

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 17 April 2021

Board Statement Regarding New Provincial Enforcement Measures to Support Public Health Orders

(Ottawa)— Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) Chair Diane Deans has concerns about the Province’s newly enacted policing authorities to enforce the Stay-at-Home measures.

“There is no evidence to suggest that expanding police enforcement will result in better health outcomes,” said Chair Deans.

The Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) has been assured that the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) will not be conducting random stops to assess if individuals are in compliance with the Stay-at-Home order. As a consequence, OPS will not be conducting vehicle or individual stops under the new COVID-19 restrictions.

The Board is acutely aware of public concern, and wants to reiterate that the OPS will not use their increased powers to further marginalize individuals most impacted by these updated restrictions.

The OPS’ enforcement of Covid-19 measures will be guided by public-health, reliant on a combination of education, engagement and enforcement.

The OPS are carefully reviewing the new authorities and will continue to work in support of and in coordination with Ottawa Public Health, City of Ottawa By-law and our municipal partners to address the rising risks associated to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The OPSB urges the Province to continue to focus on measures that promote better health outcomes and to take into consideration the impacts of any additional measures on the most vulnerable residents of our city.

The OPSB is committed to providing updates to the public as more information becomes available.

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

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