

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 20 October 2022

### **Ottawa Police Services Board to announce hiring of new Chief of Police**

Ottawa—The Ottawa Police Services Board will be announcing its selection of the new Chief of the Ottawa Police Service on Friday, October 21, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. The Board will be hosting a media availability via Zoom on Friday, where the Board Chair and the successful candidate will be taking questions from registered media. The Board had hoped to host the media availability in person however a positive Covid test has rendered this option not feasible.

**Event:** Media availability

**Date:** Friday, October 21, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 pm

Media interested in participating in the availability are required to **RSVP by 12 pm on Friday, October 21** with the Ottawa Police Media Relations Office at [media.relations@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:media.relations@ottawapolice.ca) in order to receive the Zoom meeting link and instructions. The media availability will be live streamed through the [Ottawa Police Service's YouTube channel](#).

The Zoom media availability will open at 1:55pm. Logins will close at 2:30pm.

The Board is aware that there are candidates in the Municipal Election suggesting that the recruitment process for a new Chief of Police should have been put on hold in order to allow the incoming Council to oversee the hiring of a new Chief by the Police Board.

The Board takes this opportunity to remind the candidates, and clarify for the public, that the Police Services Board is a distinct and separate body from City Council, created by s. 27(1) of the *Police Services Act*. The Board includes a majority of members who are not drawn from City Council. The *Municipal Act* also exempts or excludes a Police Services Board from control by City Council, including by way of a code of conduct or bylaws, etc.: *Municipal Act*, ss. 10(6)(d), 223.1, 238(1) and 269(a). Part of the statutory role of the Police Services Board (and not City Council) is to recruit and appoint the Chief of Police.

The candidates have requested the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) investigate the Board's decision to continue its recruitment of a new Chief of Police before the new term of Council. The candidates, and the public, should be aware that

the OCPC has already considered and confirmed the separate and distinct nature of a Board from City Council, stating that, “A PSB is not subservient to a municipal council. The Board is independent from City Council.” [Bennett (Re), 2014 ONCPC 2504 (CanLII)].

The practical implications of the candidates’ suggestion that the recruitment be held until the next term of Council would mean the Service would be without a permanent Chief of Police until next spring or perhaps later.

The Ottawa Police Service has been without a permanent Chief of Police since February of this year. Further, the entire Executive Command, with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer, are in acting positions. This has impacted the stability of the Police Service after an already challenging year.

The Board worked very hard over the last few months to hold a fair and thorough recruitment process to select the best candidate for the role of Chief of Police. The Board leveraged its collective experience and expertise to complete this process in time for the next iteration of the Board and position them for success as they undertake a recruitment process for a deputy chief, review and approve the 2023 budget, and develop a new strategic plan. The Board held a thorough and well-attended public consultation process which included over 1500 touchpoints with a diverse group of community members. The Board was also very proud to have selected a firm entirely run by racialized community members to design and implement the consultation strategy, helping to reach community members who are traditionally under-represented in consultation results.

The Board looks forward to making its announcement regarding the next Chief of the Ottawa Police Service on Friday.

*The Ottawa Police Services Board is the civilian body responsible for governing the Ottawa Police Service. It is responsible for ensuring the provision of adequate and effective police services to City of Ottawa residents.*

- 30 -

For additional information, please contact Krista Ferraro, Executive Director, Ottawa Police Services Board, at 580-2424, ext. 21618.