

**Report to / Rapport au:**

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

**18 December 2023 / 18 décembre 2023**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

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

**Contact Person / Personne resource:**

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**SUBJECT: LETTERS OF COMMENDATION**

**OBJET: LETTRES DE MENTION ÉLOGIEUSE**

**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**

Attached for the information of the Board are excerpts from letters of appreciation / thanks received from the public since the last regular meeting for services rendered by members of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

We are always happy to receive feedback about the great work our members do in service to the public. To help make that easier, we have introduced [a new form on our website](#) that will allow residents to provide direct feedback about the member who went above and beyond to help. Comments will be shared with the member and their supervisor and will be included in the monthly commendation report to the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board). All identifying information will be removed prior to its inclusion in this monthly report.

**DISCUSSION**

Date Received: 23 November 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Christopher Evraire

Excerpt from Letter: I have recently had the pleasure of interacting with Detective Chris Evraire and I wanted to share my experience with you. I am very active on social media and share thoughts on a myriad of issues. During this time, I amassed a decent sized following on Twitter (X). However, with that following comes a lot of negative activity as well. In October of this year, I was made aware of disturbing and threatening comments on my social media. I immediately reported these comments, as I feared for my family's safety. The first time I spoke with Detective Evraire, he was empathetic, kind, and above all, did not "victim blame". He took my report seriously and spoke with me at length about moving the investigation forward. Since that initial conversation, Detective Evraire has checked in on me several times and keeps me up to date on the investigation. It is no secret that I have been publicly critical of the Ottawa Police Service in recent years. I feel very strongly about the responsibility that police officers have within our society, and the need to ensure that they are above reproach. It is fair to say that, as a result of events over the past few years, I had lost faith and trust in the Ottawa Police Service. Detective Evraire changed that. His engagement with me and his dedicated and tireless investigation of threats against my family have given me confidence that there are amazing officers working within the Ottawa Police Service. Detective Evraire has single-handedly helped to begin restoring my confidence in the Ottawa Police Service.

Date Received: 23 November 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Sergeant Melissa Plunkett

Excerpt from Letter: Not often enough do we express gratitude to those who step in during our moments of dire need. Today, my team finds themselves grappling with the profound loss of a cherished member of our Ottawa First Student Canada school bus driver, who succumbed to a medical situation while at work that proved to be tragically fatal despite early life saving measures. In the face of this heart-wrenching circumstance, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude to the Ottawa Police and extend my heartfelt appreciation to Frontline Operations Platoon E East Sergeant Melissa Plunkett of the Ottawa Police. Navigating the complexities of administering lifesaving first aid and defibrillation is never a simple task for our team. Being present on-site within moments of a serious event is a challenge in itself. In the aftermath, during the debriefing with our staff when I did arrive, the consensus echoed a sentiment

of immense relief. The team highlighted not only her unwavering support but also the kindness and compassion she extended to the manager and the entire team. She clearly knew they were going through a stressful traumatic time. My team mentioned that she made it less stressful. I want Sergeant Melissa Plunkett to know that both I and the entire team deeply appreciate her and the Ottawa Police family for your tireless efforts in safeguarding and supporting our community. Personally, I had the privilege of meeting Sergeant Melissa Plunkett today. Her warm welcome, engaging responses to my inquiries, and the genuine compassion she demonstrated for our loss left a lasting impression. Sergeant Melissa Plunkett, your dedication to serving and protecting our community, coupled with your steadfast presence in our times of need, does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your invaluable service.

Date Received: 24 November 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Jerilyn McDade and Constable Robert Griffin

Excerpt from Letter: Far too often, the public is quick to dish out complaints and don't compliment others near enough. But today, I would like to recognize the officers who attended an incident at my home for their presence made me feel safe and that I had absolutely made the right decision. It was actually not the greatest morning I've ever had as I had a client get violent and started breaking things - however the officers who responded to the call were extremely polite and professional; which I can't thank them enough for. Their calm, respectful attitude towards my partner and I are traits that make good officers fantastic ones. It makes me feel so much safer knowing that I can count on members of our Ottawa police service to come and address these situations when violence threatens to escalate. Thanks again so much! A very grateful Ottawa resident.

