

CHIEF'S VERBAL REPORT – May 27, 2024

DEATH OF DIANE DEANS

Similar to Chair Fakarani, I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Diane Deans. Diane dedicated her life to helping the people of Ottawa. She had served on City Council since 1994 and was re-elected many times.

In January 2019, she became the Chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board. Diane cared deeply for her community and was involved in many committees. Her leadership and commitment helped shape the future of our police service and ensured the safety and well-being of our community. **Diane lived a life full of dedicated service and left a lasting legacy on our city. Our thoughts are with those closest to her during this difficult time.**

OPERATIONS

The last month has been a very busy operational period for our service. I want to highlight some of the great results for some of these very difficult files. Pour notre service, les quelques dernières semaines ont été très chargées. **Dans ce compte-rendu, je tiens à souligner du beau travail de la part de nos membres.**

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS

In particular, our Homicide Unit has been actively investigating several serious cases and homicides, which have resulted in significant charges and developments.

On April 19th, Kevin Willington died in a shooting on Birch Avenue in Manor Park at the site of a poker game. After an intense investigation, the Homicide Unit has charged a 20-year-old man with Second-Degree Murder.

Investigators are still working to identify a second suspect involved in the incident. Please contact police if you have any information that could advance this investigation.

On May 2, emergency crews responded to a fire at 1244 Donald St. where two children and a mother were severely injured by the flames. A three-year-old girl succumbed to her injuries in hospital 9 days later.

The Homicide Unit has charged a man with both first degree murder and arson charges.

Also, on May 2nd a youth named Ellis Smith was stabbed on Constellation Dr. He died in hospital days later, leading to charges against an 18-year-old man.

My heart goes out to the families dealing with these tragic incidents and the loss of loved ones.

I commend the Homicide Unit for their dedication and teamwork in handling these complex and heartbreaking cases. I want to thank all of the members of that team as well as the multiple units that support them for their tireless work.

DRUG UNIT

Our Drug Unit conducted a trafficking investigation leading to the arrest of a suspect who was selling large quantities of illegal drugs.

On May 10th, police executed a warrant at an address on Canadian Shield Avenue.

As a result of the search, police discovered two gym bags containing a semi-automatic handgun, a loaded magazine and separate ammunition. As well as:

1.4 kilogram of cocaine

1.9 kilograms of crystal meth

1.6 kilograms of fentanyl

Along with a list of other illegal narcotics.

The fentanyl seizure is particularly important given the continued increase of Overdoses in our City.

Already this year we have been called to 778 overdoses, an increase of 87% compared to last year. Our members, who all carry naloxone, have administered it 66 times saving 63 lives.

POLICE WEEK

During the week of May 12th, we celebrated Ontario Police Week with three main community events held throughout the city.

Police Week provides an opportunity to showcase and appreciate the tireless efforts of our police members and our community partners who work year-round to keep our communities safe.

La Semaine de la Police nous offre l'occasion de souligner et d'apprécier les efforts des membres de la police et de nos partenaires qui travaillent toute l'année pour la sûreté de nos communautés.

This year's theme, "Join Policing: Keep Ontario Safe," emphasized the crucial role of law enforcement in maintaining public safety and encouraged community involvement in policing efforts.

I joined many members from our team and the community at all three events. They were a great success with a fantastic turnout which brought police officers and community members closer.

L'événement a connu un grand succès, grâce à un fantastique taux de participation. De nombreux membres de la collectivité sont venus nous rencontrer, ce qui rendit la semaine encore plus spéciale.

Thanks to all for joining us in this celebration.

District Revitalization Project

Acting Superintendent Kevin Maloney continues to lead the District Revitalization Project, developing a new District Deployment Model in support of the OPS Community Policing Strategy. It is aligned with community expectations and will use iterative design principles. Part I of the Pilot Deployment Model launched on May 6. The focus is to enhance communications with ward councillors and the community. The pilot will further seek to foster geographic ownership, support strong community partnerships, and permit a more efficient resource allocation. As part of the pilot, Superintendent Ken Bryden is leading the operations along with four new District Inspectors. Inspector Ian Hayes is in charge of the West District. He is joined by Inspector Jeff LeBlanc in the Central, Inspector Marc-Andre Sheehy in the East, and Inspector Isabelle Lemieux in the South. This team is already reaching out and beginning the important task of opening new lines of communication with the community.

