

February 6, 2023

Ottawa Police Services Board
c/o Krista Ferraro Executive Director
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
Krista.Ferraro@ottawa.ca

By e-mail

Re: Resolution passed by Ottawa City Council re: Requesting the Ottawa Police Services Board explore the feasibility of piloting safe exchange areas or community safety zones

Dear Ms. Ferraro

Please be advised that Ottawa City Council, at its Regular meeting of January 25, 2023, considered and approved the following Motion:

MOTION 2023 – 05/09

Moved by C. Kitts
Seconded by C. Curry

WHEREAS Ottawa has seen encouraging growth in numerous retail categories this past year and continues to see a trend of online sales and exchanges; and

WHEREAS an increasing number of police agencies in eastern Ontario and western Quebec including municipalities such as Pembroke and Gatineau are providing safer places for people to complete online exchanges or transactions with strangers; and

WHEREAS these safe and neutral spaces are intended to prevent fraudulent transactions and increase resident safety that may occur in the context of purchases or exchanges from online sales; and

WHEREAS while residents can carry out transactions in the public lobby of any Ottawa police station, there is not a dedicated space that is actively monitored or specific signage designating a safe space for this type of activity; and

WHEREAS it has been suggested that there are police stations within Ottawa that may have the capacity to have designated safe exchange spaces:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Ottawa City Council requests that the Ottawa Police Services Board explore the feasibility of piloting safe exchange areas or community safety zones at Ottawa Police Stations that would include 24/7 surveillance and dedicated signage for the residents of Ottawa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ottawa Police Services Board report back with their findings to Ottawa City Council by Q3 of 2023.

The above-noted resolution is provided for your information and consideration by the Ottawa Police Services Board.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Caitlin Salter MacDonald
Manager of Council and Committee Services/
Deputy City Clerk