

## **Chief's verbal for December 16, 2019**

I want to begin this evening by recognizing Supt. Sterling Hartley who will be retiring in January. This is Sterling's 39<sup>th</sup> year of policing. He began his career with Ottawa Police in 1981. I have only known him since September of this year, but I know that he is a well-liked, professional police officer who we have all come to rely on for his hard work, knowledge and dedication to policing in this community. We wish him well in his retirement.

I also want to recognize Member Blaustein for her service on the Board over the last two years. The role of the Board and the direction it provides our service is very important to our success and I know that Member Blaustein took this role very seriously. She showed our frontline members how much she cared and made a contribution to safety in this community.

Thank you....

As we head into the holiday season I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for making me feel so welcomed as I transitioned into my role as chief.

It's been a busy couple of weeks, and I'm looking forward to what we will accomplish together in the New Year.

You may wonder what I've been up to these past seven weeks in order to move forward the strategic goals outlined by the board....

### **Month in the life of the chief**

- Human Rights Learning Forum
- Release of Traffic Stop and Diversity Audit
- This is a busy role
- Meet with Senior Leadership Team
- Meet with frontline officers

- Briefings about ongoing criminal cases, HRT0, PSS and Accommodations
- Senior Officers, Staff Sergeants & Managers' Meeting
- Operational highlights
- Review daily operations
- Tent City
- 3 homicides, two solved
- Review briefings and get updates on key issues
  - Recruiting
  - Promotions
  - Outreach
  - Clothing and Equipment policy
- Speak with our Ottawa safety partners
- Meet with frontline members
- Go out on patrol with frontline at least once a month.
- Discussions with all seniors officers
- Visited the courthouse

- Started to meet with various community groups and members.

## **Human Rights Learning Forum**

Thank you to everyone who attended our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Learning Forum on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The forum was organized by our Community Development and Diversity and Race Relations sections and was well attended by approximately 200 people, representing a great cross section of police and community members and organizations.

We spent the half day together learning about the Traffic Stop Race Data and Diversity Audit reports and their findings and focused on developing a new action plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) with assigned resources, responsibilities, and accountabilities. I'm committed to delivering this action plan by the end of January.

It will be our road map for the next few years to build on the great work that has already been done – placing us at the forefront of professional and equitable policing. Together, we will make more meaningful progress on EDI by removing barriers and improving our systems. It's about creating a police service that our community and members deserve.

### **Officers talk man out of suicide attempt**

I want to highlight a few exceptional calls from our commendations report that illustrate the work our members do every day.

We recently had a call from distressed coworkers who had read their friend's post on social media, claiming he was going to harm himself.

Constables Katherine Weaver-Rutten and Daniel Tetreault were able to locate the man but it didn't end there.

They took the time to talk with the man, listen to his story, and then got him safely to hospital. The man later wrote back telling our officers about how that conversation had changed him; that he felt inspired and hopeful again. That their care had made a difference in his life.

Here is another example.....

Constables Aaron Wentzell and Shelley Dang were recently faced with a man who had barricaded himself in a bathroom with a knife. The man wrote to us to commend these officers on both their bravery and their ability to deescalate the situation by using creative solutions. The man commented:

*“I was treated with dignity, respect and sincere care. They made me understand they were the good guys. The fact that I was armed in close quarters and they did not use any force whatsoever, was unbelievable. I*

*was treated as a human being and not a criminal – and I am forever grateful.”*

Finally, I want to note a call from this weekend that shows the teamwork our service and emergency partners exhibit and how much of a difference our members make.

### **Missing man**

On Saturday evening, we were called to an east end seniors facility after a elderly male with dementia went missing. Cst. Adam Morin arrived first on scene and began taking information from family and staff from the seniors facility. While our Emergency Services Unit was being mobilized, Cst. Morin and other officers began searching the nearby area.

Walking in the falling snow, checking doors to buildings and behind dumpsters, Cst. Morin spotted foot prints that were quickly disappearing in the blizzard. He followed

the footsteps and found the missing man, shivering and hypothermic.

Paramedics, mobilized as part of the ESU response, were soon on scene. They treated and stabilized the man and subsequently transported him to the General to be reunited with his family.

We are all very proud of the dedication and commitment that Cst. Morin and the other officers displayed on this call. It is solid police work like this that we see every day and it is what the public expects from its police service.

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This has been a busy few weeks for myself as Chief and for our service.

As of this past Friday, I received the last of my major briefings and I'm now getting the full sense of our operations and all of the projects that are currently underway.



We are starting to lay out the planks and details of our plans, moving forward.

This Wednesday, we will review those projects with senior leadership and prioritize the projects and efforts that will most effectively deliver on the Board's strategic plan.

I will keep you updated as we progress.

Thank you