

Ottawa Police Services Board

September 28, 2015

Chief's Verbal Report

Good evening,

I have a number of items to update the Board on.

Wilno homicides

Last week, our Service assisted a strong policing partner, the OPP, with the arrest of a 57-year-old male suspect wanted in connection with the tragic murder of 3 women near Wilno, Ontario. We were alerted the suspect was possibly headed to the Ottawa area. Our officers located and arrested the armed suspect in the Kinburn area. These events highlight the important work that still needs to continue to take place to end violence against women.

Stabbing Death on Jasmine Cres

On September 20, a 17-year-old male victim was stabbed to death on Jasmine Crescent. Thanks to the great work of the responding officers and the Major Crime investigators, an 18 year old male and a 25 year old male, both of Ottawa, have been arrested and charged with 2nd Degree murder.

Incident in the ByWard Market

A number of our officers were also recently involved in a violent encounter in the ByWard Market that resulted in two arrests and an OPS officer being injured. On September 11, an Ottawa Police officer along with a civilian member of our Imaging Services Unit, were in a marked police cruiser at William and York streets when a man stepped out in front of the cruiser blocking it. The man became aggressive with the officer and then assaulted the officer. The civilian member observed the officer being assaulted and called for assistance on the police radio. The officer attempted to place the male suspect under arrest and a physical confrontation ensued. The suspect disarmed the officer of his baton and attempted to hit the officer with it. Several other officers then responded to the scene to assist. The first responding officer was also assaulted and had his baton knocked away. Officers were then able to arrest the

suspect. Shortly after this arrest a second male, who was unrelated to this matter, made threats to officers and was arrested.

I want to thank all the members – from Patrol, Imaging Services, NHO, and Communications -- involved for their response to this incident and for their professionalism in dealing with this individual. This incident reminds us that harm to our officers can come quickly and without warning.

Successful Investigations

I'd also like to bring the Board's attention to a number of longer term investigations that recently saw some success.

- Man charged in relation to 7 robberies

Between July 23 and September 18, a series of convenience store robberies took place in Kanata. Shortly after a robbery on September 18, a 30-year-old male suspect was arrested a short distance away. He was later linked to 6 other robberies and charged.

- Man charged in series of thefts

As well, on September 14, our Patrol officers were called to a store in Westboro for a theft in progress. The male suspect was arrested. It was later determined the suspect was linked to 43 other theft incidents across Canada, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. We have since been in contact with the police agencies in the other jurisdictions to notify them of the arrest. Had it not been for the great communication between agencies, including loss prevention, this arrest and the subsequent linkages would not have been possible.

- Joint Organized Auto Theft Investigation

In the winter of 2014, our Organized Auto Theft Section started a joint investigation with the Service de la sécurité publique de la MRC des Collines into vehicles being stolen from Ontario and Quebec and later given new vehicle identification numbers (VIN) before being registered in Ontario and sold. The investigation was successfully concluded this past August and resulted in four arrests, the seizure of 26 vehicles, and a total of 49 charges being laid. I am also proud to mention that in October, our Organized Auto Theft Section will be

awarded the Vehicle Theft Award of Merit by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Chicago. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to vehicle theft prevention and/or enforcement.

- **Human Trafficking Charges**

Following a four month long investigation into organized prostitution and human trafficking operations by our Human Trafficking Unit, a man has been charged with 76 criminal offences related to a total of 17 adult female victims.

- **Guilty Verdict in Parental Abduction**

Back in November of 2014, our Service became involved in an investigation into an attempted parental abduction involving 4 young children. A mother had conspired with her boyfriend to abduct her 4 children from her ex-common law husband and take them to Mexico City to start a new life. When the father of the children came home to find their mother had fled with his children, he called 911. Our patrol officers quickly located the flight itinerary and liaised with the Peel Regional Police Service to locate the mother and children at the airport, and disembark them from a plane that was set to leave a mere 10 minutes later. Following the arrest of the mother, an extensive investigation began that led to the mother being charged with a number of criminal charges including Parental Abduction without a Court Order. She was found guilty on all counts this past September. The successful outcome of this investigation would not have been possible without the great team effort between the officers and investigators at our Service, our Victim Crisis Unit, the Peel Regional Police, the Crown's office, and the Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

These investigations are not only long, they are also difficult and require a lot of hard work and patience on the part of all those involved.

Taxi Strike

A recent injunction was granted the City of Ottawa that limits the size and scope of the ongoing protests by taxi drivers. The injunction also prohibits blocking and hindering traffic on Airport roadways unless the union has been granted a permit by the city. We continue to monitor the Airport Taxi labour dispute and work with strike organizers, the employer, and stakeholders. From the beginning, our priority has been to ensure public safety and road access while balancing the right to demonstrate. Where warranted, we

have launched investigations and laid charges into unlawful activities, including reports of vandalism and mischief. We continue to monitor the situation and intervene as required.

Guns & Gangs Update

The issue of guns and gangs in our community continues to be a priority. Just last weekend, two individuals were charged with attempted murder along with multiple firearm and assault related offences, following an incident on Montreal Road where they tried to discharge a loaded firearm on two victims. Enforcement is taking place every day in our community.

To date:

- 59 seized guns have been taken off the street;
- 250 people associated with gang activity have been charged, and,
- 1,218 criminal charges have been laid against those people.

In addition to enforcement, our approach continues to include community involvement and strategies aimed at preventing young people from joining gangs.

City-Wide School Zone Enforcement

Our Traffic Sections, assisted by School Resource Officers and Patrol officers, conducted city-wide proactive traffic enforcement blitzes in school zones. A two-enforcement campaign was held September 8 and 9 focusing on:

- speeding in school zones;
- failing to stop or yield to pedestrians at school crossings;
- failing to obey crossing guards;
- failing to obey school bus signs; and
- distracted driving.

A total of 142 Provincial Offence Notices were issued during this enforcement campaign.

Award of Order of Merit of the Police Forces

I'd like to recognize a few of our members who were recently invested into the Order of Merit of the Police Forces by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. The award recognizes exceptional merit and service by members and employees of Canadian police forces whose contributions extend beyond protection of the community. A big congratulations goes out to Staff Sergeant Rob Bernier, Staff Sergeant Isobel Granger and Inspector Chris Renwick who were all invested in a ceremony at Rideau Hall on September 16.

Canadian Police & Peace Officers' Memorial Service

And finally, this past Sunday marked the 38th Annual Canadian Police & Peace Officers' Memorial Service. The Service is a means of honouring fallen officers and ensuring their ultimate sacrifice is never forgotten. Sadly, four names were added to the Memorial this year. I would like to thank all those who participated in the Memorial Service, including Board members. In addition, I want to recognize the 11 Ottawa Police members who ran in the Run to Remember and the 12 cyclists who cycled in the Ride to Remember leading up to the service. A special thank you to Acting Staff Sergeant Alison Cookson for her work in helping to coordinate the run for our Service.

That concludes my update.

Thank you.