



Office of the
Auditor General
City of Ottawa

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

February 9, 2023



Roles of the Ottawa Police Service and the City

- The OPS is a distinct organization that is separate from the City of Ottawa
- The OPS was the lead for the overall planning and response to the convoy protest. The priorities of the OPS, at the outset of the protest, included:
 - Traffic management; maintaining emergency routes;
 - Keeping peace and order; protecting monuments;
 - Addressing threatening and/or high-risk behaviours; and
 - Maintaining the safety of all individuals involved.
- The City's primary roles during the protest included:
 - Supporting the police in their protest preparedness and response activities; and
 - Overseeing and managing City service impacts resulting from the protest and mitigating impacts to residents, businesses and essential services.

Audit Objective and Scope



Objective

- To assess whether the collaboration between the OPS and the City of Ottawa in response to the convoy protest was timely and effective in supporting each organization's overall objectives.



Scope

- Because of other agencies performing a similar scope of work, our office chose to limit the scope of our OPS audit, to their collaboration with City of Ottawa staff prior to and during the convoy protest.

Findings

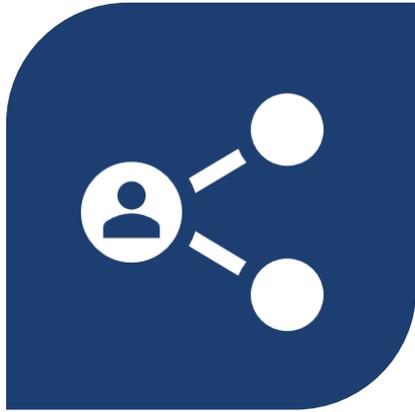


OPS did not consider the City's Office of Emergency Management as a prime partner in pre-planning



Intelligence shared by OPS with the City was insufficient; impacting the effectiveness of the City's planning

Findings



OPS did not consistently engage City resources in traffic management throughout the convoy protest

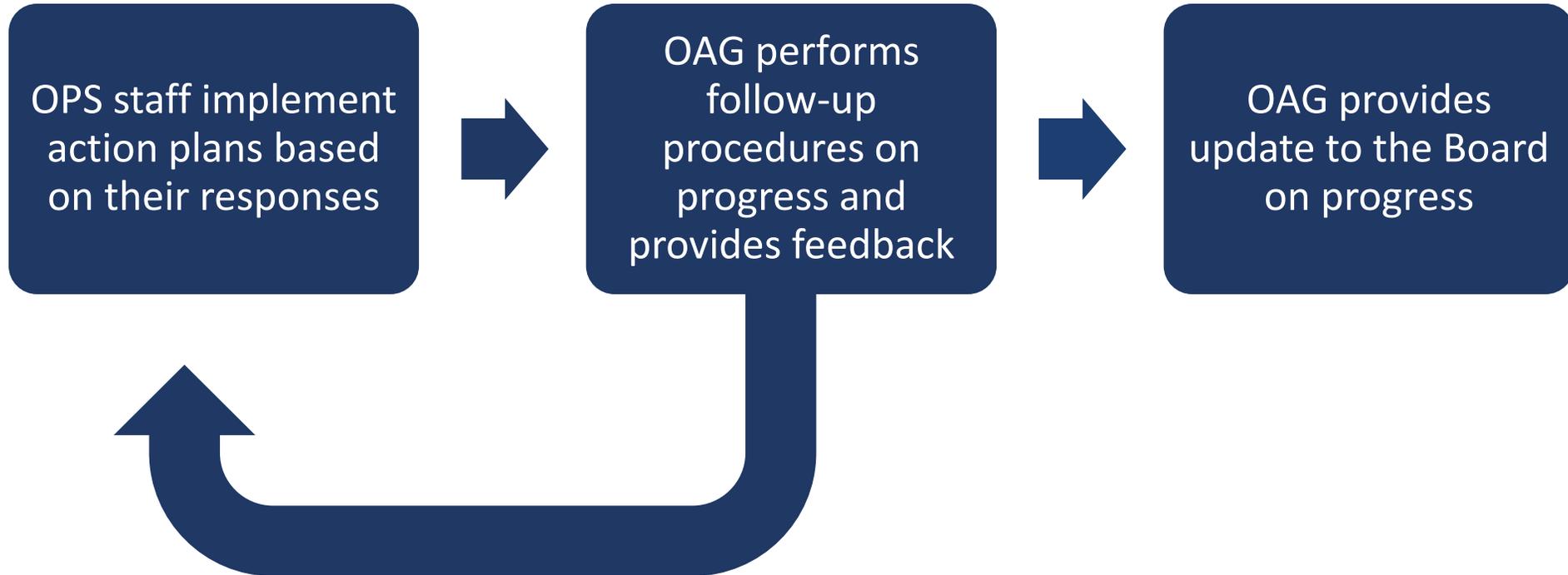


Although both organizations' communication departments worked collaboratively, there is an opportunity to formally document their roles and collaboration in such situations

Conclusion

- The OPS and the City generally worked effectively together towards a common objective and each organization was able to support the other in providing resources, infrastructure and expertise, when available.
- Opportunities for improvement in the area of collaboration between OPS and the City should be considered in the response to future emergencies where both organizations are implicated, including:
 - Sharing intelligence and plans with the appropriate City representatives to ensure a timely and coordinated response, leveraging the expertise of City staff, as appropriate, as well as
 - Formalizing roles and responsibilities for communications.

Next Steps



Questions?

