

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Good Afternoon Vice-Chair and Members of the Board.

I first want to note that the Board's strategic plan is on tonight's agenda. That was a collaborative effort over many months and we're pleased to have it fully completed. It is an excellent roadmap and guiding document for our Service. We look forward to continuing our work together and reporting on the key projects and activities that deliver on the plan and the KPIs included.

## **OPERATIONS**

Canada Day was a success. We had a strong, visible presence downtown and across the many celebrations across the city. I believe it was 15 celebration sites. Our teams managed large crowds and road closures, and everything ran smoothly thanks to detailed planning and coordination.

Bluesfest and HOPE Beach Volleyball wrapped up without major incidents. These high-profile events draw thousands, and I want to thank everyone involved for their time, effort and flexibility.

## **IRONMAN**

Our next major event is the Ironman triathlon which is another large-scale event this weekend. We have the officers and resources in place to support a safe day for athletes, spectators and the community.

## **BUDGET CONSULTATIONS**

As you know, we have been working on the 2026 budget process for a few months already. Over the past few weeks, I have begun my one-on-one with City Councillors in their wards to hear firsthand the issues they want addressed. These visits will continue throughout the summer.

During these councilor meetings, some of them have introduced me to community leaders, residents and business owners. They've taken me to various problem areas within the wards and overall I have learned a great deal. In addition, I've also met separately with key social services agencies, and business owners and will continue to do so. For example, next week, I'm meeting with the Chinatown BIA who are very concerned with the increase social disorder issues in their neighborhood.

The concerns and themes I've heard centre around traffic issues, retail theft, open air drug use, erratic social behavior, and a noticeable increase in the vulnerable population to name

a few. I am also ensuring they understand what our members face day to day and how we are working to meet the demands of the community.

Last week, our Service and the Board launched a public consultation survey. It is open for two weeks and gives residents a chance to share what they think we should focus on as we build the 2026 budget. It is short, takes about five minutes, and is available in eight languages. We are encouraging all residents 18 and older to take part.

*This kind of feedback matters. It helps us understand what people are seeing and feeling in their neighbourhoods.*

## **ENHANCED POLICE IN BYWARD MARKET**

I had a section here on the Byward Market and speaking to what we are doing, increasing our presence, launching various programs. Which we will continue to pursue. We have noticed, and those in the area have commented on the increase of the vulnerable population in the downtown area. Social agencies have seen out of town people arriving in Ottawa. The numbers are increasing. Agencies are overwhelmed managing the population.

Look, The Byward Market, Rideau Street and Sandy Hill areas are important to our city. Our goal is for everyone—residents, workers, and visitors—to feel safe and enjoy all these areas have to offer.

It seems like an obvious solution to flood the area with more police and more enforcement. And we've just done that a few weeks ago by adding some members to the area.

Unfortunately, there are various demands in the city that are making it difficult for us to make a more meaningful push today. But we are working towards a safer community through the CORE program. As I mentioned, it still is early and all of the programs and initiatives are still evolving.

We know that any effective solution requires cooperation with our community partners, social services, local residents and businesses.

*The Market and Rideau area are key parts of our city. They should feel safe for everyone — residents, workers and tourists.*

## **INJURED OFFICERS**

This month, several officers were injured on duty.

In one case, a cruiser with lights and sirens was inching through a red light at Somerset and Kent when it was struck by a vehicle that failed to stop. Thankfully, no serious injuries, but a close call.

We also had an officer struck by a suspect trying to flee in a vehicle. Another was punched in the ribs while responding to a domestic violence call at Dundonald Park. A motorcycle officer was hit while travelling on the highway. He called for help himself and was conscious, alert and transported to hospital. Luckily, no serious injuries.

There were incidents where officers were spat on, including one involving a person who claimed to have communicable diseases. In that case, saliva may have entered the officer's mouth.

We also had a violent arrest involving a person resisting police. One officer left with a strained shoulder. Another with a cut to his hand. Both were treated and released.

These incidents remind us of the real risks our officers face, not just from violence, but also from exposure. We are checking in on everyone involved and making sure they get the support they need.

I want to thank them for their professionalism and for continuing to risk their own safety when responding to these difficult situations.

## **YIPI**

Our Youth in Policing Initiative is now three weeks into the summer program. I met with them this morning and I can tell you that they are motivated, engaged and getting hands-on experience working with different areas of the Service. This program continues to be a strong way to build positive relationships with youth while helping them grow their skills and confidence.

I want to thank our members who are taking the time to mentor them, and I want to recognize the students for the energy they are bringing to the job. They are representing themselves and us very well.

