

Chief Charles Bordeleau
Verbal Report January 23rd
Ottawa Police Services Board

Good evening,

Congratulations Mr. Chair and Mr. Vice Chair on your re-election. I look forward to working with all of you and the Board.

Congratulations again to Deputy Chief Bell.

Today is an important day for our service. We are implementing a series of changes to our frontline deployment that is designed to ensure we can continue to deliver excellent and sustainable policing services into the future.

The new model is designed to ensure we are responsive to the needs of the community. At its core is a commitment to community policing. It will ensure there are more resources at the front line, focused on keeping Ottawa safe and a centralized command structure designed to make us as effective as possible with the resources we have. By centralizing our command structure, we will be better able to respond to any issue that arises anywhere in the city, enhancing our response time and allowing more time for proactive policing measures.

It was hard work getting to this point. I want to thank Deputy Chief Skinner, her Service Initiative team and all the women and men of the service who worked to make this happen. With all this work underway, we remain committed and focused on the priorities of finding solutions to violence against women, guns and gangs and traffic issues.

And at the heart of what our members do is a focus on victims of crime. Just this week, we received a letter from a woman who had been sexually assaulted, reported it and had her case go to trial. She wrote to us: "Although it was a very difficult and emotional time, feeling supported, informed, and treated with the utmost respect and compassion made all of the difference for me. I only wish that all victims of this type of crime could be guided through the process in the same manner I was, never to be re-victimized and never to regret reporting the crime committed against them." Thank you to Cst. (Matthew) Dunn, Cst. (Jody) Moore, Sgt. (Martin) Rukavina, and especially to Sgt. (Jeff) Webster for making all the difference to me when it counted most."

Letter from the community

I also want to share a story about how one of our officers assisted a newly sponsored Syrian family. Recently, during an extremely cold day in Ottawa, a man named Bashar was taking the bus to apply for his driver's license at the Walkley Road office. While on his way, Bashar got confused and got off at the wrong bus stop. The street was empty and the only person he could see was a police officer. His previous experience with authorities in Syria made him reluctant to approach the officer but he remembered the session he had attended with the Ottawa Police and decided to ask him for directions. The officer pointed out that he was still almost two kilometres away and offered Bashar a ride.

This week, a friend of Bashar wrote me to say that this simple act of kindness from one of our police officers, positively impacted him, his wife and his three children. Now Bashar's youngest son wants to be a police officer when he grows up.

It's just one example of the many daily, positive interactions between our members and the public, and it makes me proud to be a member of this service.

Canada 150th Celebrations

Thank you to the officers who planned for and worked New Years Eve celebrations in Ottawa. We worked with all our partners at the municipal and federal level to ensure a great and safe event. There was a visible increase in security with new additions to our security planning being added to deal with new threats to large crowds that has been seen in other countries. It was the first of many major events we expect to be involved with in 2017, and it got off to an excellent start.

Supervised Injection Sites

Earlier this month, I sent a letter to the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre to give feedback about their proposal for a Supervised Injection Site. A copy of the letter has been sent to the Board. Its proposal was reviewed our assessment determined that the security provisions are inadequate. We've asked for a more robust mitigation strategy.

We have also received a new and more complex applications from Inner City Health that is currently being responded to.

The OPS shares the goals of assisting the most vulnerable in our community and we want people with addictions to have access to care and treatment. However, we believe that the proponents for these sites need to take into account the impact they will have on the surrounding community. So far, we believe that if stronger mitigation plans are not put into place we expect to see an increase in calls to police and other

frontline responders like paramedics. We already see this activity, including crime, social disorder and drug trafficking in other locations serving the same community.

Overdose Prevention Taskforce

In the last few months, there has been a lot of attention on tragedies related to drug overdoses in B.C. We are aware that fentanyl is available in Ottawa and we are concerned. This is an important conversation for the Overdose Prevention Taskforce, a coalition of services in Ottawa that includes Ottawa Police, Ottawa Public Health, Ottawa Paramedic, The Ottawa Hospital, The Royal Ottawa, Respect Pharmacy and the Ottawa Pharmacists Association. We have a common goal of increasing public awareness of the risks associated with drug use and specifically the dangers related to fentanyl. The coalition is also working to inform the public on the availability of naloxone.

The OPS is part of the public education campaign that included the launch of the website stopoverdoseottawa.ca

Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR)

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that Ottawa Police has taken a major step in our commitment towards the wellness of our members by introducing mandatory training for all members under a program called Road to Mental Readiness or, more commonly referred to as R2MR. R2MR was originally developed by DND but has been adapted to police services and adopted by more than 40 police services in Ontario. The goal of the program is to reduce the stigma related to mental health issues and address and promote mental health and resiliency.

Thank you.