPS.
 - **2011 Audit Plan** – reported on progress in implementing the 2010 Audit Plan and identified the areas targeted for audits for 2011, including: evidence control (general), drugs (seized, recovered and found) and training requirements (value for money audit).
 - **Non-Succession Plan 2010 Annual Report:** This report outlined the steps the Police Service is taking to develop a succession planning strategy and policy, to ensure members are developed and ready to take on critical positions, particularly as high numbers of members retire over the years 2012 to 2016.
- The following first quarter 2011 reports were received:
- **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.
 - **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.

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- **Workforce Management Report** – presents statistical information on workforce activities such as hiring, retirements, resignations and promotions.
- **Employer of Choice Status Report** - the Ottawa Police Service is committed to being recognized as an Employer of Choice for All; this report provides an update on activities taking place to achieve that goal.
- **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.
- **Calendar of Board Monitoring Requirements for 2011** – This calendar lists all of the reports of a monitoring nature that must be submitted to the Board in 2011 and the months they are due, to ensure the Board is fulfilling its oversight responsibilities under the *Police Services Act* and its own policies.

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 community, 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 usually 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 some irregularities in 2011 – please check the online schedule for details. 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 they give at least one week's notice to Board staff. A complete schedule of meetings is available online.