

**Report to / Rapport au:**

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

**26 April 2021 / 26 avril 2021**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

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

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

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**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: 7 March 2021

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from Letter: I am a full-time single parent of two children and my 15-year-old son has recently become violent with me on a couple of occasions. Both times the Ottawa Police constables who arrived showed exemplary and compassionate service. As a member of the Ottawa skateboard community I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Ottawa Police Service for not giving skateboarders too hard of

time over the years in the city. There was recently an incident involving another police service and a young man on a skateboard, and I just thought back that over all the years that I have skateboarded in Ottawa I have never experienced harassment by the police.

Date Received: 10 March 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constables Tristan Bailey

Excerpt from Letter: This afternoon, after an incident involving a driver deliberately hitting a friend with her car while we were out for a walk, we were able to speak with a wonderful Ottawa Police Service Constable – Tristan Bailey. He was so kind, compassionate and supportive. Thank you, sir.

Date Received: 11 March 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Chad Fawcett

Excerpt from Letter: I called the police last night to do a wellness on my sister-in-law. I was kept informed of the situation by the officers and they arranged an ambulance to take her to hospital. She has been admitted with some physical concerns. Thank you so much for keeping me informed and staying with her. You did an amazing job.

Date Received: 15 March 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Stephanie Lemieux

Excerpt from Letter: Thank you very much for taking the time to meet with our Seniors group discussing Fraud and Scams. The ladies now feel more confident in how to handle their personal information and how to avoid scams. You have helped a large community of seniors who are now planning on sharing your information with their friends, family and living communities. You offer a very valuable service and I thank you for sharing it with us.

Date Received: 23 March 2021

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from Letter: I know that you probably get more complaints than compliments so I would just like to say thank you. Recently there has been a speed enforcement set up along our road and it has been very effective. There are far too many that drive through here on a daily basis at 80 km/hr or higher so we are very appreciative of the OPS' assistance in getting drivers to slow down.

Date Received: 24 March 2020

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Ryan Poitras

Excerpt from Letter: Constable Ryan. Poitras came to our home in response to a report we file after my brother's car was damaged earlier in the day. He was immediately greeted by my 6-year-old son and 3.5-year-old daughter. They were thrilled to see a police car in our driveway! Cst. Poitras took the time to take them on a "tour" of his vehicle, showing them the lights and sirens and explained the work he does in the community. He could have just taken the report and been on his way, but he went above and beyond to make the experience so exciting for my children. He was kind and patient and answered their questions and made their first encounter with an officer a wonderful experience.

Date Received: 26 March 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Sebastien Lemay

Excerpt from Letter: I would like to express my appreciation for the work done by Constable Sebastien Lemay, who is responsible for the Sandy Hill area. Cst. Lemay retrieved a valuable bike of mine; the day after it was stolen. While on an unrelated call he spotted my bike and decided to look into it, because it looked out of place in that setting. If it weren't for Cst. Lemay's attentiveness, awareness, and investigative thinking, the bike would not have been recovered. Cst. Lemay showed great instinct and skills as a police officer, as well as taking the time to deal with this situation including the repeated search for the serial number, holding on to the bike, following up with me and making arrangement to pick up the bike, communicating with care and consideration, and providing educational information about bike registration services offered by the Ottawa Police Service. Thank you Cst. Lemay for all you have done, the OPS should be very proud of members like yourself.

Date Received: 29 March 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Tyler Tierney

Excerpt from Letter: I was taken by ambulance to the hospital after my house caught on fire and that's where I met Constable Tyler Tierney. He stayed with me the entire time I was in the emergency room. He went above and beyond, reassuring me and actively getting updates. He let me use his phone to call my partner who was still at the scene. He gave me a pen and paper to write phone numbers down; you don't realize how helpless you are when tragedy strikes. After I was released Cst. Tierney even offered to give me a ride back to my house to find my partner, who had remained back at the scene. I will always remember our conversation on the way back, even in trauma a girl from Saskatchewan can still talk about football. He was truly my rock all evening when I

needed it most. The fire, the ambulance ride, the hospital, it was all overwhelming for me and would have been so much worse without someone like Cst. Tierney who supported me every step of the way. I will be forever grateful that I had a guardian angel that night.

