

## Chair Fakirani Verbal Report

### Public Meeting

January 22, 2024

#### Senior Policy Advisor Posting

- Last week the Board launched its recruitment for a Senior Policy Advisor.
- The position is part of an overall staffing plan approved by the Board last year to ensure the Board has the resources and skillsets it needs to carry out its responsibilities.
- The job posting is available through the City of Ottawa's job site and applications will close on January 30.
- I would encourage those interested with the required qualifications to apply.

#### Community Safety and Policing Act

- Just before the holiday break, the Ministry of the Solicitor General confirmed the in-force date of the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, which will replace the *Police Services Act*.
- The Act will be coming into force on April 1, 2024, and Police Boards and Services are expected to be in compliance by the in-force date.
- Some of the regulations are yet to be released.

- There is a report on this evening's agenda speaking to some of the changes and the implementation plan for the changes.
- The Board and the public can expect monthly reports on this topic going forward as we approach April and likely beyond.

### Board Vacancy

- As referenced earlier, the Citizen Member position on the Board is currently vacant.
- The appointment for this position is the responsibility of City Council and the City is currently leading the recruitment process.
- The deadline for applications has been extended to February 2.
- More information about the recruitment can be found on the City's website.

### OPS Support of RCMP Investigation

- Back in December, the RCMP announced it had charged an Ottawa youth with terrorism offences.
- While the RCMP led the investigation, Ottawa Police helped support it and I wanted to thank all involved for their work on this difficult file.
- This type of partnership and collaboration among police services is really important for ensuring community safety.

### Ongoing protests and demonstration

- I want to acknowledge the ongoing high volume of demonstrations taking place in our city.
- Chief, I appreciate the way the Service continues to keep the Board and City Council regularly updated, as well as the

professional manner in which OPS members are ensuring the safety of all involved.

- The Board understands the strain the increased frequency of demonstrations is placing on the Service's operations, particularly the frontline.
- We appreciate the ongoing efforts taking place to secure more federal funding, as well as the Service's staffing strategy that will help to provide the OPS with the resources it needs to ensure adequate and effective policing.

### Community Engagement

- And finally, since taking on the role of Chair, I've had the opportunity to meet with a number of stakeholders on behalf of the Board.
- On January 15, I had the opportunity to participate in a round table involving Solicitor General Michael Kerzner and multiple diverse stakeholders regarding the need to build dialogue in our communities to ensure they can remain strong and united in the face of the challenges currently being faced locally and around the world.
- The Province announced funding available to community-based, not-for-profit organizations and First Nation Band Councils that partner with their local police service and other organizations to help address the root causes of hate crime.
- The grant is called the "Safer and Vital Communities Grant" and more information can be found on the Ontario government website.
- On January 16, I attended a meeting of the Community Equity Council.

- A range of topics were discussed, including an update on the Drive2 strategy, as well as the body cam pilot the Service is looking to launch.
- The Community Equity Council continues to be a tremendous source of valuable community input and expertise and I look forward to attending future meetings.
- And lastly, on January 18, I had an opportunity to meet with a leader from the Somali community, Mr. Abdirizak Karod of Somali Family Services. We will continue to build relations with various community organizations as we move forward this year.
- This concludes my Chair's report.