

OPENING REMARKS

Good evening. It's been a busy month, with a lot of important work happening across the service. From our ongoing investigations and key initiatives to planning for next year's budget. We continue to work hard to enhance operations and deliver the best possible service to our community.

GATINEAU OFFICER

I want to start by expressing my relief that the Gatineau officer injured in last week's incident is recovering. Cet incident nous a touchés de près, car nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec la police de Gatineau et nous apprécions leur partenariat. Cette situation nous rappelle les risques auxquels les policiers sont confrontés chaque jour. Mes pensées vont au policier blessé et à la famille de la personne qui a perdu la vie.

REV BAILEY RETIREMENT

I, along with Deputy Chief Burnett, Supt. Zacharius and other members of our team, had the privilege of attending Red Anthony Bailey's retirement event at Parkdale United, where we had the honor of presenting him with an award to thank him for his tireless efforts recognizing his incredible contributions to both the Ottawa community and the Ottawa Police Service.

Rev Bailey is a long time friend and colleague of the Ottawa Police. As he worked closely with us on many important initiatives, including delivering anti-racism workshops to our members.

We intend to keep in touch with Rev Bailey to continue tapping into his expertise and advice.

BUDGET UPDATE

Earlier this month, Deputy Chief Bell and I were pleased to provide an update to the Finance and Audit Committee as we continue to work to develop the Ottawa Police Service's 2025 Draft Budget.

This Budget will be very important to the future of the Ottawa Police, as we move forward to improve our service deliver to residents, continue our staffing stabilization plan, deliver on the district model and ensure the new Collective Bargaining Agreement is funded.

As you will hear in this evening's presentation, we are developing a Budget that meets the needs of our community, is in line with the Board's directions and the City Hall's recommendation.

We look forward to continuing to consult with the Board, our members, and the community as we continue this work and we look forward to presenting our draft 2025 Budget to the Board, and Council, on November 13.

FEMICIDE

Last Thursday morning, just before 11:30 a.m., officers were called to reports of a stabbing at a park near Uplands and Paul Anka Drives.

Tragically, Brkti Berhe, 36 years old and a mother of three, was found with fatal stab wounds.

After interviewing witnesses, a plan was quickly put in place to pursue a suspect's vehicle. Shortly thereafter, a man was arrested on Highway 417 near Casselman.

On Friday, the Homicide Unit charged 36-year-old Fsha TEKHLE of Montreal with First Degree Murder

TEKHLE had a domestic relationship with a family member of the victim. This tragic event is a femicide.

A femicide is generally defined as "the killing of women and girls because of their gender" often driven by stereotyped gender roles, discrimination towards women and girls or unequal power relations between women and men.

The Ottawa Police Service also builds on the definition recommended by our VAW community partners as "the misogynist killing of women and girls because of their gender, overwhelmingly committed by men."

TEKHLE appeared in court on Friday.

HOMICIDE

At the beginning of this month, in the Metcalfe area, a man by the name of Roger Dale Lusk, was killed in a stabbing.

Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time.

Mr. Lusk was leaving his home on Ira Morgan Way in Metcalfe, driving his pickup truck.

A short distance from his home, he pulled over and interacted with a light grey or silver sedan. During this interaction, the front passenger of the sedan entered Mr. Lusk's vehicle and attacked him, stabbing him before fleeing the scene in the same sedan.

Last week, our Homicide Unit released video footage and still images of the suspect vehicle in hopes of generating leads from the community.

We are asking the public to closely examine the vehicle captured in the footage. If you recognize this vehicle or have any information about the individuals involved, please come forward. Investigators believe there were at least two people in the vehicle during the attack – the offender and the driver – and we are confident that others in the community may have information that could assist in bringing justice for Mr. Lusk and his family.

Please contact us with any information on this tragedy.

SAFE TRADE ZONE

As the popularity of online selling continues we want to remind all residents about the Safe Trade Zones at three locations in the City.

Last week, we had a troubling situation where a woman and her aunt were attacked while trying to sell a jacket through Facebook Marketplace. The victim was able to hold onto the jacket, and the suspects fled the scene without it. This past weekend, another incident where people met, late in the evening, and a robbery with a firearm occurred.

Thankfully no one was seriously injured in either of these situations.

Unfortunately, these two incidents are not isolated—it's part of a series of robberies that have been happening lately. Our Robbery Unit is working hard to track down the suspects, but we want to remind everyone to stay cautious when making trades or purchases with strangers.

One of the best ways to protect yourself is by using our Safe Trade Zones. These are designated parking spots at three police stations – behind our Elgin St. station, our

Huntmar station and our Tenth Line Stations, specifically set up for exchanges from online marketplaces.