CORE STRATEGY

Tonight, the Board will be receiving a presentation on our new Community Outreach Response and Engagement (CORE) Strategy, which aims to enhance safety in the Byward Market and Rideau Street corridor.

Using a precision policing approach, CORE focuses on reducing crime through increased police presence, community engagement, and proactive problem-solving. Using data analysis to support police decision-making, CORE focuses on high-priority areas and repeat offenders responsible for significant criminal activity. In collaboration with our community partners at the Integrated Community Situation Table (ICST), CORE also works to support the most vulnerable by addressing low-level crimes linked to complex issues like substance use and mental health. By leveraging evidence-based strategies and community partnerships, CORE will create a safer, more resilient downtown Ottawa.

This strategy will be coordinated through the new Neighbourhood Operations Centre (NOC) on Rideau Street, that will be formally opening in the next few weeks.

RECRUIT CEREMONY

A few weeks ago, we hosted a Badge Ceremony that showcased 28 new police officers that were initially hired in October 2023. I was honored to welcome this diverse and talented class alongside Ottawa Police Service Board Chair Salim Fakirani. They are ready to serve the Ottawa community with dedication, professionalism and passion.

Several recruits were raised locally, while others have ties across Canada and internationally, bringing unique perspectives and skills to our team.

Today they hit the road for the first time with their coach officers. I wish them all the best in their career ahead.

Aujourd'hui, ils prennent la route avec leur agent d'accompagnement respectif. Je leur souhaite plein de réussite dans leur carrière à venir.

IMPAIRED

Impaired driving continues to be a road safety issue in Ottawa with 13 fatalities on our roads in 2023 where alcohol and/or drugs were believed to be involved.

In the first four months of 2024, OPS charged 284 drivers with Impaired related offences compared with 228 drivers that had been charged during the same time period in 2023. Impaired driving is preventable. We encourage our community members to include arranging a safe and sober ride home in their plans whenever they intend to drink alcohol or use cannabis.

Canadian officers have been empowered to demand a breath sample during routine traffic stops absent of any symptoms or evidence of impairment. Our traffic officers will be increasing their use of Mandatory Alcohol screening when doing traffic enforcement across the city over the summer months.

DEMOS and MAJOR EVENTS

We continue to see many demonstrations and events in Ottawa putting a major strain on our resources.

This past month included a 10 UN conference, various middle east crisis events and of course the 2 day race throughout the city this past weekend.

This event, stretching 42 kilometres through the city, required many more resources this year than in the past to ensure participant and spectator safety.

With race organizers modifying the route not to include Gatineau, we were required to significantly increase the number of officers required due to the number of additional intersections that were part of the race path.

Interoperability amongst partners continues, and we thank them for their patience, engagement, and flexibility with these sometimes unpredictable and last-minute operational plans.

During the Israeli Independence Day ceremony at City Hall, our team investigated and charged a female with a hate crime related to the accused pulling a hijab off a lady's head. These types of hate crimes will be fully investigated by the Ottawa Police Service. Over the weekend in Toronto, there was a shooting at a Jewish School, thankfully, with no injuries. This is a concerning event and one where we will continue to proactively patrol various religious/school and higher risk locations across the city to provide that presence that the community is requesting.

GOOD NEWS STORY

I want to take a moment to commend the exceptional efforts and collaboration demonstrated by one of our officers and several members of the public during a recent incident.

On May 20th, a 67 year old golfer was golfing at the Riverbend Golf and Country Club when he suddenly collapsed on the 11th hole tee box due to cardiac arrest. Other men playing golf witnessed the emergency and immediately sprang into action by initiating CPR while alerting authorities for assistance. Upon Officer McCarthy's arrival, he promptly assessed the situation and administered vital defibrillation shocks with precision.

As a result of their collective efforts, the man was revived, breathing, and communicating by the time medical personnel arrived on the scene.

Constable Mathew McCarthy's swift response along with the actions of the other golfers saved a man's life.

Thank you.