

## **Guest Speaker Introductions and Chair's Verbal Report February 23, 2026**

### **June Girvan Introduction**

- June Girvan is a lifelong educator, community leader, and advocate whose work has transformed how Canadians understand and value the history, contributions, and rights of people of African descent.
- As President of Black History Ottawa, a registered charity dedicated to promoting the history and contributions of Canadians of African descent, June has been instrumental in expanding the reach and relevance of Black history in the national conversation.
- Under her leadership the City of Ottawa and then the Ottawa Police Board and chain of command, along with other systems across the municipality, adopted the United Nations' *Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024)* throughout Ottawa, encouraging communities to recognize this legacy as a vital part of the Canadian story.
- Welcome, June. We are pleased to have you join us today.

### **Isobel Granger Introduction**

- We are honoured to welcome Isobel Granger to our meeting today.
- Isobel Granger is a trailblazer in policing, leadership, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. She served for nearly three decades with the Ottawa Police Service, where she made history as both the first Black female inspector and later as the first Black superintendent in the Service's history.
- Throughout her career, she has been a champion of meaningful change, leading efforts to build a more inclusive and accountable police culture. She notably headed the Respect, Values, and Inclusion (RVI) Directorate, where she worked to address bias, implement best practices in policing, and strengthen relationships between OPS and the communities it serves.

- Beyond Ottawa, Isobel has also made an impact internationally, contributing to global efforts in gender-based violence prevention and war crimes investigations, including her work in Cambodia.
- Her leadership and advocacy have had a lasting impact, and we are grateful that she has joined us today to share her insights.
- Isobel, thank you for being with us. We look forward to hearing from you. The floor is yours.

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Following her remarks:

- Isobel, on behalf of the Ottawa Police Service Board, thank you for taking the time to join us today. Your experiences and perspectives continue to inspire and challenge us to think critically about our role in oversight and accountability.
- We truly appreciate your contributions and your leadership in fostering meaningful change in policing.

## **Verbal Report**

### **Acknowledging the Honourable John Wilson Morden**

- I would like to recognize the Honourable John Wilson Morden who passed away peacefully in January at age 91.
- Justice Morden was a former Associate Chief Justice of Ontario and a significant figure in Canadian law. What is known widely as the "Morden Report" dramatically reshaped the understanding of civilian oversight and police governance in Canada.
- The Toronto Police Service Board commissioned this report, officially titled an "Independent Civilian Review into Matters Relating to the G20 Summit."
- This followed the controversial policing of the 2010 G20 Summit in Toronto, which saw the largest mass arrests in Canadian history and widespread allegations of civil rights violations.

- Morden helped strengthened understanding of how boards support public confidence in policing. His report affirmed the Chief’s operational responsibility while also confirming that police boards have a duty to seek the information and provide the policy direction necessary to fulfill their mandate in the public interest.
- That balanced framework is now reflected in the *Community Safety and Policing Act* and remains foundational to police governance across the province.
- Justice Morden also articulated the concept of “critical points” – recognizing that certain high-risk, high-impact events require boards to be appropriately informed at defined moments so they can fulfill their oversight responsibilities without intruding into operations. In its recent adoption of a Critical Points policy, our Board has drawn directly from this insight. In doing so, we continue to be guided by Justice Morden’s thoughtful and enduring contribution to modern police governance in Ontario.

### **Corruption Investigation by the Inspectorate of Policing**

- The Inspectorate of Policing is also part of the realization of Justice Morden’s vision. The Inspector General of Policing is an independent oversight authority responsible for ensuring that police services, police service boards, and First Nations police services comply with the *Community Safety and Policing Act*. The Inspectorate monitors governance and operational compliance, conducts inspections and reviews, and may issue directions or impose measures to promote lawful, effective, and accountable policing across Ontario.
- It is within this framework of rigorous oversight that we fully support the Inspector General’s launch of an independent review of integrity and anti-corruption practices across Ontario’s police. The review will examine not only operational practices within services, but also Board policies and Chiefs’ procedures that are intended to prevent, detect, and address corruption. This review was announced earlier this

month following the troubling charges recently laid against police officers in Toronto and Peel region.

- Our provincial association, the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB), along with the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), has publicly welcomed the announcement as an opportunity to reveal lessons, policies, and standards that can be shared industry wide.
- We view this systemic review in the same light – as an opportunity to learn and, where necessary, improve our own governance and policy frameworks. It has the full support of all Ontario Police Boards and Chiefs, and that includes us, here in Ottawa. The Chief has stated so publicly, as has the Ottawa Police Association, and I am doing so here today now.

### **Meetings and Events**

- I will wrap up with key meetings and events for February that Board members have or will attend in February.
- Following sessions held by the Service in the Central, South and West districts in January, Vice Chair Carr and Board staff attended two community engagement sessions in the East district - one in English and one in French.
- These sessions with community service providers and organizations have been great opportunities to hear first-hand perspectives on what neighbourhood policing means in practice, a range of local issues and opportunities for co-created solutions.
- As Chair of the Board, I am a member of the City's Community Safety and Well-Being Committee. This month's meeting included a presentation on performance measurements as part of the Community Safety and Well-Being plan. This includes the launch planned for tomorrow (February 24) of a new Well-Being in Ottawa dashboard with 23 indicators by different domains of well-being, to be used as way to ground local responses.

- All supporting data will be available on Open Data Ottawa. I see it as a useful resource that is worth mentioning here to members of the public who are following this meeting.
- There are so many great celebrations and learning opportunities as part of Black History month. I had the opportunity to attend the Black History Month Gala, where I had a great conversation with June Girvan who has joined us today as you know. I also attended African Day on the Hill.
- Next week I will attend the Global Community Alliance annual gala recognizing achievement and leadership in the Black community.
- I was pleased to attend the recent Imamat Day celebrations at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat. The event was a meaningful occasion for the Ismaili community. While there, I had the opportunity to see Superintendent Lucas, and I would like to extend my appreciation to him and his team for their ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and security of diplomatic missions and the parliamentary district.
- As Muslims around the world are observing the holy month of Ramadan, I am looking forward to attending an Iftar meal at a local mosque.
- Whenever I do so, I notice how each breaking of the fast is a unique experience, and how the diversity of iftar reflects the global, multicultural nature of the Muslim community.
- We have also entered the period of Lent, which is celebrated by many Christians starting with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- February also includes Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees (February 2) and Maha Shivaratri, a Hindu festival celebrating Lord Shiva.
- Saturday was a lively day at the Lunar New Year parade in Chinatown – and for a completely different event, together with Member Donaldson, I also attended the OPS Polar Plunge to raise

funds in support of Special Olympics Ontario and its athletes and families across the province. Congratulations to all who participated, including the Chief.

- Finally, next week I'll be joining the Chief and Deputies at the launch of 30Forward, an initiative that supports sustained progress toward 30% representation of women across policing organizations.
- The Board supports this effort wholeheartedly. It is guided by research and critical mass theory that consistently shows that greater representation of women strengthens community relationships, builds public trust, and contributes to more effective policing.
- I will leave it to the Chief to speak more about how he and his leadership team are supporting this effort.