

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Board statement following the release of the Auditor General's report on the Ottawa Police Service's Response to the Convoy Protest – The Role of the OPSB**

(Ottawa) – Today the City of Ottawa's Auditor General presented two reports to the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) at a special meeting:

- Audit of the Ottawa Police Service's Response to the Convoy Protest – The Role of the OPSB
- Audit of the Ottawa Police Service's Response to the Convoy Protest – Collaboration with the City

The Board requested the assistance of the Auditor General (AG) in undertaking a review of the Ottawa Police Service's (OPS) response to the convoy protest in March of 2022. The Board is grateful that the AG accepted to undertake this review.

Through this review process, and specifically the audit pertaining to the OPSB, the Board was hoping to learn from the previous crisis and better understand what could have been done better and how.

The Board agrees with the AG's assessment that this was an unprecedented and rapidly evolving event that presented unique challenges for the previous Board.

The AG has provided the Board with 11 recommendations and the Board is in agreement with all of them. The Board has outlined concrete actions it will take, including specific timelines, to address each of the recommendations.

Receiving the final report and audit from the AG is an important first step however the Board has much work ahead in order to address the recommendations, and more importantly, ensure the Board is able to satisfy its mandate and oversight responsibilities. The Board recognizes that the recommendations are only as valuable as the steps we take to address them.

The Board is also looking forward to reviewing and considering the results of other important commissions and inquiries pertaining to the convoy, including the results of the Ottawa People's Commission as well as the Public Order Emergency Commission (POEC).

The illegal protest that occupied the streets of downtown Ottawa in early 2022 resulted in much harm to the residents and businesses of Ottawa and a loss of trust in a number of public institutions, including the Ottawa Police Services Board. The Board is

committed to taking actions to help restore that trust and ensure that what took place before does not occur again.

*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 the City of Ottawa's residents.*

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