

Ottawa Police Services Board
Policy and Governance Committee

Minutes 5

Monday, 2 March 2020, 1:00 PM

Honeywell Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa

Krista Ferraro, Executive Director

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Present: Members: D. Nirman, S. Valiquet (Committee Chair)
Others: Board member L.A. Smallwood; Board member C. Meehan;
Executive Director K. Ferraro; Chief P. Sloly; Deputy Chief S. Bell; Deputy
Chief U. Jaswal; CAO J. Letourneau; Superintendent C. Renwick; Director
J. Steinbachs; Director R. Mar; Inspector K. Bryden; Inspector C.
Cartright; J. Ghadiali; D. Koepke; Councillor R. Brockington; Councillor R.
King; CPO Executive Director N. Worsfold

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That the Policy and Governance Committee confirm the Agenda of the 2 March 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes 4 of 7 February 2020

That the Policy and Governance Committee confirm Minutes 4 from the 7 February 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

INQUIRIES

There were none.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE RESPONSE TO MOTION ON MEASURES TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Presentation

The trends around gun and gang activity in Ottawa are different from counterparts in the rest of the province. The OPS has taken several steps to stem this criminal activity, including increasing its PIVOT teams; conducting more proactive work; leveraging partnerships; and tracking various OPS interactions with the community.

The Committee noted that the discussion around guns and gangs is moving away from being a policing issue but rather a community issue and this is a positive thing.

On the topic of CCTV cameras, it was noted that there is no evidence to suggest they are an effective crime prevention measure.

With respect to handguns, 73% come from the US. Gun buy-back programs, while they may pose a benefit in terms of public optics, are not effective in getting illegal guns off the street, which make up the majority of crime guns.

The OPS Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) Program will be independently evaluated to help inform its evolution. The OPS expects to receive both positive and negative feedback through the evaluation. Some indicators of success might include officer's intimate knowledge of their assigned community or community members awareness of the officers assigned; increased reporting of crime; improved information sharing; etc. It was noted that it will be important to provide context around any crime statistics taken from the communities in which NRTs exist as increases in charges or reports may be correlated with the increased police resources dedicated to the areas.

The NRT officers have a flexible schedule that can be adjusted based on needs. The officers are intended to be accessible and visible and therefore

do most of their work either on bikes or foot patrol.

A discussion also took place on the ability for the OPS to help sponsor and provide support to not-for-profit community agencies. The OPS often will co-sponsor grant applications, sit on various community boards, and assist with fundraising efforts where possible.

On the topic of community police centres and spaces for police within existing buildings, the OPS indicated the community often reaches out with offers to provide space for police use. The OPS does consider these offers but also wants to ensure its members spend most of their time out and about in the community, interacting with the public.

That the Policy and Governance Committee receive this presentation for information.

RECEIVED

2. USE OF TECHNOLOGY BY THE POLICE AND PRIVACY IMPLICATIONS

It was noted that the Board had asked the OPS in the past whether Clearview AI had been used by the Service and was told no. It has now come to light that members of the OPS had in fact used the software. The Committee asked the OPS to advise the Board:

- Who knew that Clearview AI had been used?
- When did they know?
- Why wasn't the Board told?

A discussion also took place on previous requests the Board has made for information related to the use of technology by the Service, such as requests for copies of related policies, and reluctance from the Service to provide the requested information as it was deemed operational in nature and not within the jurisdiction of the Board. Since Boards have a responsibility for creating policies for the Service and asking questions, they must be privy to operational matters. Any topics which are sensitive in nature can be discussed in-camera if needed. This is supported by Justice Morden's 2012 report.

The Chief noted that with respect to Clearview AI, the Board was provided

with incorrect and incomplete information. A comprehensive review is being done to poll OPS members on their use of the software. The results of the review will be shared with the Board along with recommendations on how to address this moving forward.

A point was made that the Board should be consulted on the use of new technology. The Chief advised the OPS will make every effort it can to prevent any abuse of technology however members are often looking seeking out best practices and approached by vendors to test out new technologies, which appears to be what happened in the case of Clearview AI. The OPS can however take steps to raise the level of education and understanding amongst members of the implications and impacts of testing out new technologies.

With respect to the request for copies of OPS policies, the Chief advised these would be sent to the Board by the end of the week.

Acting Board Chair Smallwood moved the following motion, seconded by Member Nirman:

That the Policy and Governance Committee recommend to the Ottawa Police Services Board that the Committee draft a Board policy with respect to the use of both current and new technology by the Ottawa Police Service that takes into account the needs and expectations of the public with respect to their privacy. The policy would be drafted in consultation with key stakeholder groups and would take into consideration existing policies. The policy would also serve as an umbrella policy, governing the use of any technology that may be used, or is currently be used, by the Service which could impact the privacy of the public.

CARRIED

The Committee advised the Service to abstain from using any form of facial recognition software until the privacy implications have been considered and the Board has created its policy. While privacy assessments may have been conducted in the past by the Service prior to using technologies, these have never been shared with the Board.

The Chief advised that by the March meeting, the OPS will provide a

framework with rough timelines, a list of internal and external stakeholders, and a process for engagement, to address the Committee's concerns. The OPS will also look to best practices. The Chief recommended that this item be a standing item on the Board agenda to keep track of progress.

The Committee assured the Service that it wants its members to have the right tools and technology in place but that it cannot come at any cost to the privacy of the public. The Board can help the Service achieve the right balance.

That the Policy and Governance Committee receive this item for discussion.

RECEIVED

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING: 2021 AND ONWARDS

The OPS will be bringing a more fulsome workplan for the Strategic Planning process at a future Committee meeting. The members of the Committee will help the OPS fine tune its engagement activities.

It was noted that the OPS could leverage information gathered by the NRT officers, in terms of community feedback and public opinions. The Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan being led by the City is also employing surveys, the data of which can be used. The OPS is exploring how to leverage these sources of information.

The Committee endorsed the proposed research plan.

That the Policy and Governance Committee receive the approach to public opinion research for the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan for discussion.

RECEIVED

OTHER BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON OPS RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

A meeting of all city stakeholders was recently held with respect to the coronavirus. Transmission has slowed down however it is present in more countries. There are 15 cases in Ontario. All of the cases in Canada are linked to

travel. While there are no confirmed cases in Ottawa at this time, should circumstances change, the OPS has a plan in place. Ottawa Public Health is proactively monitoring the situation. CBSA is conducting proactive scans at airports with inbound travel from affected countries.

2. FOLLOW-UP ON BOARD'S INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

At the February 24 Board meeting, Member Nirman raised concerns regarding the protocol and the Acting Chair re-directed the discussion back to the Policy and Governance Committee. Committee Chair Valiquet will meet with Member Nirman to discuss his concerns, prior to bringing this item back to the Board for approval.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.