Date Received: 30 November 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Michael Gatti

Excerpt from Letter: Today officer Mike Gatti responded to suspicious activity on a crescent. He questioned several people including a work crew near our home. He reassured us and spent quite some time giving us additional info on home surveillance when we asked. He was very approachable and answered all our questions in a very thorough, professional manner. Thank you, Ottawa Police.

Date Received: 27 November 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Sergeant Gavin Morris and Acting Sergeant Megan Arbuthnot

Excerpt from Letter: Thank you to Sgt. Arbuthnot and Sgt. Morris for all your assistance with the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. Together we achieved our goal of

presenting a memorable and dignified ceremony to remember all who have fallen in military service to Canada. The Royal Canadian Legion is grateful for your involvement with the planning and preparation for the ceremony and for the essential role you both played in the team effort that made it happen. Thank you! I do look forward to working with you both again for the 2024 ceremony as we renew our commitment to never forget.

Date Received: 2 December 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Christopher Toneguzzi and Constable Selena Lefebvre.

Excerpt from Letter: To Officer Chris Toneguzzi and his partner (didn't get her name) who was at the scene of our daughter's car accident this morning (Saturday Dec. 2nd), a huge shout out and THANK YOU for taking care of our daughter Sara and calling us to let us know what had happened. Officer Chris and his partner went above and beyond by driving her to her grandmother's house. His calmness, concern and attentiveness and the hug his partner gave to my daughter were so comforting in a time of great stress and upset. We are grateful and we thank you very much!

Date Received: 3 December 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Dan Patton, Sergeant Edward Yeoumans, Acting Staff Sergeant Walter Lushman, Constable Christian Rioux and Constable Paul Cahill

Excerpt from Letter: The Osgoode Village Community Association and our parade volunteers would like to thank the 5 officers who supported the Parade of Lights in Osgoode Village on December 1st. They were coordinated by Dan Patton. Constable Patton was incredibly easy to work with in planning the parade, and in setting up the OPS support. He communicated with us several times leading up to the event so there were no big surprises on the day. All of the officers present at the parade were a pleasure to work with. They were pleasant with the volunteers and parade participants, were attentive to what was going on with respect to safety, and had some good ideas for next year. We had feedback from several of our volunteers saying this group of officers were incredibly nice, great communicators and "the one of best groups" we have worked with in years. Thank you!

Date Received: 6 December 2023

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from Letter: With all the bad press the police get I just wanted to take the time to reach out and say how awesome I think the Ottawa police force is. Every encounter I have had has been professional, courteous and friendly. They do a good job connecting

with the public on a human level, and seem to be very reasonable people. Thank you all very much for your professional and friendly service, some of us do notice.

Date Received: 7 December 2023

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Daniel Dumont, Constable John Dunn and Sargeant Andras Mozes

Excerpt from Letter: It is a little late coming, but I would like to express my sincere thanks to three officers. In the early morning hours for this past February 19, my wife suffered a burst aneurism at our home. The first to arrive on the scene were three police officers. They were able to not only provide some simple medical care, they were instrumental in keeping both myself and my daughter calm and focused. I can't express strongly enough how much this helped in that moment of crisis. It has been a long journey back for my wife, but her recovery has been remarkable considering the severe nature of her trauma. I stopped in at the police station and was told that these three officers were on scene that morning: Cst. Daniel Dumont, Cst. Josh Dunn, and Sgt. Andras Mozes. I had hoped to be able to drop off a small token of our appreciation, but was told officers are not able to accept gifts. Please pass on my sincere thanks to these three police officers. They truly were there when we needed them most. If there is anything we can do to make sure they are recognized appropriately, please reach out to me and let me know.