



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 December 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:

- 2012 Board Meeting Schedule
- 2012 Police Budget Approved
- Board Chair & Police Chief Participate in Civil Liberties Panel
- Reports received by the Board in 3rd Quarter.

I hope you find the newsletter informative; additional information about the Board is available online at www.ottawapolicyboard.ca.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a joyful, safe and healthy Christmas season, and the very best in 2012.



Eli El-Chantiry, Chair

2012 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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). 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 can 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. Agendas are posted at www.ottawapoliceboard.ca the Friday before the meeting.

BOARD MEETING DATES

January 23

February 27

March 26

April 30

May 28

June 25

July 23

September 24

October 22

November 26

December 17

BOARD CHAIR AND POLICE CHIEF PARTICIPATE IN CIVIL LIBERTIES PANEL

On December 4, 2011 the Civil Liberties Association National Capital Region hosted a two-hour panel discussion on "Civil Rights & Liberties, Law Enforcement, Police Action and Police Conduct". Moderated by David Burton of the Civil Liberties Association, the panel featured Chief of Police Vern White, Police Services Board Chair Eli El-Chantiry, defense lawyer Lawrence Greenspon, Carleton University Criminology Professor Darryl Davies, Canadian Civil Liberties Association General Counsel Nathalie Des Rosiers, and University of Ottawa Legal Aid General Counsel Blair Crew. The Panel responded to questions such as:

- Should the police be allowing or facilitating peaceful demonstrations that are illegal, unlawful or breaking the law? Politically, should the Government allow or facilitate these types of demonstrations?
- Where does freedom of speech end and hate speech start, bearing in mind the importance of respecting everyone's civil liberties? What considerations should guide law enforcement officers in these situations?
- What would the best police oversight and accountability model look like?
- What is the difference between police discipline and performance management?

It was an interesting and dynamic discussion that provided a good opportunity to hear various viewpoints on important issues related to civil rights and policing, including police accountability and transparency, police training, and the impact that social problems such as mental health, addictions and homelessness are having on police. The well-attended session concluded with an opportunity for audience members to ask questions of the panellists.

2012 POLICE BUDGET APPROVED

The 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Police Service were approved by the Board on November 28th and by City Council on November 30th. The net operating budget of \$246.7 million and capital budget of \$10.7 million provide the resources necessary to fulfill the Service's responsibilities to the citizens of Ottawa and deliver the services that residents expect. The budget meets the 2.5% increase target set by City Council and the Police Services Board, and allows the Service to maintain services at existing levels. To achieve this target, no new officers will be hired in 2012 to meet growth in the City and initiatives contained in the Service's three-year Business Plan have been curtailed. Across-the-Service reductions and efficiencies in the amount of \$1.4 million were also found to help reach the 2.5% goal. The increase equates to approximately \$13 per year for the average urban residence.

REPORTS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

In the third quarter of 2011 the Board received the following reports that may be of interest to you; reports are available at www.ottawapoliceboard.ca:

- **Presentation of cheque to the Ottawa Mission** – Police Chief Vern White presented a cheque in the amount of \$90,000 to the Ottawa Mission; the funds were raised at the Second Annual OPS Gala on October 29th.
- **Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery** – The Service informed the Board of its plans for an OPS Cemetery located at Beechwood Cemetery next to the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery. Funding for the cemetery will be raised by the Ottawa Police Association and Senior Officers Association.
- **OPS Respectful Workplace Program** – Deborah Arenau, Manager, Respectful Workplace Program, made a presentation on the Service's Respectful Workplace Program launched in 2007 to help employees deal with situations of conflict. The program emphasizes prevention and deterrence of workplace harassment and discrimination.
- **OPS Mid-Term Strategic Review** – Prompted by the City's Strategic Planning Framework exercise, the OPS conducted a mid-term review of its own strategic priorities as captured in the 2010-2012 Plan for a Safer Ottawa, and outlined how they mesh with the City's priorities.
- **Community Police Centre Lease Renewals** – The Board approved lease renewals for community police centres on Somerset Avenue West (Centretown), Cedarwood Drive (South Ottawa), and Meadowlands Drive (Parkwood Hills).
- **Ontario Special Investigations Unit Reports** – The Board received several reports on the conclusions of SIU investigations into incidents involving Ottawa Police officers.
- **Safer Roads Ottawa Program** – The Board received a report from Deputy City Manager S. Kanellakos on the Safer Roads Ottawa Program and Action Plan for 2012-Beyond, a joint initiative of the City's emergency services, Ottawa Public Health and Ottawa Public Works Departments. The Program sets out 5 Emphasis Areas and 10 Focus Areas as priorities aimed at reducing fatalities and injuries on Ottawa roads.
- **Progress Report on OPS Anti-Idling Program** – Police provided an update on the Anti-Idling program introduced in 2009 aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing fuel consumption and increasing the overall lifespan of vehicles.

The following third quarter 2011 reports were received:

- **Financial Status Report** – the quarterly financial report summarizes the current financial position of the organization. A break-even financial position is forecast for 2011, as of the third quarter.
- **Performance Report** – the 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 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.
- **Legal Services Status Report** – Section 6.1 of the Board Policy on Legal Services stipulates that the Board Solicitor must submit a report to the Board that 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 about which the Board should be advised.
- **Workforce Management Report** – presents statistical information on workforce activities such as hiring, retirements, resignations and promotions.
- **Employer of Choice Report** - the Ottawa Police Service is committed to being recognized as an Employer of Choice for All; this report provided an update on activities taking place to achieve that goal in the second and third quarters of 2011.
- **Board Monitoring Requirements Status Report** – 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.

A Newsletter from the **Ottawa Police Services Board**

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