

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Good evening, Members of the Board.

Before I begin, I want to take a moment to thank Isobel Granger for being here with us. Isobel, your leadership, dedication, and the path you've paved as the first Black woman to serve as a Superintendent in Ottawa continues to inspire us.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

I would like to recognize the significance of Black History Month. This month serves as an important reminder for all of us to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians, both past and present. Members of the OPS have been attending some Black History Month events. In the last few weekends, I had the privilege of attending, with others from our team, the 13th Annual Global Community Alliance Gala and as well as the St. Lucia Independence Gala. Both events were incredible and it's an opportunity to meet new people and see some of those that I've now met over the last few years. I'm always humbled by the gracious reception the OPS receives. I'm always inspired by the incredible people that are honored at these events. Truly, some great people that contribute to the wellness of our community.

I also want to make comments about the recent Chinese New Year celebrations. Our Asian Employee Resource Group attended both the Lunar New Year Parade and the official New Year celebration at the EY Centre. 12 of our officers had the privilege of participating in a traditional Chinese performance by ushering in one of the dragons that was following the pearl of wisdom which symbolizes the dragon's continuous pursuit of wisdom. This is an honor for the OPS to perform this function. I was at the EY event and was very proud of our members and the positive reception that they received from the Chinese community. I thank the organizers for including the OPS in their biggest celebration of the year.

## **FLANAGAN SCHOLARSHIP**

I also want to take a moment to highlight an important opportunity that reflects our commitment to diversity and inclusion in policing. The Ottawa Police Service is now accepting applications for the 2025 Thomas G. Flanagan S.C. Scholarship Award.

There are four days left to apply.

This annual \$2,000 scholarship was established in memory of former Chief Thomas G. Flanagan and is dedicated to supporting Indigenous and racialized women pursuing post-secondary education with aspirations of a career in policing.

I encourage anyone eligible to apply and help us continue building a police service that truly reflects Ottawa's diversity. Applications are open until February 28th, and more details can be found on our website, [Ottawapolice.ca](http://Ottawapolice.ca)

## **HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS**

Our Homicide Unit is investigating three homicides that have occurred since the beginning of the year.

## **PRESLAND HOMICIDE**

Last week, officers were called to a tragic incident on Presland Road in Overbrook, where a 36-year-old man was found with serious injuries.

Sadly, he did not survive.

In connection with the fatal stabbing, the Homicide Unit has charged 45-year-old woman with second-degree murder.

Over the Family Day weekend, 25-year-old male was tragically killed in a stabbing. That same day, a 25-year-old man was arrested and charged in connection with the death. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of 25-year-old Samuel Laurin-Gauvreau, who faces charges of second-degree murder and assault with a weapon. I want to commend the quick response and excellent work of the responding Officers who were first on the scene, as well as the members of our Homicide Unit. Their swift actions, led to an arrest in this case.

It is always difficult to talk about such senseless loss, especially when it involves someone so young. Our thoughts are with the victim's family and friends during this incredibly difficult time.

The Unit is also investigating the death of a 40-year-old man at the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Detention Centre.

A 44 year old man has been charged with first-degree murder. I want to commend the officers for their dedication and hard work in bringing charges forward to this situation.

### **PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT**

I want to update you on the Parliamentary District that is being established with funding from the Federal government. In the fall, we deployed the first team who are now engaged with our key partners, the Parliamentary Protective Service, the House of Commons, the Senate, and the RCMP. Our early focus was to establish a presence within the District and the team is now focused on improving communication systems and supporting our partners in our respective roles.

The positive feedback from the Parliamentary community has been incredibly encouraging. As the team grows, these officers will be expanding their work into the community surrounding the Precinct and will be increasing our operational hours during the week. It will take 2-3 years to fully staff the **team add ##**

### **PROJECT COMPLEMENT**

I'm also excited to share some more updates on Project Complement that was mentioned last month. This initiative is all about expanding the roles and duties of our Special Constables. They'll be taking on tasks like forensic investigations, handling evidence, relieving officers from administrative duties and supporting and assisting investigations. The project is moving along very well, and we're on track with our ambitious hiring schedule.