## **IMPAIRED STATS**

Our Marine Unit has had a busy season on the water with 316 vessel stops so far.

They have laid 4 impaired boating charges, issued 55 Provincial Offence Notices and handed out 47 warnings. They also conducted 24 alcohol screening tests, which led to four 3-day licence suspensions.

While impaired charges are still happening, we are also seeing positive changes. More boaters are choosing non-alcoholic drinks while out on the water. It is a smart move and shows people are starting to get it. You can still enjoy your day without putting yourself or others at risk.

Let us hope that trend continues.

## **DROWNING WATER SAFETY**

Last week was National Drowning Prevention Week. It is an important reminder, especially in the middle of summer, that water safety is everyone's responsibility.

This year's theme is Safer Together, and that message is simple but true. Whether you are out boating, at the beach or watching kids near a backyard pool, we all have a role to play.

Every year, lives are lost in situations that could have been prevented. Drowning is quick, silent and can happen to anyone.

At the start of this month, we were reminded just how fast things can go wrong. A father and his 7-year-old child went under at Westboro Beach. The child was pulled from the water and survived, thanks to a bystander. Tragically, the father did not make it.

Our thoughts are with that family.

As summer continues, we are asking everyone to stay alert. Supervise kids. Wear a lifejacket. Speak up when you see something unsafe.

## **ROAD SAFETY FOR CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS**

We have seen several serious incidents this month involving both cyclists and pedestrians. To mention just a few of them.....

An 8-year-old rode into the street without stopping and was hit by a vehicle going about 40 kilometres an hour. He was wearing a helmet, which likely prevented more serious injuries.

A 38-year-old woman on a bike crossed in front of traffic and was struck. She was not wearing a helmet and suffered a fractured skull, along with other serious injuries. She is still in hospital.

We also had a pedestrian hit on Terry Fox Drive and suffer a head injury. Thankfully, they survived.

At Elgin and Laurier, a woman was struck by a truck and later died in hospital.

In another case, a man had a medical emergency while cycling on a path and passed away. He had no identification on him. It took hours to confirm who he was and notify his family.

We had a tragic collision on Mitch Owens Road this past weekend.

A woman in her 70s was struck and killed while riding her bike. Our Fatal Collision Unit is investigating and asking anyone who saw what happened or who has dashcam footage to come forward. Even small details can make a difference.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of all those that have suffered these tragic losses.

To everyone using our roads, please stay alert and watch out for one another. Whether you're driving, cycling, or walking, safety has to be a shared responsibility.

### **E-CRIMES: ICE & DFS OPERATION**

I want to take a moment to recognize the work of our Internet Child Exploitation Unit, known as our ICE unit, along with our Digital Forensics Section.

Earlier this month, ICE identified a suspect who was in possession of, and distributing, child sexual abuse material on the dark web. This was a high-risk case. The individual had a violent history and advanced computer knowledge, so the team shifted from a standard approach to a full tactical operation.

When officers made entry, the suspect was awake and sitting just a metre away from his computer. Digital Forensics members immediately located a "kill switch" that would have erased all digital evidence in seconds.

Thanks to quick action and planning, that did not happen. A significant amount of evidence was preserved, and the suspect was arrested and charged.

This is incredibly difficult work. The kind most people never see, but it makes a real difference. It protects the most vulnerable members of our community, and it takes a high level of skill, discipline and coordination to do it right.

To the members of ICE and Digital Forensics Section — thank you. You handled this exactly how it needed to be done.

### **GOOD NEWS STORY**

I would like to end by sharing three quick stories from the past month that speaks to the quality of members from our team.

First, Constables Munier and Bhatnagar were called to help a young girl in crisis earlier this month. Her mother later wrote in to say, "It hits differently when an officer tells you that you are a good mom." She said Munier's words helped her feel like she was not alone and that she was doing everything she could for her daughter. It is a reminder that how we show up matters just as much as what we do.

A second example, at St. James Catholic School, a theft investigation ended with a foot pursuit and an arrest in a schoolyard, in front of children attending a daycare program. It was upsetting to the kids. Constable Tierney, who was not dispatched but showed up anyway, took the time to explain what happened, calm the kids down and even brought officers back to visit a few days later. The kids made thank you cards. They remembered his name. That is the kind of impression we want to leave.

Lastly....

Two mounted officers passing by the Sandy Hill Community Centre took a moment to say hello to summer campers. That small act turned into what staff called “a highlight of the day.” These examples don’t appear to be a big deal....but it can be a big deal.

*This is what community policing is all about. Have a good summer.*