

Chair's Verbal Report April 27, 2026

- We have a full agenda today, covering a wide range of items including body-worn cameras and the downtown core safety plan.
- I want to acknowledge the significant work that goes into preparing for these meetings – from Service staff, Board members, and Board office staff – reflected in the approximately 400 pages of material before us today.
- I mention this because this work is central to transparency, accessibility, and accountability.
- All the meeting materials are posted publicly in advance, typically a week ahead of time, so that residents, media, and Board members have access to the same information at the same time.
- This allows residents and journalists to review the material in advance, which often leads to public questions, media coverage, and delegations such as those we heard today. That is an important part of the process.
- We welcome that engagement. I also want to acknowledge those who are following today's meeting – whether in person, online, or through media coverage – and who take an active interest in community safety and policing in Ottawa.
- I am also pleased to announce that our next regular Board meeting on June 22 will be our first hybrid meeting, to be held in person at the Champlain Room at City Hall.
- This marks a meaningful step in returning to the kind of public presence that strengthens Board accountability and community engagement. I want to thank our Board Assistant Randa Ben Guedria for the considerable effort she has put into coordinating the logistics and working with City staff to make this happen.

Complaints Committee

<Important because the minutes of the committee are confidential, so only way to report back is through the verbal report. Also would be helpful to thank the PSU to cement buy-in due to some resistance to this process>

- I am pleased to report that the Board's Complaints Committee has recently held its first meeting under its revised mandate, which formalizes our role in reviewing policy and procedure complaints referred to us by the Inspector General of Policing.
- Under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, residents of Ottawa can bring complaints about Board policies and police procedures to the Inspector General, who may then refer those complaints to us for review.
- This process matters because complaints are windows into how our policies and the Chief's procedures work in practice, and they give the Board a direct, community-driven signal about where our governance framework may need to be strengthened.
- In each case, the Committee acts on the findings and, where warranted, identifies concrete steps to improve either Board policy or the Chief's procedures.
- I would like to take a moment to thank members of the Committee, Vice Chair Carr, Members Donaldson and Henschel, Board staff, and the members of the OPS Professional Standards Unit for their engagement with this important work which advances accountability and responsiveness to the needs and expectations of Ottawa's residents.
- All reports of the Complaints Committee are available in both official languages on our website, at the bottom of the Complaints page.

Big 12 meeting

- In March, together with Executive Director Sayah, I joined colleagues from Ontario's Big 12 police service boards for our first in-person meeting since the pandemic, held in Hamilton.
- Inspector General Ryan Teschner joined us to provide an update on the province-wide inspection on police integrity and anti-corruption practices, and a substantive session covering policy and procedure complaints, budget development, and police board's role in quality assurance.
- A strong theme across both days was the need for boards to work more collectively – pooling our resources for joint advocacy on legislative change and developing shared approaches to the policy challenges we are all facing. No board should have to solve these problems in isolation, and there is real appetite across the Big 12 to move in that direction.

Community Engagement

- Being present in the community is also an important part of how Board members stay connected to local priorities and concerns.
- In March I was pleased to attend Khayrhaye Somali Eid Al-Fitr celebration, and Ahmadiyya Muslim Iftar.
- I also attended Holocaust Remembrance Commemorations, including a candle lighting ceremony at the Jewish Community Centre on the evening of April 13, and at the Holocaust Monument on April 14. (*I note the time of day because Yom HaShoah starts at sunset on the 13th*).
- To learn about priorities for policing in rural areas Member Donaldson and staff attended an engagement session in Manotick.
- This was the last of 6 sessions with community service providers and organizations in each District which 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.

- On March 4, Vice Chair Carr, Members Donaldson, Desroches and Polowin attended a badge ceremony for new police officers.
- On March 17, I attended a meeting of the Community Equity Council.
- Vice Chair Carr, Members Curry, Donaldson, Henschel and I also attended the Mayor's breakfast to hear the Chief talk about the Downtown Core Safety Plan.
- This is a top concern among many residents across the city, whether they live or work in the core or not, and I look forward to hearing more from the Chief about this later on in the meeting today.