

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

23 January 2017 / 23 janvier 2017

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

Contact Person / Personne ressource:

**John Steinbachs, Director, Corporate Communications / Directeur
Communications générales
*Steinbachsj@ottawapolice.ca***

SUBJECT: LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

OBJET: LETTRES DE MENTION ÉLOGIEUSE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du présent rapport à titre d'information.

BACKGROUND

Attached for the information of the Board are excerpts from letters of appreciation / thanks received from the public since the last regular meeting for services rendered by members of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

Date Received: 10 December 2016

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from letter: Merry Christmas to all our Ottawa Police officers and staff. The OPS is our trusted leader in many, many ways. I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you for all that you do to keep our city a very safe place to

live. I appreciate all of your services. I enjoyed watching the OPS helping the children shop for their gifts at Carlingwood Mall last week. Beautiful; an excellent news piece to watch.

Date Received: 10 December 2016

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Sergeant Jasdeep Bajwa

Excerpt from letter: Sgt. Bajwa embodies all that an officer of the law and a human being should be. I have met him on four occasions and he should be the role model for police everywhere!

Date Received: 12 December 2016

From: David R. Fallon, Chief of Police, Somerville, Massachusetts (USA)

OPS Member: Sergeant Fernando Vieira

Excerpt from letter: On behalf of Chief Fallon and the Somerville Police Department, I would like to thank you and recognize the actions of one of your officers. One of our officers was involved in the pursuit of a shoplifter who had stolen a \$300 jacket and fled the area before our officer could respond. When our officer did arrive, the suspect was already being detained by one of your officers – Sgt. Fernando Vieira – who happened to be driving by and witnessed a pursuit. Officer Vieira assisted the civilian loss prevention officer in detaining the suspect until our officer arrived, and together, he and our officer were able to safely handcuff the suspect without incident. We would like to thank you and recognize Officer Vieira for his selfless actions. Even though he was far away from home, and unarmed, he did not hesitate to assist a fellow police officer. We know all too well the current, inherent dangers in law enforcement. Firearms here are prevalent, so what Officer Vieira did was not without risk to his own safety. Please extend our sincerest thanks to Officer Vieira, and if he comes back to Somerville, I would love to shake his hand. He is truly a credit to the Ottawa Police Service.

Date Received: 16 December 2016

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Paddy Magill

Excerpt from letter: At two o'clock this morning I was awoken by an Ottawa police officer. She was driving by and noticed that our garage door was open. She checked our car licences but there were no phone numbers attached so she decided to ring the bell. Needless to say, Ottawa's police force has been dealing with many, much more difficult cases but this officer took the time to keep us and our community safe in a small way. For me it is a great reminder of the important things, both big and small, our police force does for us. I want her and every other police officer to know that we really appreciate the work they do.

Date Received: 16 December 2016

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Ian Kemp

Excerpt from letter: Although I was bundled against the cold, I became hypothermic. I had been waiting for the bus for half an hour, and was getting cramps in my legs because of the cold, and my feet felt like they were becoming frostbitten. I couldn't stop shaking. One of your officers watched me and realized I was in trouble. He parked his marked SUV and approached me and asked where I was going. When I told him he said he would take me home. He loaded the walker I use because of some of my disabilities into the SUV and drove me home. I would very much like to thank my hero. I think he deserves a formal commendation from the department and the Mayor. He truly saved my life by going above and beyond the call of duty.

Date Received: 19 December 2016

From: Member of the Public

Excerpt from letter: I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the police officers that saw me stuck in the snow with my car and came to help. I was struggling to get out for an hour and they saw me while driving by and helped me until I was able to leave. I really appreciate it.

Date Received: 20 December 2016

From: Member of the Public

OPS Member: Constables Patrick Alden and Lenworth Vaz

Excerpt from letter: I am writing to thank the Ottawa Police Service for its intervention. Two officers interviewed my wife and I about my complaint of a man making verbal threats against me. The officers patiently and respectfully heard our report about the man and his conduct. They said that they would speak to him. The next day the man approached me and said, in a controlled voice, "It didn't work," and walked on by. I took his statement to mean that, in spite of the officers' visit, he would continue to threaten me. While I have heard him muttering since, he has not directed any further comments toward me. My observation is that 'it did work.' Thank you for your timely, and apparently successful, assistance.

Date Received: 21 December 2016

From: Constable Andrew Wightman

OPS Member: Carol Macpherson, Julie Kavanagh, Staff Sergeant Sam Fawaz

Excerpt from letter: I wanted to extend my sincerest thanks for all the work that was done to make #OperationSubZero an overwhelming success! When Christine Drummond and I conceived this project it was to address the winter clothing needs of Ottawa's homeless and disadvantaged youth. Our original goal was to "pack a cruiser"

with winter coats, hats, gloves and other winter clothing items to be delivered to our community partners at the Youth Services Bureau. When we had finished we ended up filling three vehicles! Julie Kavanagh and Carol Macpherson were extremely important to the project by creating media buzz and getting the word out. A special thank you also goes to Staff Sgt. Sam Fawaz who provided us the use of an NHO vehicle when we realized our collected donations were too much to fit in one vehicle. Most of all I would like to thank Christine Drummond for all her hard work. She was my right hand and without her this project would have never got off the ground! I know that because of this project we were able to make an impact on improving the lives of our homeless and disadvantaged youth. The YSB was so very thankful for all the donations and were glad to have such support from your organization.

