

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Good afternoon, Members of the Board.

First, I'd like to make few comments on the Chair's verbal report as it relates to the past 3 years and what's occurred since the Police Board was reset post Convoy. I'll start by sincerely thanking the Ottawa Police Services Board and Chair Fakirani for all of your leadership, support, and guidance. Three years ago, there was a lot of instability within the Service and the Police Board itself since that time, the Board has both stabilized themselves as well as greatly assisting the OPS in doing the same.

Chair, you mentioned a number of accomplishments in the past years and those are not to be overlooked. Staff stabilization, District Policing, the South Facility....the list goes on. These are very important projects that will transform the Service and how we can serve the community.

This Board has held us to a high standard but the last three years hasn't come with some controversies and disagreements. The Board has provided strong oversight and accountability—while also recognizing and promoting the good work our members do every day....and that board support of our members is so important. All of you attend on a regular basis, numerous OPS events and awards ceremonies.

The Board knows and the Service knows there is much work to do and I'm confident that we'll both fulfill our respective roles to get the results that the community demands from us.

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY**

International Women's day was a few weeks ago and, the OPS hosted the OACP *Advancing Women in Policing* conference and I was able to attend the banquet. The event was centered around the important role women play in policing and the ongoing efforts to support and advance gender equality within the profession. It was nice to see so many women in policing, including members of our own service, coming together to share experiences and insights. Deputy Chief Trish Ferguson delivered an impactful speech, reminding us of the progress we've made and the work that remains to create a more inclusive and supportive environment in the policing industry.

## **Guns and Gangs**

I want to highlight some of the excellent work by our Guns and Gangs Unit. In January, they began an investigation into an individual suspected of being involved in the trafficking of drugs throughout the city.

As a result of the investigation, a search warrant was executed in the Alta Vista area with cocaine, crack cocaine, oxycodone and two loaded handguns being seized.

A 28-year-old was arrested and charged with multiple gun and drug related charges.

This year, we have seized 19 guns, and we have seen 9 shootings.

## **Human Trafficking**

This afternoon, we are going to be hearing from the Human Trafficking Unit about the important work they do to help vulnerable people in our community. A lot of credit is due to this unit and their tireless work. I've dealt with this team on a number of occasions they are so passionate and dedicated to this difficult work, it's very impressive.

Just last week they charged a 27-year-old man with multiple offences including trafficking in persons and forcible confinement.

The investigation began in March 2025 with offences dating back multiple years.

HTU investigators believe that there are other victims of human trafficking related to this investigation, and they continue to ask people to reach out. The investigation also shows the individual was involved in human trafficking for several years.

The Human Trafficking Unit will respect victims' wishes whether to pursue criminal charges, and regardless, can offer resources to support survivors of human trafficking.

The reporting of these incidents by victims to police is key for investigators to identify suspects and determine crime trends.

## **CAMSAFE**

This month we launched a program called CAMSafe that will assist police in attaining video evidence more rapidly.

CAMSafe is a voluntary security camera registry that allows residents and businesses to share their contact details with police. Just to be clear, this does not give us access to live footage. It simply means that if a crime happens in your area and your camera

might have captured something useful, we know who to contact. Your involvement is completely voluntary. You decide if and when to share footage.

Many communities across Ontario, including Belleville, Sudbury, and the OPP, have already embraced CAMSafe, and we're proud to bring this modern approach to Ottawa. The more people who register, the stronger this tool becomes.

To register, citizens can visit the registration page by going to the CAMSafe website at [www.camsafe.ca/register](http://www.camsafe.ca/register) to create an account and your video can easily be uploaded.

## **GALA**

I'm proud to share the success of our 2024 Ottawa Police Gala. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our community, we were able to raise an outstanding \$57,200 for 3 deserving organizations: the Multifaith Housing Initiative, the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa, and Beechwood Cemetery. Earlier this month, I had the privilege of presenting the cheques to these charities, and I know these funds will make a meaningful difference in the important work they're doing to improve the lives of those in need here in Ottawa.

With that in mind, we are now accepting applications for the 14th Annual OPS Gala, which will take place on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the Rogers Centre Ottawa. If your organization is a registered charity and provides services to Ottawa residents, we encourage you to apply. The application form is available on our website at [ottawapolice.ca/Gala](http://ottawapolice.ca/Gala).

This is a great opportunity for us to support charities that are doing incredible work within our community. Thank you again to those for your continued support & I hope to see you at the Gala!

## **POLAR PLUNGE**

At the beginning of March, we held the annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Ontario, and I can tell you, it was a very cold, snowy and windy day.

A special thank you to A/Sgt Megan Arbuthnot for organizing one of the most successful Polar Plunges in event history. Her hard work brought nearly 300 participants together,

smashing the fundraising goal by raising more than \$70,000 for Special Olympics Ontario. Well, done Megan. None of this would be possible without you.

Megan is also planning the 2025 Ontario School Games, which will be held here in Ottawa from June 3rd to 5th, with over 1,200 athletes competing in five sports. We're proud to support this incredible event.

Thank you to all the supporters, participants, and especially the athletes, for making this such an impactful event.

## **FRAUD**

As Fraud Prevention Month comes to a close, I want to remind everyone that staying vigilant against scams is something we need to do year-round. Fraud tactics are always evolving, and protecting yourself starts with awareness. If something seems too good to be true, it is. Be cautious of unexpected emails and phone calls, and never feel pressured to share personal or financial information.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has great resources on common scams and how to report fraud. I encourage everyone to stay informed, talk to family members about fraud risks, and take steps to safeguard their finances. If you suspect you've been a victim, act quickly—freeze your bank account, put an alert on your credit, and report it to police. Fraud prevention is a shared responsibility. Let's continue looking out for each other.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION**

Last Friday, marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I, along with a number of members from our team attended A United Way & City of Ottawa Event that is part of the Building Bridges and Preventing Hate Series. Funding that was received from both the Solicitor General and City Hall has allowed for a number of programs to be launched that includes Ottawa Stops Hate Together. It was a really dynamic event with a number of impactful presenters. It's encouraging to see the number of agencies and people that are actively campaigning and working to stop Hate Crimes. Of course, our part in this is to build trust within the community so everyone feels comfortable reporting Hate Crimes when they occur. Our Diversity

Resource and Relations section continues to engage with communities, from hosting presentations for newcomers to working with faith groups and cultural organizations.

### **CRIME ANALYSTS NOMINATIONS**

I want to recognize the outstanding work of our Crime Intelligence Analysis Unit. Our analysts play a vital role in investigations, trend analysis, and intelligence gathering, helping shape effective policing strategies.

This year, three of our analysts are nominated for Ontario Crime Analysts Network (OCAN) Awards, recognizing their contributions. While winners will be announced in April, we celebrate their achievements now.