Date Received: 30 March 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Special Constable David Johnstone

Excerpt from Letter: I'm just writing regarding a super pleasant experience I had with Special Constable David Johnston. He is very knowledgeable and did not hesitate to ensure I understood all of the information he was providing to me. He was patient and overall a great individual to speak/deal with! Thank you David!

Date Received: 5 April 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Emyr Thomas

Excerpt from Letter: Constable Emyr Thomas is a credit to the Ottawa Police Service! His kind, compassionate response to my queries where a gift from God!

Date Received: 9 April 2021

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from Letter: You are already putting your lives on the line and now with this terrible pandemic your jobs are even more dangerous. But you are doing what needs to be done, and there is nothing cooler than that. I support police in whatever city they are in. God bless you guys.

Date Received: 10 April 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Sergeant Walter Lushman and Constables Stephen Tate, Tommy Jellinek, Shyldon Safruk, Sony Leveillee, Paul Baechler, Pierre-Luc Legros

Excerpt from Letter: Thank you for your safety initiatives around ATVs on rural roads and property. We have been having problems with off-road vehicles for years. We know the regulations, but the operators of these vehicles insist they are allowed on roads. Your formal clarification is most welcome. Thank you.

Date Received: 12 April 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Sergeant Kevin Linnett and Constables Eric Douglas, Corey Bourguignon, Virginia Witt, Curtis Hebert, Wayne Clayton, Steve Landon

Excerpt from Letter: I would like to highlight the outstanding work and professionalism displayed by the members of the Ottawa Police Service involved in the events that took

place in our neighbourhood. Early one morning, my wife and I were woken up by the sound of the drug warrant being served a few houses from our residence. As this is a relatively quiet neighbourhood, we stepped outside on the front porch and saw police activity. Almost immediately, a plain clothes officer approached our house to reassure us that all was secure and that there was not anything to worry about. The officer in question also apologized for the noise, which in our eyes was completely acceptable and more than reasonable given the circumstances. Later in the afternoon several members of the Neighbourhood Response Team went door to door to explain to all residents what took place and to reassure the neighbourhood. All NRT officers were extremely professional in their approach, and seemed to be extremely well received by all our neighbours. I could hear laughs, kids playing with the officers and lots of smiles! The outreach conducted as a result of the police operation was a complete success in my eyes. I want to thank you for all that you do and to hope you stay safe; we look forward in seeing out in the community during this coming summer!

Date Received: 13 April 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Charlene Abella

Excerpt from Letter: I called the Ottawa Police Service over a concern with a vehicle outside our residence which had been parked for over an hour with the engine running and its parking lights on. There had been no sign of activity in the heavily tinted vehicle and I hesitated to call but eventually I decided to place my trust in the Ottawa Police Service to investigate and handle the situation with discretion. I was not to be disappointed. Two cruisers arrived within five minutes of my call. After a few minutes of, presumably assessing the situation and checking the license plate, two officers got out of their respective vehicles. They had a look in the vehicle with the aid of a flashlight and then tapped lightly on one of the windows. They waited patiently for several minutes before a young person emerged, still half-asleep, from the back seat of the vehicle. I could not have been more proud of the professional, and non-confrontational way in which the two officers handled this situation. They politely asked the young man, dazed, and likely nervous, for his registration and driver's license. After verifying all of that, they appeared to suggest to the young man that he should pick up his discarded coffee cups beside the vehicle. I suspect they also gently suggested that this was not an optimum place to sleep the night. Who knows what that young man's situation at home is. Just like that, the young man and the police cruisers left the scene. No doubt, this was simply another routine call for the officers involved, and they have likely not given the incident a second thought. However, as a concerned citizen watching from the absolute

safety of my bedroom window, it was an exemplary display of professionalism and sound judgement by two of Ottawa's finest. BRAVO!