

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Provincial Appointee Michael Polowin Sworn In as Member of the Ottawa Police Service Board**

(Ottawa) — The Ottawa Police Service Board welcomes the provincial appointment of Mr. Michael Polowin as a member of the Board for a period of three years. The appointment was made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on November 21, 2024, and Mr. Polowin was sworn in on December 13, 2024, by the Board Solicitor.

“As a lifelong resident of Ottawa, I come from a family that has always believed in giving back” stated Mr. Polowin. “Our Police Services are integral to our social fabric, and an opportunity to give back by helping to ensure that our citizens continue to have trust in our police is an opportunity to giving back to our City and its people is one that I look forward to. I am honoured to have been appointed, and look forward to working with the Board, and to the important challenge.”

“We are excited to have Michael Polowin join the Ottawa Police Service Board,” said Chair Fakirani. “Michael’s extensive expertise in municipal law and his long-standing commitment to community service will be tremendous assets to the Board. His leadership and insights will be invaluable as we work toward building trust and enhancing public safety for all residents of Ottawa.”

#### **Biography of Mr. Michael Polowin**

Michael Polowin was born at the Civic Hospital in Ottawa, to parents who were both immigrants, and has lived here all of his life, save for 3 years at law school in Toronto.

Michael is one of Ontario’s leading lawyers in municipal and real property law. An Ottawa-based Gowling WLG partner with 40 years’ experience, He provides strategic advice and representation to his clients in the areas of development, municipal and planning law, and commercial real property, through the full spectrum of the acquisition, financing and development process. He has acted for some of the largest companies in Canada and has worked on matters throughout Ontario, appearing in Court and at the Ontario Land Tribunal. Michael also has extensive experience in development-related agreements, including subdivision, cost-sharing agreements and expropriation matters. Michael has also acted on real estate and land use issues for companies in the cannabis industry.

Michael has degrees from the University of Ottawa, (Bachelor of Social Sciences, 1980) and from Osgoode Hall Law School, (LLB, 1983) and was called to the Bar in 1985. He

worked with the former firm of Goldberg Shinder for 2 years and Mitel Corporation for 4 years. He then joined the Ottawa office of McCarthy Tetrault for 14 years, where he was a partner, and has been a partner of Gowling WLG for 19 years.

He has been rated by The Best Lawyers in Canada in the areas of municipal law and real estate since 2010, and is named a leading practitioner in the area of property development by the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory. He has also been ranked by Chambers Global Practice Guide for Real Estate: zoning / land use, and is regularly featured in various publications, electronic media and Canadian newspapers, providing commentary on key municipal and planning issues.

He has written extensively on municipal and land planning law matters, and is the co author of Manual for Elected Municipal Officials – Ontario, a comprehensive reference tool for municipal council members to consult when issues arise in the course of their duties.

Michael greatly believes in giving back to the community. He is a member of the Ottawa chapter of the Building Owners and Managers Association, where he also serves as a member of the Government Affairs Committee. He is also a member of the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association, serving as a member of the Builder Developer Council, and the Urban Infill Committee.

He is extremely active in the community, sitting on the Boards of a number of charitable organizations and acting as a fundraiser for others. Michael served as Chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa from 2019 to 2021. For 10 years, he was the Chair of the Board of Directors for B'nai Brith of Ottawa; he was president of the Ontario Jewish Community School from 2017 to 2019, and Chair of the annual fundraising campaign for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa for 2016 and 2017.

He looks forward to giving back by service on the Ottawa Police Service Board, and to the important challenge.

*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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