

Chair Fakirani Verbal Report

Public Meeting

October 27th, 2025

Diversity of our community

- I'll begin by noting that October is a busy month when it comes to recognizing and celebrating some of the many communities in our city.
- It is the month for Islamic Heritage, German Heritage, and Latin Heritage, as well as Women's History month. October also includes Diwali and Bandi Chor Diwas, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, St. Francis Day and more.
- These observances remind us of the many communities, identities, and traditions that enrich life in Ottawa. More than simply recognizing this diversity, they offer an opportunity for us here today to reflect on how inclusion and respect strengthen community safety – and on our shared responsibility in that regard.
- We know that when communities feel seen, valued, and respected, it builds trust, and people are more likely to participate in collective safety initiatives.

Palestinian Listening Circle

- Listening is essential to this, it is part of what we do as a Board, and we seek out opportunities on an ongoing basis – including the Palestinian Listening Circle I attended recently.
- This is one of several listening circles the Community Equity Council has organized to create space for community members to share their thoughts about the current relationship between their community and the Ottawa Police Services and offer suggestions for improvement.

The structure is important: community members *talk*, and Ottawa Police members – along with guests like me – *listen*.

- (*with placeholders*) About x participants (of all ages?) shared what they want fellow residents and police to know about their experiences and sense of safety in the City in general, and in the face of what is happening in Palestine today.
- Some of what I heard was about common experiences of _____, and concerns about _____. When people talked about what would make things better, it was about changing perceptions of _____, and the importance of small but meaningful acts such as _____.
- I know that my fellow Board members also value and seek out these learning experiences, so I encourage community organizations to reach out to the Board office with suggested events or meetings.

Budget process

- These Board meetings are also a chance for us to listen, so I want to remind people who are listening or watching now (or later on YouTube) that they can submit a request to present at upcoming Board meetings on issues on the agenda or any matter within the Board's jurisdiction.
- As I know the police budget is a topic of significant public interest, please note that the Draft Budget will be tabled at the November 12 Finance and Audit Committee meeting. Then, at the next meeting of that committee on November 21 people can present their feedback on the budget. Written comments are also welcome at any time.

Re-appointment of Board Members

- As a brief note on the Board's Membership, I'm pleased to confirm that my colleague Peter Henschel and I have been re-appointed by the Province, with Peter's extension until September 7, 2026 and mine until March 8, 2027.

This concludes my verbal report.