

Chiefs Verbal Report October 27, 2025

OPENING REMARKS

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Board,

I want to begin my verbal report by drawing your attention to the agenda item that references the 2026 Budget Consultation Report.

It reflects months of hard work across the Service and it's a great example of how we're grounding our priorities in real engagement, solid data, and open conversations with the people we serve.

This package answers the Board's request for an update on what we've been hearing from the community and what the data is telling us.

We're listening closely to residents, councillors, and community partners to understand what matters most. People want to feel safe, to see officers present and engaged, and to know that when they call, we'll respond with care and compassion.

These requests from the community align directly with our strategic plan — from district policing, traffic safety to member wellness and community partnerships. I think it shows that we're moving the Service in the right direction, in line with the communities demands of us.

De mon avis cela montre que nous faisons avancer le Service dans la bonne direction, selon les attentes de la communauté.

MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM LAUNCH

We've heard for years that police aren't medical professionals and need to work with those that have a higher level of training in dealing with people in a mental health crisis. We took this big step with the launch of our first Mobile Crisis Response Team, a partnership between our Mental Health Unit and The Ottawa Hospital. This team brings together a specially trained officer and a mental health professional who respond side by side to people in crisis. Their goal is simple: to provide immediate, compassionate support and connect people with the help they need.

Right now, one team is operating Tuesday through Friday during daytime and evening hours. The officer works in plain clothes but remains identifiable as police, while the hospital clinician wears professional attire and protective gear. Together, they respond to calls across the city, offering de-escalation, on-scene care, and follow-up connections.

Early results have been very encouraging. The team handles about three calls a day, often preventing hospital apprehensions, reducing wait times, and strengthening community connections. There are plans to expand the three teams in the coming months.

Between Our Mobile Crisis Response Team, the ANCHOR program, the paramedics mental health response program and the Royal Ottawa's intention to open an acute care service, the police and the community are elevating our responses to people experiencing a mental health crisis. I will note, that this new program will not take away from the work of the ANCHOR program. The calls that were diverted to them...will continue to be diverted.

INDIGENOUS RECRUITMENT FORUM – FIRST-EVER EVENT

I'm proud to share that the Ottawa Police Service will be hosting our first-ever Indigenous recruitment event on November 4 and 5. This is a unique opportunity to strengthen our connections with Indigenous communities.

Je suis fier d'annoncer que le Service de police d'Ottawa tiendra son tout premier événement de recrutement autochtone les 4 et 5 novembre. C'est une occasion unique de renforcer nos liens avec les communautés autochtones.

The event is designed for Indigenous people who are interested in pursuing a policing career. Attendees will learn about the recruitment process and connect with others who share a passion for community-focused policing.

This first-of-its-kind forum is an exciting step forward in creating opportunities for Indigenous voices to be heard and inspiring future leaders in policing.

MOUNTED UNIT

Our Mounted Unit is now operational and was recently involved in its first arrest. While conducting proactive patrols along the Britannia Park path system, officers engaged with an individual who was later identified as a suspect in a serious assault earlier that week that was hate motivated.

The Mounted Unit also patrolled during the day and evening during the Panda Day at the beginning of the month. That event went very well. I thank our team on the ground as well as both UofO and Carleton University for the partnership and collaboration.

HOMICIDE

Sadly, our Homicide Unit is investigating four homicides this month,

At the beginning of the month, 55-year-old Justin James Weir was found with stab wounds in the area of St. Laurent Boulevard and Montreal Road. He was transported to hospital but later died from his injuries.

In another incident, 21-year-old Raphael Atende was fatally stabbed on Russell Road.

And most recently, 21-year-old Joshua Qiyuk, who was found deceased on Meadow Park Place, has been determined to be a homicide as a result of a stabbing. That investigation is ongoing.

Lastly, on October 15th the shooting of a male on Somerset Street West. On October 24th, 38 year old Nelson Getson succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

Our investigators continue to work tirelessly to bring answers and justice to the families affected by these tragedies.

*We are asking the public to assist. **Nous demandons la collaboration du public.*** Anyone with information is asked to contact the Homicide Unit or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at crimestoppers.ca.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

The first phase of body-worn camera training took place earlier this month at our Professional Development Centre. Thirty officers participated in the sessions, led by an expert from the Toronto Police Service.

