

## Appendix 1 of 2025 Budget Directions and Timetable

### **Background:**

The Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) has provided key support in securing funding to address local community safety and well-being challenges. This support led to the development of the **Ontario-Ottawa Agreement**, which outlines strategic investments aimed at addressing the unique safety and social challenges facing Ottawa as the nation's capital. A key part of the agreement is the federal government's \$50 million, five-year commitment to support the City's creation of the Parliamentary Precinct, enhancing safety in this area.

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) have developed **seven business cases** under Section 3.3 of the Public Safety Plan, part of the 2024 Ontario-Ottawa Agreement, seeking **\$48 million over three years** to address Ottawa's unique public safety challenges. These challenges include national security, increased community disruptions, and reduced downtown activity due to post-pandemic shifts in commuting patterns.

### **Funding Request**

The total funding request of \$48 million, **with \$17.7M for OPS**, covers the logistical and operational requirements of the seven strategic initiatives, addressing key areas such as mental health crisis response, staffing needs, and public safety in high-risk areas.

### **Key Projects and Overview**

OPS-led initiatives:

- **Alternative Staffing Strategy - Special Constables (\$3.99M):** This project will enhance the OPS through a tiered staffing strategy that includes special constables and civilian members in investigations (e.g. fraud, forensics, cybercrime). By strategically deploying specialized roles, OPS can better manage demand and case backlogs and increase boots on the ground. It aims to improve service delivery, increase capacity, and builds public trust.
- **Mounted Patrol Unit (\$4.1M):** This project will enhance community safety by providing high-visibility patrols that improve police presence in busy areas, and during events or demonstrations. It will also support an effective crowd management and de-escalation, allowing officers to maintain control with a less confrontational presence. Furthermore, it supports rapid response in difficult-to-access areas, serving as a force-multiplier, and helping to optimize police resources while strengthening public trust and safety.
- **Market Safe (\$2.4M):** This dedicated initiative aims to improve safety in Ottawa's ByWard Market by focusing on enforcement, crime suppression, and de-escalation through increased officer presence, proactive engagement with businesses and the public, and the strategic use of analytics to target high-risk areas, complemented by ongoing communications to raise public awareness.
- **CORE (Community-Oriented Response and Engagement) (\$4.58M):** This project will enhance community policing through proactive engagement and problem-solving strategies. The OPS's multi-pronged approach to downtown core challenges strengthens partner collaboration, increases police visibility in high-risk areas, and deepens the understanding of community concerns. In the medium

term, it boosts safety, community trust, and resource efficiency. Long-term outcomes include strong community partnerships, safer, resilient communities, effective service delivery, and sustained public trust in the OPS.

#### Joint OPS and City

- Alternative Mental Health Supports (\$11.5M, with \$2.65M for OPS): Providing specialized and non-police mental health crisis intervention services to support vulnerable populations.

#### City-led initiatives:

- Transit Security Initiative (\$13.79M): Enhancing safety measures across public transit systems to protect commuters and reduce transit-related crimes.
- Downtown Safety Outreach Partnership (\$7.62M): Collaborating with local businesses and community organizations to create a safer downtown environment.

### **Collaborative Approach for Lasting Impact**

The success of these initiatives relies on strong partnerships with key organizations that bring vital resources and expertise. This includes:

- Coordinated crisis response through established helplines, ensuring tailored support for those in need.
- Centralized operations centers that streamline multi-agency efforts for effective safety responses.
- Collaboration among community health, law enforcement, and social services to reduce emergency service use and address underlying social issues.

These projects address immediate safety needs while aligning with the long-term goals of the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan. Continuous feedback and adaptive management ensure the initiatives remain responsive to evolving community needs, optimizing resource use and long-term sustainability.

Successful programs have the potential to be scaled up across the city. This means expanding these proven models to other neighborhoods, ensuring that their benefits reach a wider population. This approach supports a more consistent and effective response to community safety concerns, contributing to a safer, more resilient Ottawa for all residents.

### **Public Safety Plan Status**

The Public Safety Plan is advancing through the approval process, with funding approval expected this month. In preparation, OPS is integrating key performance indicators (KPIs) into the strategic planning framework to ensure that these initiatives are measured effectively and aligned with organizational goals.

### **Preparatory Steps for Project Implementation**

While awaiting final approval, the OPS is taking proactive measures to ensure smooth project implementation:

- Establishing a framework with KPIs and milestones to maintain transparency and accountability.
- Developing a plan to track progress and ensure the timely delivery of all project components.

- Assigning roles and responsibilities, filling key positions, and securing necessary resources for effective funding management.
- Implementing a communication plan to keep the public and stakeholders well-informed and engaged.
- Monitoring costs closely and enforcing budget control measures through regular financial reporting.

These steps position the organization to move forward quickly once funding is secured.

**Conclusion:**

The anticipated provincial funding approval will enable the implementation of key public safety initiatives tailored to Ottawa's unique challenges. Strong collaboration with community partners and a focus on strategic goals position the City and OPS to achieve lasting improvements in community safety. The integration of the SOLGEN-identified KPIs into the strategic planning framework promotes accountability and alignment with long-term objectives. With preparatory steps already underway, OPS is ready to efficiently utilize the resources provided, driving meaningful change in community safety and well-being throughout Ottawa and serving as a key partner in building an inclusive, equitable, and safe city.