

# Chair Fakirani Verbal Report

## Public Meeting

July 22, 2024

### Opening of the Neighbourhood Operations Centre

- On June 26, I attended the Neighbourhood Operations Centre opening ceremony. I would like to acknowledge fellow Board members who were present: Mayor Sutcliffe, and Members Curry and Donaldson.
- The ceremony was also attended by the Solicitor General of Ontario, the Honourable Michael Kerzner. Our partnership with the provincial government is key to our efforts to make downtown Ottawa safer.
- The safety of those who call Ottawa home is a priority for the Board.
- As a Board, we recognize the rise in violence, including incidents related to the opioid crisis, has had a significant impact on our community and residents.
- Cependant, il est crucial que nous abordions ces problemes avec compassion, sans stigmatiser les personnes les plus vulnerables. Beaucoup de ceux qui sont touches par l'addiction et l'itinerance onyt besoin de soutien et de ressources, et il est de notre devoir de repondre avec empathie et des solutions efficaces.
  - o *<However, it is crucial that we address these issues with compassion and understanding, without stigmatizing those who are most vulnerable. Many of those affected by addiction and homelessness are in need of support and resources, and it is our duty to respond with empathy and effective solutions.>*

- By serving as a hub for collaboration with community organizations and local businesses, the Neighbourhood Operations Centre will help us address these challenges by providing the necessary assistance to those in need while advancing the safety and well-being of the residents.

## **Staffing**

- Last month, we announced the departure of the Board's Executive Director Krista Ferraro after more seven years in this role.
- Since then, the Board designated the Senior Policy Advisor Habib Sayah as Acting Executive Director, pending the hiring of an Executive Director.

## **Canada Day**

- I would like to recognize the tremendous efforts deployed by the Ottawa Police Service to ensure the safety of our community on Canada Day, an operation of major proportions.
- Mayor Sutcliffe, Members Carr and Donaldson and I attended the operational briefing.
- It was an occasion to witness firsthand the professionalism of members of the Service, who displayed the highest level of organization and preparedness.
- We are thankful for the sacrifices their difficult jobs entail, especially in the summer period as they work day and night to secure our city during major events, festivals, celebrations, and demonstrations.
- I want to recognize the generous assistance we received from the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police, and police services from Belleville, Kingston, London, Waterloo, and South Simcoe to secure Canada Day.

## **Community Engagement**

- I continue to take time to meet with various stakeholders to help inform the work of the Board.
- I had the privilege of attending:
  - Two meetings with the President and the Chair of the Board of the University of Ottawa to discuss their safety concerns in relation to the encampment.
  - With Vice-Chair Carr, a meeting with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and Hillel Ottawa. We discussed the rise of antisemitic hate crimes targeting this city's Jewish community and their places of worship.
  - The Diversity Celebration organized by the Ottawa Police Service on June 27, to celebrate the rich multiculturalism of our city. I was accompanied by Member Donaldson.
  - The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament. While I attended the dinner, I recognize Member Donaldson for his participation throughout the day.

**This concludes my verbal report.**