L'un des meilleurs moyens de vous protéger lorsque vous effectuez des échanges ou des achats avec des inconnus c'est d'utiliser nos zones d'échange sécurisées.

Ce sont des emplacements de stationnement désignés dans trois de nos postes de police : Derrière la station sur la rue Elgin, Derrière la station à Huntmar et notre Station à Tenth-Line, ces espaces sont aménagés particulièrement pour ce type d'échanges.

They are well-lit, have video surveillance, and are located at public police stations—making them a much safer option than meeting someone at your home or in a secluded area.

Please use them, and let's all do our part to prevent these kinds of crimes from happening.

ARSONS

The Arson unit continues to deal with a marked increase in deliberately set fires across the city.

These incidents range from serial nuisance fires to those that have been classed as attempted homicides. These investigations are resource-intensive and exceed the regular capacity of our three-person team.

As taxed as they are, the team arrested and charged a woman in relation to nine arsons from the ByWard Market, Sandy Hill and Lower Town areas from this past month.

They continue to work full time on the serious injury fire on Rossland Ave from October 7th and several other fires that involved serious injury or property damage.

I want to take a moment to thank the Arson Unit for their tireless efforts. Their work doesn't go unnoticed, and I'm grateful for their dedication in handling these difficult and dangerous cases.

FIGHT FOR THE CURE

I also want to give a big shoutout to Cst. Mathieu Couture-Lauzon for his willingness to participate in the charity boxing match against firefighter Michael Williams this past weekend. Fight for a Cure is a massive Charity event that raises thousands of dollars to fight Cancer.

It was a tough fight, and both Mathieu and his Michael deserve a lot of credit. It's not just about the win in the ring but the impact we're making for the charity, and both sides did an amazing job with that.

As part of the bet I made with the Fire Chief, we'll be flying their flag at HQ here on Elgin in the near future. I may wait until the shortest day of the year on Dec 21st! Despite the wrong side winning the fight, the real winner here is the cause we're supporting.

Thank you to everyone who donated. Great job, Mathieu, and congratulations to both fighters for helping make a difference.

GOOD POLICE WORK [AUTO LICENCE PLATE RECOGNITION]

As part of our 2024 rollout of the Enhanced Integrated Enforcement Model, we're continuing to improve our approach to traffic enforcement across Ottawa.

With this model, our frontline officers are given specific locations to focus on traffic issues in residential areas, like stop signs, while our Traffic Unit officers, who have specialized training, are strategically deployed along high-traffic roads and routes.

Earlier this month, we saw this approach in action. Cst. Ralph, working on **AUTO LICENCE PLATE RECOGNITION** enforcement received a hit for a vehicle with expired plates. During the stop, it was discovered that the driver had an outstanding warrant for sexual assault dating back to 2021. Thanks to this traffic stop, the driver was arrested and safely transferred to cells, while the vehicle's passenger took the car home.

This is just one example of how targeted enforcement is making our roads safer and contributing to community safety.

This keeps it direct and easy to follow while showcasing the key points of the incident and enforcement model.

CORE STRATEGY

Our CORE strategy continues to deliver results through the dedicated work of our Neighborhood Resource Teams.

These officers are successfully balancing proactive enforcement with meaningful engagement in our downtown community.

Last week, our NRTs delivered two excellent examples of CORE in action.

While conducting Hot Spot foot patrols in the Byward Market, officers observed a stolen vehicle parked on George Street. When officers approached, the driver fled in the vehicle, creating a public safety risk.

Thanks to quick action and assistance from community members, officers located the vehicle parked a short distance away, arrested the driver, and laid multiple charges that included the presence of a saw off shotgun. This highlights how CORE's strategy of proactive foot patrols puts officers where they need to be, working directly with the community to keep our streets safe.

In a second example, NRTs assisted a vulnerable unhoused woman who had been living on Rideau Street for several months.

During their outreach efforts, they discovered she had financial resources available but couldn't access stable housing due to her complex circumstances.

Officers coordinated with one of our community partners to facilitate communication between her and her financial trustee. Together, they secured an apartment for her and helped initiate the rental process. This case demonstrates how CORE goes beyond enforcement, actively connecting those in need with critical resources.

These examples demonstrate the strength of the CORE strategy in balancing enforcement with community support.

Diwali & Halloween - October 31st

This year, the luminous festival of lights, Diwali, coincides with Halloween on October 31st.

I'd like to wish everyone celebrating Diwali a joyous and happy Diwali.

Have a happy and safe Halloween as well.