Date Received: 22 December 2016

From: Sergeant Randy Selig

OPS Member: Constables Jafeth Maseruka, Yannik Bernard, Daniel Sinclair, Christopher Bisailon, Dominique Trudeau and Sergeant Corey MacNeil

Excerpt from letter: I would like to draw attention to the excellent work of our officers for their quick response and apprehension of a suspect after he committed an armed robbery at an Ottawa pharmacy. As a result, the suspect is facing charges for robbery with a firearm and was held for show cause.

Date Received: 24 December 2016

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from letter: My Uncle, Angus MacDonald, is a retired uniformed Staff Sgt-armed robbery division and crime unit. He is a retired member of the Black Watch. I am also retired police. Ottawa Police is one of the finest police agencies in Canada! God Bless you and your men and women with much respect and warm regards, please be safe. May you have a wonderful Christmas, New Years and always stay safe!

Date Received: 28 December 2016

From: Member of the public

OPS Member: Constables Earle Cook and Cesar Wiegelmann

Excerpt from letter: My social worker called the police feeling I was a threat to myself. Cst. Cook and Cst. Wiegelmann showed up and brought me to the hospital. They both were extremely nice and talked with me a lot. Cst. Cook showed up a few days later with Christmas presents, including cat food and gift cards, along with a Christmas card. I feel I was a little too stunned to say how much I appreciated it. I really hope he understands how much it meant and how much it helped despite seeming like a small thing. Thank you for being a great person on top of a great officer, and giving me a merry Christmas.

Date Received: 29 December 2016

From: Member of the public

OPS Member: Sergeant Cameron Graham

Excerpt from letter: Just want to say how good and kind one of your officers was to us a couple of years ago. We have not forgotten his help.

Date Received: 31 December 2016

From: Member of the public

OPS Member: Constable Bettina Schmidt

Excerpt from letter: Cst. Schmidt stopped an elderly driver and issued a warning for not having proof of insurance and an expired license plate sticker. I am the caregiver for this dear old lady who forgot to renew her documents. I have since arranged for auto-deductions for her insurance and will monitor more closely her other permits. I thank Cst. Schmidt for her professional acumen.

Date Received: 2 January 2017

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from letter: Congratulations for work so well done on New Year's Eve. Everyone on duty was so great. I was very proud to be from Ottawa. Even the tourists around us were very impressed! Hats off to you all!

Date Received: 3 January 2017

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from letter: I would like to send a big thank you to a dispatcher and several officers who swiftly responded to a call I made after I noticed a driver in the eastbound lanes of the 417 at St. Laurent turn around on the highway and travel in the wrong direction back to the St. Laurent off ramp. I was quite concerned that this driver was intoxicated, but at the very least, attention was needed to make sure a dangerous situation was brought under control. The part that impressed me the most was the response time. It was less than a minute after giving the 911 dispatcher the location that two Ottawa Police units had already made contact with the driver. It's good to know there are those who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect us.

Date Received: 4 January 2017

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Chandra Rose

Excerpt from letter: I'd like to offer a compliment to all who have touched my wife's life. My wife has suffered from depression for years and would contact the help or suicide line etc. This normally resulted in them calling the police, which resulted in a visit to my house. My wife recently passed away and my family and I like to think she is finally at

peace. I want to thank every single officer who has ever been at my house. Every one of them treated my wife with respect, dignity and were nothing but helpful and understanding. A special thanks to Cst. Rose who was at my house the last two times. She went to the hospital, stayed and was nothing but encouraging and friendly towards my wife, who could not say enough about the officer and how respectful, encouraging and supportive she was. Although Cst. Rose was only with my wife a few times, she should know she made a difference in her life.

Date Received: 4 January 2017

From: Guy Laflamme, Executive Director Ottawa 2017

Excerpt from letter: Thank you and your team members for the remarkable job done for our launch event last Saturday evening. The strong presence of the Ottawa Police Service, and the quality of the plan put in place, resulted in a very safe event and reassured the public about the calibre of our planning. In addition to the quality of their work, police officers on-site demonstrated an amazing degree of courtesy with the public, as I witnessed many of them wishing a happy new year to patrons attending our event. On behalf of our board, our partners, and team members; merci for a job super-well done.

Date Received: 6 January 2017

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Jonathan Ross

Excerpt from letter: My son was involved in an incident and I'd like to thank the officer that dealt with him, Cst. Jonathan Ross. My son was having mental health issues and I wanted to thank the officer for his care.

Date Received: 6 January 2017

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constables Bernard Covic and Jean Benoit

Excerpt from letter: I was in a car accident where I was squeezed between two cars. I want to say a huge thank you to the two police officers who came on the scene. They were both very nice. Merci sincèrement! Vous faites un travail remarquable. Bonne année!