This marks an important milestone as we prepare to roll out body-worn cameras across the Service. *We remain on schedule to launch the program in November. **Nous sommes bien placés pour lancer le programme en novembre.***

I want to thank everyone who helped organize and deliver this first phase of training. Your efforts are helping us take another step forward in transparency, accountability, and public trust.

PSILOCYBIN SEIZURES

I want to highlight the excellent work of our Street Crime and Drug Units, supported by our Neighbourhood Resource Teams. Earlier this month, they executed nine search warrants targeting locations suspected of unlawfully selling psilocybin, better known as mushrooms.

Officers seized over 14 kilograms of dried psilocybin mushrooms, large quantities of psilocybin-based products, and more than \$10,000 in cash. Nine individuals have been charged with 18 offences, including possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of proceeds of crime.

Even after these initial warrants, two locations re-opened, and our teams executed additional search warrants to address them.

I also want to remind property owners and landlords that knowingly allowing illegal drug sales on their premises can lead to criminal charges and asset forfeiture.

9 RUN RUN

A few weekends ago, our members took part in the annual 9 Run Run event in Stittsville. It's a fantastic day that brings together first responders, families, and community members while raising funds for the First Responders Foundation, which supports mental health and wellness.

Our members showed up, as they do every year, with great energy and community spirit. And of course, a special shoutout to Deputy Chief Bell for winning the Chief's Chili Cook-Off and knocked off our friends from the Ottawa Fire Dept who were the defending champs.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Red Ribbon Campaign with MADD Ottawa launches in November, continuing our shared effort to end impaired driving. So far this year, 648 drivers have been charged with impaired-related offences, nearly matching last year's total of 659. Of those calls, 267 drivers we're stopped thanks to calls from the public. Thank you for those reports. We do respond!

Delivery of Baby

I also want to recognize another remarkable moment where our members helped safely welcome a new life into the world.

Last Friday, our officers were flagged down for a very unique call. Jeremie and his wife Kaitlyn were on their way to the hospital, but she was in active labour and it became clear they wouldn't make it in time. Cst. Nicolas and Sgt. Charron quickly responded, providing support and ensuring both mom and baby were safe until paramedics arrived.

Thanks to their quick actions, both mom and baby were safe until paramedics arrived. Moments like this don't happen every day, but they're a reminder of all the work our members do.

Bienvenue au monde, bébé Jack, and congratulations to Kaitlyn and the whole family!

NRT ByWard Market Good News Story

I want to recognize the outstanding work of Constables Brad Doyle and Todd Harper from our Byward Market Neighbourhood Resource Team.

While on active patrol, they came across a violent stabbing at a bus stop at St. Patrick and Cumberland. A man was on top of a woman, repeatedly stabbing her. She had sustained multiple stab wounds around the neck and shoulders and was bleeding heavily.

The officers immediately stopped their vehicle, confronted the suspect at gunpoint, and safely took him into custody. They immediately provided first aid to the victim until paramedics arrived. She was transported to the hospital with serious injuries.

There is no question that Constables Doyle and Harper's vigilance, quick decision-making, and courage saved this young woman's life. This was an incredibly dangerous and unpredictable situation, and their professionalism and bravery made all the difference. Hats off to both of you.

MARINE UNIT Rescue

I want to recognize our Marine, Dive and Trails Unit for their incredible work.

While conducting dive training out of town, the team spotted a group of civilian divers in distress. One diver had lost their weights underwater, made a rapid ascent, and surfaced showing clear signs of medical distress.

Without hesitation, one of our paramedics entered the water to assist, supported by an officer who's a certified Medical Dive Technician. Together, along with assistance from other team members, they brought the diver safely to shore and provided immediate care until local emergency services arrived. The diver was later transported for treatment and is expected to recover.

Our MTD members perform some of the most demanding and high-risk work in policing. They train in unpredictable environments so that when moments like this happen, they're ready. I'm proud of their commitment and their readiness to protect and save lives — even when they're off duty or outside regular operations.

RECOGNITION & THANKS

Lastly, I'll share part of an email I received from a member of our community who contacted police related to a road rage incident he witnessed in Kanata earlier this month.

Part of the email reads, *“From the very first moment that I dialed 911 until after submitting my written statement and thanking the officers for their help, the call was handled with extreme professionalism, effectiveness and care. Their demeanor was incredibly genuine, calm, personable and professional, treating everyone with complete dignity and respect.”*

C’est toujours encourageant d’entendre directement les membres de la communauté parler de l’impact positif de notre travail.

I want to thank our frontline officers and our police communicators for the outstanding work they do every single day.