

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ottawa Police Service Board Appoints Habib Sayah as Executive Director

(Ottawa) — The Ottawa Police Service Board (OPSB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Habib Sayah as its new Executive Director effective January 1, 2025, following a rigorous and competitive recruitment process led by executive search firm Boyden.

“Mr. Sayah brings extensive governance knowledge and experience to the role of Executive Director” said Chair Salim Fakirani. “He demonstrated effective leadership, stepping into the Acting Executive Director role in June 2024 ensuring operational continuity and strengthening the Board’s governance capabilities.”

On behalf of the Ottawa Police Service Board, we look forward to the positive impact that Mr. Sayah’s experience and leadership will bring to the role of Executive Director and supporting the Board in its role as a civilian oversight body.

The Ottawa Police Service 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 the City of Ottawa’s residents.

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For additional information, please contact Habib Sayah, Executive Director, Ottawa Police Service Board, email: habib.sayah@ottawa.ca

Biography of Habib Sayah

Habib Sayah joined the Ottawa Police Service Board in May 2024 as its first Senior Policy Advisor, bringing a wealth of experience in governance, policy development, and institutional capacity building. In June 2024, he was appointed Acting Executive Director, where he led key initiatives to enhance the Board’s governance frameworks, including the development of the Board’s policy on external assistance in the provision of policing, while ensuring stability during a critical transitional period.

With a decade of experience advising governments and organizations, Mr. Sayah has contributed to governance reforms, public safety policies, and institutional capacity building. Prior to joining the Board office, his work as an international consultant included leading strategic planning processes, conducting comprehensive assessments of public safety institutions, and developing performance evaluation frameworks that

align police operations with human rights and democratic principles, often in democratic transitions or post-conflict contexts.

Mr. Sayah holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from the Department of War Studies at King's College London, where he graduated with distinction for his research on violent extremist mobilization in North Africa. He also earned a Master's Degree in International and Comparative Law from Sorbonne Law School. A Chevening Scholar and published author, he has contributed to research on security, resilience, and communications, and has delivered presentations at institutions such as NATO and the French Military School Strategic Research Institute (IRSEM).