

## **Chief's Verbal**

**July 23, 2018**

Good afternoon,

I have a brief verbal update for the Board this evening.

Every summer we increase the number of foot and bike patrol officers in the downtown core. As part of that intensified focus, this coming long weekend we will be conducting another community safety initiative in the Byward Market and Montreal Road areas. Since May, these initiatives have resulted in a variety of proactive enforcement activities aimed at ensuring the quality of life and experience in these areas of our city. We plan to continue this focus into September.

### **School Resource Officers on bike patrol**

Our School Resource Officers have been redeployed to bike patrol this summer and have been very active responding to calls city-wide. In June, our SROs responded to more than 140 calls for service that included proactive measures like identifying problem addresses to counter drug activity, aggressive panhandling, and other criminality in our neighbourhoods. In fact, just last week, two SROs on bike patrol arrested a bank robbery suspect. Having these officers out on their bikes in our city's communities gives them access to areas not easily reached by vehicles, and increases police presence in areas impacted by street level violence.

### **Guns and Gangs**

I wanted to inform the Board that following a review in our CID areas, our DART team has been realigned into the new Prevention and Intervention of Violence in Ottawa or PIVOT unit. This unit will employ traditional methods of enforcement but will also focus on incorporating preventative measures, working on community cohesion, as well as employing intervention techniques. Our officers felt it was important that we weren't only in neighbourhoods when there was a crisis or problem. Our community has been quite clear on this point as well. We needed to be there more often, in order to foster trust with residents most impacted by street level violence.

PIVOT will look to become more integrated with the communities we serve, by attending community meetings and events to encourage community engagement. PIVOT is based on the work that was done by the OPS and its partners for the new Ottawa Street Violence and Gang Strategy plan that was released last November.

**M. Tibollo, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, M. Tibollo**

On Friday, the new Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services dropped by our Elgin St. offices for a meeting followed by a ride along with PIVOT. We had a good discussion with Mr. Tibollo and were able to discuss the issues we are seeing in Ottawa. The Minister saw those issues first hand while out with our officers.

### **Road Safety initiatives**

Our Traffic Services officers have been busy this summer in their efforts to educate the public about road safety. With the recent release by the City of the Ottawa's highest collision intersections, the OPS is working with our partners at Safer Roads Ottawa to ensure that we are doing proactive work to reduce the number of those collisions.

Distracted and aggressive driving remain two of our key focuses with officers out in the community conducting blitzes specifically targeted at these types of infractions. We have worked collaboratively with our frontline officers on bikes to spot these types of drivers, and then have them pulled over down the road by one of our traffic officers. We will also be launching Project ERASE, which will specifically target dangerous motorcycle driving in the coming months. Two officers from the Ministry of the Environment will join our team in an effort to reduce motorcycle racing on our streets. We will also be partnering with the OPP for a project targeting aggressive motorcycle driving on Ottawa's highways.

### **Robbery and Break & Enter Units**

Our Robbery and Break & Enter Units continue to show outstanding leadership by coordinating arrests with the help of our frontline officers. On July 16th, officers responded to a break-in at a store in Westboro, and soon located a suspect that matched the description relayed by the Robbery Unit. Upon arresting the man, officers recovered more than \$8,300 worth of merchandise, and connected him to 13 other break-and-enters across the city. The next day, the unit responded to an attempted car-jacking. The unit circulated still photos from area security cameras and discovered that the suspect had been seen attempting to break into multiple vehicles. Frontline officers located the suspect in the city's west end and arrested him after a short foot chase.

### **Diversity Audit**

Finally, I wanted to provide a short update to the Board regarding the Diversity Audit. Last month, the newly hired team from Graybridge Malkam presented an overview of how they will conduct the diversity audit at OPS this year. The team has begun the audit work and is currently reviewing significant OPS documents including policies, procedures, training, deployment, and community engagement and consultation efforts.

Planning for engagement is also underway to ensure community and police involvement in the audit process through interviews. That consultation will take place from August throughout October. The consultation will include focus groups, questionnaires, and interviews. Regular updates on this important project will continue to be provided monthly.

### **Fee Structure for Background Checks**

The OPS had a strong response to the request for feedback on the fee for background checks, with more than 2,900 surveys completed in the July public input period. The responses overwhelmingly favoured that volunteers continue to receive a free background check. Based on this input, staff are finalizing fee and budget options for the Board to consider at the September meeting.