# BoardMatters



A Newsletter from the Ottawa Police Services Board

September 2015

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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 <a href="https://www.ottawapoliceboard.ca">www.ottawapoliceboard.ca</a>. 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

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#### 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 Band** 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 and Caring and Sharing Exchange 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.



#### **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 <u>2014 Annual Report: A Year in Review</u> 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

sessions completed, the feedback has been compiled and submitted to the Ministry. The next phase of consultation will occur later this fall when draft provincial street check guidelines will be posted for feedback.

## OPS BUSINESS PLAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SAVE THE DATE

The Ottawa Police Service's 2016-2018 Business Plan will be the seventh in a series of business plans prepared under the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation 3/99, which states that police services boards in Ontario are required to prepare a business plan for its police force at least once every three years. While the OPS's core responsibilities continue to include responding to emergencies, enforcing the laws, investigating crime, maintaining public order and assisting victims, how these are achieved continues to evolve as new strategies are developed to meet the ever-changing needs of the community.



An interactive community consultation session to solicit public input on the draft Business Plan will be held on Thursday November 5th, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. More details to follow.

#### BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED TO NATIONAL BOARD

On August 28, 2015 the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) held their Annual General Meeting in Toronto and confirmed the appointment of its Board of Directors for the year 2015/2016. Ottawa Police Services Board Member L. A. (Sandy) Smallwood was re-appointed to the Board. This is Mr. Smallwood's second term serving on the CAPG Board of Directors and his first as Secretary.



#### REPORTS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

In the third quarter of 2015 the Board received the following reports that may be of interest to you; reports are available at <a href="https://www.ottawapoliceboard.ca">www.ottawapoliceboard.ca</a>:

• 2015 Public Survey Results - The 2015 Public Survey on Policing Services in the City of Ottawa is the seventh in a series of surveys conducted every three to four years since 1995 in which residents have been invited to provide their perceptions regarding: safety and security in neighbourhoods and across the City; police performance and confidence in the police; top concerns and priorities for the police; awareness, use and satisfaction with police programs and services; and victimization and police response. The information collected assists the OPS in its ongoing measurement of performance and identifies public concerns and opportunities for service improvement. It also guides the priorities and development of the strategic priorities for the upcoming 2016-2018 Business Plan.





- 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.

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.