

Report to / Rapport au:

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

28 September 2020 / 28 septembre 2020

Submitted by / Soumis par:

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

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**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-20-17: FEES FOR COLLISION REPORT
REQUESTS**

**OBJET: RÉPONSE À LA DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS I-20-17 :
DEMANDES CONCERNANT LES FRAIS DE RAPPORT DE COLLISION**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receives this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

INQUIRY

The Ottawa Citizen reported in a story on July 24 that Ottawa Police demanded \$2,486 from a grieving family for a fatal accident report. Can you please provide the Board with the policy regarding providing reports to victims and the charging of fees; has the OPS charged this fee to other individuals in the past for similar requests and if so, can details be forwarded as well; if the OPS has charged a fee in the past as a cost recovery method, is there discretion to review the request for waiving such fees on a case by case basis.

RESPONSE

A collision reconstruction is a complex investigation involving our Collision Investigation Unit experts who collect and analyze evidence such as tire marks and debris in order to ascertain what the vehicles were doing pre-impact, during impact and post-impact.

A collision reconstruction report is a highly technical document. These documents do not contain personal information and therefore do not fall under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and as such, user fees apply. The cost of a reconstruction report performed by OPS is \$2,486 (not including HST). A collision reconstruction report along with other items can be requested per the OPS fee schedule (e.g. scale diagram and scene measurements). These fees are comparable across the Province.

All OPS user fees (Background Checks, False Alarms, Paid Duties, Collision Reports, etc) are approved annually by the Board as part of the Budget process. The Board has a full cost recovery policy on user fees and the fee schedule is approved by the Ottawa Police Services Board. The user fee for collision reconstruction reports therefore complies with this policy.

In most situations where a collision reconstruction report is required, a fatality is usually involved. These are tragic situations. As part of the investigation and victim support process, the lead investigator and reconstruction detective meets with the family, generally multiple times and shares the findings of the report.