

Ottawa Police Service

# Summary of 2025 Meetings Between the Chief of Police and City Councillors

A Thematic Report on Community Safety Priorities Across Ottawa

Ottawa Police Service

October 2025

## **Summary of Councillor Meetings with the Chief of Police 2025**

Over the summer, the Chief of Police met one-on-one with 23 out of the 24 City Councillors to listen to concerns and discuss community safety. While each community raised issues specific to its context, there were clear themes that came up again and again. Councillors across the city emphasized the importance of police visibility, timely communication, and ongoing engagement with residents and businesses.

A consistent priority was visibility. Councillors said residents want to see officers in their neighbourhoods, whether on main roads, in schools, at community hubs, or in business districts. Visibility was seen as important not only for enforcement but also for building trust and accessibility. In some cases, residents were frustrated when officers were parked out of sight, while in other places, officers' participation in community events and neighbourhood programs was praised. Community engagement was seen as a strength. Residents appreciate officers attending events, supporting local initiatives, and building direct relationships. At the same time, councillors noted that public perception of police varies widely in urban neighbourhoods, and visible support is not always strong. Building trust in these areas requires a balance of enforcement, transparency, and ongoing grassroots engagement.

Traffic and road safety was another concern that came up repeatedly. Councillors pointed to speeding, aggressive driving, loud vehicles, and school zone safety as pressing issues. The interaction of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers was also highlighted as an area needing more attention. Some councillors suggested stronger partnerships between police, schools, and

community groups, along with targeted enforcement supported by public awareness campaigns.

Councillors also raised social and community challenges that directly affect policing, particularly homelessness, encampments, and the fentanyl crisis. These issues were often linked to safety concerns at transit stations, retail hubs, and other public spaces. Several councillors noted a rise in disorder, especially involving youth and vulnerable populations, and encouraged police to balance enforcement with community-based solutions.

Crime affecting local businesses was another recurring theme. Store owners and managers expressed concerns about theft, mischief, and employee safety. Some businesses said they hesitate to call police because of the time involved in filing reports, while others stressed the value of preventative measures and direct engagement with officers.

Many councillors prioritized communication. They asked for more timely updates following major incidents, clearer sharing of outcome-based data, and access to information such as crime hot spot mapping. There was strong support for communication strategies that give residents a better understanding of police activity and results. Several councillors emphasized that transparency is essential for maintaining public trust.

On a related note, many councillors mentioned their support for the new District Model. They indicated that even though the full model has not yet been realized, they are already seeing positive results, including significant improvements in communication and quicker, more effective responses to their concerns.

Finally, councillors raised questions about resources and budget. While most expressed support for continued investment in policing, many highlighted the need to demonstrate value through measurable results. They called for data-driven reporting, clear performance indicators, and outcome measures that show residents how investments in policing translate into safer communities.

## **Conclusion**

Across the city, councillors voiced strong support for policing that is visible, transparent, and connected to the community. The main themes that emerged were traffic and road safety, concerns in public spaces, the impact of homelessness and substance use, and the need for stronger communication and accountability. Although each community raised unique priorities, the message was consistent: residents want a police service that is responsive, engaged, and effective in keeping neighbourhoods safe.