For the initial job postings, we've had over 700 applications for the Forensic Identification Technician and Generalist Special Constable positions. Onboarding is set to start the week of March 17th, followed by a 7-week training program that aligns with the Community Safety and Policing Act. We're aiming for operational deployment by early June 2025. The desired candidates will bring their subject-matter expertise and specialized academics to our Service.

On a provincial level, the Ottawa Police Service will lead the way in expanding our Special Constable Program. By integrating Special Constables into our frontline operations, we expect a positive impact on service delivery and member wellness.

Project Complement will assist in addressing some case management backlogs, free up time for frontline officers and build community trust through professional service.

I want to thank the Human Resources Section and Project Complement Team Members for how quickly they have advanced this initiative.

### **RECENT NOMINATIONS**

Congratulations to Acting Staff Sergeant Devon Archer and Constable David Basimwa for their nominations for the Police Association of Ontario, Hero of the Year Award. This recognition is well-

deserved, and I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments. Wishing them the best of luck in the award process!

NEED MORE HERE

### **OFFICERS EXPOSURE TO DEADLY DRUGS**

I would also like to address something that we don't often think about, but it's a serious and dangerous reality. The exposure of our officers to harmful substances like fentanyl and crystal meth. These are risks that most of us wouldn't expect to face during routine police work, yet they can have life-threatening consequences. Earlier this month, two of our officers were recently hospitalized after separate incidents involving fentanyl and crystal meth. One of the officers was exposed to fentanyl during a traffic stop on Esprit Drive while arresting a 36-year-old man. During the arrest, over 70 grams of fentanyl and 146 grams of an unknown substance were seized. The individual was charged with possession of a schedule I substance for trafficking.

Just a few days later, an officer from East Division became ill after seizing crystal meth during an arrest. After feeling nauseous and lightheaded, the officer pulled over, and a sergeant called for paramedics. Thankfully, both officers are recovering, but these events serve as a reminder of the hidden dangers our first responders face every day.

These incidents emphasize the deadly risk drugs like fentanyl present to our first responders and the devastating impact the opioid crisis continues to have on communities across our City.

### **GUNS AND GANGS – DRUGS**

After a month-long investigation the Guns and Gang unit arrested a 32-year-old Ottawa resident who is facing multiple charges, including trafficking and firearms-related offenses. A search warrant was executed at two residences in Ottawa South. The operation resulted in the seizure of:

- Over 7 kg of illicit drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and oxycodone
- A .40 calibre handgun with extended magazines, a large quantity of ammunition, a bulletproof vest, and multiple cell phones
- A substantial amount of Canadian currency

This major operation highlights the exceptional work of the Guns and Gangs Unit, who continue to tackle the serious threats posed by illegal firearms and drug trafficking. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the South and East Neighbourhood Response Teams and the Tactical Unit, this operation was carried out without incident.

### **MDT Sleds**

The Marine, Drive and Trails Unit has been out conducting enforcement efforts to help keep our roads and trails safe. This month, we partnered with Parks Canada Wardens for joint enforcement, stopping multiple sleds and administering an alcohol screening device (ASD).

On one of the weekends, the MDT team ran a RIDE/MAS initiative at Petrie Island, stopping over 30 vehicles and administering 18 Mandatory Alcohol Screening tests. While only one registered a '36', it was encouraging to see that word quickly spread about our presence—leading to more people making responsible choices, like calling an Uber or a designated driver instead of getting behind the wheel.

They continued their efforts in Constance Bay the next day, where they issued a three-day suspension to an ATV driver—who had actually been stopped by the team the previous weekend. These proactive efforts reinforce the importance of enforcement and education in preventing impaired driving. My thanks to the officers involved in this initiative for their dedication to road and trail safety.