

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

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Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

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SUBJECT: Budget Consultation Summary

OBJET: Sommaire des Consultations Budgétaires

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du présent rapport à titre d'information.

BACKGROUND

In response to the direction provided by the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) in May 2023, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) conducted a comprehensive consultation process throughout the summer of 2023. This consultation initiative was designed to align with legislative requirements, understand policing needs, and inform the development of strategic priorities and the 2024 Draft Budget (Budget).

The consultation process was conducted in compliance with the Community Safety and Policing Act (2019) and related legislation. It included online surveys engaging over 3,600 individuals, demographic and sentiment analyses, community forums, group discussions, media reviews, and personalized consultations.

The insights obtained from the summer's consultation process have been instrumental in shaping the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and were critical in formulating the Budget proposal. This highlights OPS' commitment to a responsive, inclusive, and community-focused approach.

In addition to the summer consultation, the OPS also sought more community feedback on the Budget and this report summarizes the input received.

DISCUSSION

Consultation Outcomes

Extensive consultations in the summer have brought to light vital focus areas for the OPS. These focus areas not only shape the strategic direction of the OPS and inform the Budget but also drive the organization's commitment to strengthening policing and community engagement efforts. The identified strategic priorities are as follows:

- Build Trust Through Strong Partnerships
- Enhance Community Safety
- Advance & Support a Resilient Thriving Membership
- EDI - Strengthen our Commitment to Human Rights

2024 Draft Budget Development

As a result of consultations, the OPS's Budget prioritizes the following:

- Staff Stabilization Strategy involving a three-year plan to hire 185 personnel annually
- New District Policing Model for enhanced urban, suburban, and rural service
- Strategic investments in programs that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)
- Strengthened coordination of community relations efforts
- Investing in data programs for valuable community safety insights
- Reviewing wellness programs to support the well-being of members
- Implementation of the South Facility Project

Community Feedback on the 2024 Draft Budget

The OPS values community input in the budgeting process. After the Budget was tabled on November 8, 2023, a survey was launched through various communication channels. As of November 20, around 190 respondents provided feedback: 38% in support, 16% neutral, and 46% against. While valuable, this survey represents a smaller segment of community engagement compared to the comprehensive summer outreach. The summer initiatives engaged over 3,600 individuals through online surveys, community forums, group discussions, media reviews, and personalized consultations. Therefore, the survey results should be considered one component of the larger and more comprehensive consultation process.

Supporters of the Budget emphasize the necessity of budget and staffing increases to address workload and rising crime rates, aligning with strategic priorities and community values. Conversely, those not supporting the Budget express concerns about police efficiency, advocate for reallocating funds to social services, oppose budget increases, desire a shift towards more community-oriented policing, and express apprehensions about fiscal impact and resource management.

The survey responses from the approximately 190 respondents demonstrate a commitment to prioritizing specific initiatives that reflect and align with the consultation results. The priority areas and their corresponding support and approval levels are as follows:

- Ending Violence Against Women/Femicide (38%)
- District Policing (37%)
- Greater Transparency (34%)
- Staff Stabilization Strategy (32%)
- Alternative Response Model (32%)
- Traffic management (31%)
- Byward Market Neighborhood Operation Centre (30%)

The survey also highlights key insights into the community's perspective on the Budget. While 18% of the respondents indicated that they did not have any concerns with the Budget, other respondents identified the following concerns:

- Immediate and pressing policing concerns are not adequately considered in the budget (34%)
- Inadequate engagement with community stakeholders (34%)
- Lack of clarity about budget allocations and insufficient details (28%)
- The areas proposed are not reflected in draft budgets (15%)
- Challenges in accessing or understanding budget documents or communications (11%)

These insights will guide the OPS in its approaches to more effectively address the varied needs of the community.

Demographics

According to the results of the survey, 53% of the respondents identified as male, 32% as female, a small percentage as non-binary/others, and 9% choosing not to specify. They live in various city wards, with notable representation in Wards 14, 12, 8, 3, and 1, accounting for 36% of the respondents. Additionally, respondents encompassed a wide range of community identities, including women, older adults, persons with disability, Indigenous/Aboriginal Peoples, Francophones, LGBTQ residents, racialized residents, and those residing in rural areas.

CONSULTATION

This report is solely for informational purposes without involving any consultations. The highlights of the consultation done for the Budget and Strategic Plan this past summer are included in Document One.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document One: Presentation - Consultation Highlights 2023

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, aligning the consultation outcomes, strategic priorities, and the Budget demonstrates OPS's commitment to engaging with the community and addressing their needs. The feedback from residents on the Budget underlines the importance of transparency and responsiveness in OPS's budgeting process. OPS values community input and will strive to meet its priorities while managing finances responsibly. OPS remains dedicated to serving Ottawa with excellence and further enhancing public safety for everyone.