

Chief Sloly's verbal report transcription for July 27, 2020

Thank you very much Chair, merci beaucoup.

In regards to Traffic Safety, one of the top complaints we receive from residents are concerns around speeding, aggressive driving and excessive noise. Our Traffic Services team launched Operation Overwatch earlier this spring, and have now implemented Project Noisemaker. The first addresses speeding, the second addresses excessive noise.

I want to thank our partners from Safer Roads Ottawa; these two initiatives will continue to run throughout the summer and into the school year.

Community Safety

In early July we saw a series of tragic drownings in this city, with the death of a 2-year-old boy, a 14-year-old teen and a 20-year-old man. Our Marine, Dive and Trail unit helped to locate these victims over several long hours, and in some cases, several long days.

It took place in very dangerous waters and in very dangerous conditions. I want to thank the members of that unit for the work they put into staying prepared and being trained for these crises interventions, and their dedication when they are called upon.

We support our partners at the Ottawa Drowning Prevention Coalition, to broaden our scope of education about water safety. Our Marine, Dive and Trails team is out on Ottawa's waterways every weekend to educate the public and to ensure that everyone has a safe and happy boating experience.

Member Safety

In the past few weeks we have been seeing a disturbing of increasing angst, aggression and assaults towards our members. These incidents include, but are not limited to, spitting blood and saliva, biting, throwing chairs, swarming, and punching.

In fact, this morning three of our Special Constables were attacked by a prisoner. One of the members sustained a concussion, the second a broken nose, and the third a torn cornea.

The health and safety of our community members and our Service members is our priority. Our members are our community's friends, neighbours, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters and sons.

We are studying this trend carefully, we are talking with our community partners to find out ways that we can mitigate these tensions and reduce these incidents.

Good work

Two Ottawa Police officers were on patrol when they spotted children trying to teach a third child some tricks on a bicycle that they were sharing between them. The officers were on bike patrol themselves

and they approached the kids to offer some tips on bike safety and to compliment them on their efforts to teach each other.

During the conversation they learned that all three boys had their bikes stolen the month before. The children showed them photos of their stolen bikes, and one of the officers immediately recognized the bikes. He had seen them in a lost and found property holding area at a local mall. The officer contacted the children's parents and helped them to reclaim their bikes.

All three boys were reunited with their bikes and were set for some summer fun.

I want to thank these officers, and the many others at OPS, for going above and beyond in serving children, families and communities, every day, in ways that are very rarely, if ever, reported, and quite often, increasingly, less appreciated.

Courage under pressure

This past month a woman lost control of her car and it ended up in the Ottawa river near the Thomas Dolan Parkway. The woman frantically called 911. The Ottawa Police Service call taker, Victor Fuenmayor, took the first call from the woman.

Victor knew that he had to act fast as the woman told him that her car was in the river, she was inside of it and unable to escape, and that the car was quickly filling up with water.

To make matters worse, the woman was new to Ottawa and wasn't certain where she was. Victor managed to keep the woman calm, discover her location, and broadcast that to responding emergency services.

The car was almost fully submerged, and in fact the woman kept asking Victor to let her children know that she loved them in anticipation of a tragedy. In fact she was rescued at the last moment by an off-duty firefighter who was listening to the dispatcher and the location and was able to get there before any other arriving unit.

This is an example of outstanding and brave work by our firefighters. It is also an example of exceptional work done by an OPS member in our Communications Centre. We often hear about the heroic efforts of our frontline officers, firefighters and paramedics, but it's equally important to recognize the impact of courageous and brave work of our 911 civilian staff.