

**Chief's Verbal Report**  
**Ottawa Police Services Board**  
**March 27th, 2017**

I try to use these verbal reports to highlight some of the realities of the important work our members do or issues facing the Service.

**Section 11 investigation**

Earlier this month, charges were laid by the Province's Special Investigations Unit against a member of our service in relation to the death of Abdirahman Abdi. To maintain the integrity and impartiality of any SIU investigation and to respect the criminal court process, all members of the Ottawa Police are prohibited by law through the *Police Services Act* from speaking to matters related to any SIU investigation.

However, there has been a great deal of discussion about the type of equipment, specifically gloves, used by our officers. We take this very seriously. Under Section 11 of the Ontario Regulation 267/10 of the *Police Services Act*, an investigation that focuses on policies and conduct is required when the SIU invokes its mandate. That Section 11 investigation was initiated in July. It is in everyone's interest that the Section 11 proactively look at the use of equipment, namely gloves. Included in the Section 11 will be a confirmation of the current inventory, a review of approval processes, compliance with policy and the rationale for purchase.

I have dedicated the appropriate resources to conduct a thorough and timely investigation. What I can tell you is that the police service has policies and procedures that govern the use and purchase of all equipment, including gloves. I can tell you now that some sections are issued specialty gloves given the type or scope of work that they do.

As Chief, I have a requirement to report back to the Board on the Section 11 investigation. While reporting back to the Board on components of this investigation I will also be required to be mindful on how that reporting back could impact the court process underway. This may limit what I can share while a court process is underway. As we would with any investigation, if we identify that there are issues with any of these processes we will move to make changes.

**Choking incident**

First, I want to recognize Cst. Tina Pippy who stepped in to save a little girl from choking on Saturday morning at a Nepean area restaurant. Cst. Pippy was off duty but saw the

girl in distress and used her training to step in and dislodge a piece of food from the girl's throat. Her story is featured on CTV and I think it is a good example of the actions our members take every day.

### **Foot patrol**

We often receive complaints about open drug use and dealing and work to respond to complaints with measures like foot patrol. On Sunday, two officers confronted a man appearing ready to smoke crack on the 100 block of George St. Despite being arrested and handcuffed the suspect attempted to escape. In the ensuing struggle with one of the officers, the officer was kicked in the face with steel-toed boots. The officer received a broken nose. It's just an example of the realities officers face on a daily basis. Our members care and they work hard to serve the community. I encourage members of the board to review the Commendations report on the agenda to see more of the differences they make on a daily basis.

### **Sexual assault**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, three officers responded to a west end mall after a 3 year old girl was sexually assaulted. Cst. Mark Bradley, Cst. Dwaine Howe and Cst. Edmundo Caizapanta arrived on scene and spoke with the little girl and her family. They first obtained a description of the suspect then split up to begin investigating. Cst. Bradley searched the mall and was able to locate the described man and kept him in sight. And after video confirmation, an arrest was made without incident. I would like to commend these three officers for excellent and professional work.

### **Regulated Interactions**

As the Board is aware, in December, I had temporarily delayed the use of Regulated Interactions – formerly known as Street Checks - until all implementation steps had been completed. A lot of work has been carried out over the past year to ensure compliance with the requirements of the new regulations. The OPS has implemented policy and procedures, data management processes and storage, auditing, reporting processes and mandatory training. Beginning tomorrow, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Ottawa Police members who have taken the mandatory training will be permitted to conduct regulated interactions. We have and will continue to work to ensure that this information is communicated with the community, media and with our own officers. I would like to thank Inspector Mark Patterson for leading the OPS project team through the implementation.

### **PTSD & Wellness**

Last Monday, I attended the HR Committee meeting where the OPS' PTSD Prevention Plan was reviewed. You have received a copy of this detailed plan which is due to the Ministry of Labour by April 23rd. I want to stress the importance of the work OPS is doing around wellness for our members and their families; in particular, about mental health and injuries such as PTSD. First responders have suffered in silence. We cannot go on like this. We've had to ask ourselves, what is stopping our members from getting the help they need and what can we do to change this? Based on the Ministry's direction, this plan focuses solely on PTSD prevention. It is however, just one part of OPS's comprehensive Wellness Strategy which examines the bigger picture of Wellness at OPS. I will be sharing our overall strategy at our next board meeting.

### **Diversity Training**

All new recruits receive diversity training as part of their education at the Ontario Police College but they also receive relevant training, while working at the OPS, about diverse communities specific to Ottawa. We tried something new in early March with our newest class. The Assunnah Muslim Association welcomed a class of our recruits to the Masjid ar-Rahmah mosque to participate in prayers and have lunch with members of the Muslim communities. This full day training was a great display of inclusion. It opened with a traditional Indigenous prayer and included information about Islam, Indigenous culture, GLBT communities, and the OPS racial profiling policy. We will continue working with the Assunnah Muslim Association and other communities for future diversity training opportunities.

### **Firearms Arrest**

Last week, Central patrol responded to a call on MacArthur Avenue concerning two men seen with guns, entering an apartment building. After frontline secured the area, Tactical entered and successfully arrested three occupants including Mathew Land, who had multiple outstanding warrants. Land was considered armed and dangerous and was wanted in relation to several serious assaults. The operation shows the importance of quick and thoughtful actions by those first on scene.

### **Robbery**

I want to end on another excellent example of frontline police work. On the morning of March 15th, Cst. Patrick Desulme was on patrol in Blackburn Hamlet when he heard the description of a man that he had seen earlier, being broadcast in relation to a bank robbery. The man had fled with a large amount of money. Cst. Desulme quickly located the suspect, engaged in a foot pursuit and arrested the man without incident. The Robbery Unit connected the accused to an additional robbery that took place on March 6<sup>th</sup> at a bank on Wellington St. A man was charged with both robberies. The Robbery

Unit continues to clear cases like this on a regular basis. The keen observation and the quick, decisive action of front line officers like Cst. Desulme are critical in resolving these serious crimes.

Thank you