

Chair Fakirani Verbal Report

Public Meeting

December 2, 2024

Budget

- The budget process continues to be a significant focus for this Board.
- On November 13, we had a Special Board meeting for the formal Budget Tabling, followed by tabling at City Council.
- On November 19, I had the privilege of attending a Community Equity Council meeting during which the budget was presented. This provided me with an opportunity to listen to valuable feedback from members representing diverse communities.
- On November 22, we held a Finance and Audit Committee meeting during which members of the community had an opportunity to provide further feedback on our draft budget.
- The budget approval will occur today at this meeting.
- The final step will be the December 11 Council meeting, where the budget will be presented for final approval by City Council.

Strategic planning

- At the start of this meeting, I mentioned the legacy of Senator Murray Sinclair, particularly his investigation into the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, which emphasized the need for strong governance and effective oversight in policing.
- One of the ways in which the Ottawa Police Service Board is drawing inspiration from his recommendations is by striving to improve our own strategic planning process.

- On November 17, all members of the Board, along with Executive Command and Board staff, participated in an educational session focused on strategic planning.
- This session provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on how we can make our strategic planning more outcome-oriented, community-centric, and aligned with the values of accountability and equity that Senator Sinclair so passionately championed.

New member

- I am pleased to announce that a new member was appointed by the province to fill the vacancy that resulted from the departure of Michael Doucet in August.
- Mr. Michael Polowin was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as a member of the Ottawa Police Service Board on November 21, 2024.
- Michael brings an impressive background in municipal law and governance. He is widely recognized as one of Ontario's leading lawyers in municipal law and is actively involved in community and charitable organizations, including leadership roles within several boards.
- Unfortunately, Michael is unable to attend this meeting, as he is in the process of completing the mandatory training required under the Community Safety and Policing Act, which came into force on April 1, 2024.
- As part of the Act, newly appointed members may only participate in Board business after successfully completing this training, which is administered by the Ministry of the Solicitor General. This ensures all Board members are fully equipped to undertake their responsibilities effectively and in compliance with legislative requirements.

- We look forward to welcoming Michael to our next meeting, and I'm confident that his expertise and commitment will make a valuable contribution to the Board's work."

Abdi Inquest

- The Board is closely monitoring the ongoing coroner's inquest into the 2016 death of Abdirahman Abdi, which began on November 18, 2024. This inquest examines the circumstances surrounding Mr. Abdi's death and is expected to provide recommendations aimed at preventing similar incidents in the future.
- We anticipate these recommendations will offer valuable insights to enhance our policies and practices, particularly concerning interactions with individuals experiencing mental health crises and racialized individuals. The Board is committed to continuous improvement and looks forward to integrating these insights to better serve our community.

Sahada Alolo

- I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Sahada Alolo as she completes her term as Community Co-Chair of the Community Equity Council.
- Ms. Alolo has been instrumental in fostering collaboration between the Ottawa Police Service and the city's diverse communities.
- Her leadership has been pivotal in advancing racial equity and promoting equitable and inclusive policing practices.
- Her commitment to social justice and community engagement has significantly contributed to building trust and understanding between the police and the communities they serve.
- We are deeply appreciative of her dedication and the tremendous impact she has made during her tenure.

Community Engagement

- I continue to take time to meet with various stakeholders to help inform the work of the Board.
- On November 2, I attended the Annual Police Gala alongside Mayor Sutcliffe, Vice Chair Carr, and Members Donaldson and Henschel. This year, the Gala raised funds for two remarkable organizations: the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa, which provides critical survivor-directed services to those impacted by sexual violence; and the Multifaith Housing Initiative, which addresses homelessness with innovative solutions, including housing for Indigenous families.
- As mentioned earlier, on November 19, I attended a Community Equity Council meeting which was not only an opportunity to listen to community feedback on the budget but also a chance to engage with representatives from diverse communities about their priorities, concerns, and expectations.
- I had the privilege of attending the Badge Ceremony held for our newest recruits with Vice Chair Carr and Member Donaldson on November 20.
- I would also like to acknowledge Member Donaldson for attending the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards' Labour Conference in Mississauga from November 26 – 27 and the association's Zone 2 meeting in Ottawa on November 29.

This concludes my verbal report.