

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 30 March 2020

### **ROBERT SWAITA APPOINTED TO OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

(Ottawa) – The Ottawa Police Services Board is pleased to welcome Mr. Robert Swaita as a new member of the Board. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario appointed Mr. Swaita for a three-year term, effective March 5, 2020.

Board members are required to take an oath or affirmation after they have been appointed. Typically, these oaths or affirmations are taken during our monthly Board meetings. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency, Mr. Swaita was sworn in privately the evening of March 20 so he could begin discharging his duties. He will be formally introduced at the Board's next public meeting.

#### **Biography of Robert Swaita**

Born and raised in Ottawa, Robert graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Commerce with options in Finance, Management Information Systems and Production and Operation Management. After graduating, Robert worked as a management consultant helping several clients with business process re-engineering, logistics and e-commerce. He travelled throughout North America working in various industries – postal, automotive, finance and government.

After a seven-year career as a management consultant, Robert returned to Ottawa and entered the hospitality industry and land development. Building on best practices he developed as a management consultant, Robert applied his knowledge in various commercial developments. This led him to become his own general contractor and entrepreneur. He has opened several businesses in the hospitality, property development/management, and film industry.

Robert has always had a strong passion for community involvement. As an executive on the Board of his church, Robert oversaw many initiatives that have helped raised money for his church, local charities and overseas humanitarian efforts. Most notably, for several years, Robert was the Chair of one of Ottawa's largest festivals, the Lebanese Fun Festival. Robert went on to be the Chair of The Dewaan Foundation, a local cultural philanthropy group that raises millions for organizations such as The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa Regional Cancer Society, Bruyère Continuing Care and many other local charities.

Robert's ongoing passion for community involvement led him to be a candidate for councillor in a municipal election. This was a very humbling experience for Robert as it

reaffirmed the importance of community involvement and the various struggles of our citizens.

As a son of immigrant parents who emigrated to Canada from Lebanon in search of a better life, Robert is grateful for the support that Canada has given his family and the support of the local Ottawa community. Robert is happily married with three children, raising his family in Ottawa.

*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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