



## Ottawa Police Services Board

### Minutes 28

Monday, October 26 2020, 4:00 PM

By Zoom

**Krista Ferraro, Executive Director**

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#### **Board Members:**

**Members:** Councillor D. Deans, B. Johnson, Councillor R. King, Councillor C. Meehan, D. Nirman, L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood, R. Swaita

#### CEREMONIAL ACTIVITES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair D. Deans opened the meeting by addressing the Abdirahman Abdi trial verdict and acknowledged its further straining of an already tense relationship between the community and the Ottawa Police Service. The Chair said that it will take collaboration between the Board, the Service and the community for meaningful reform to occur.

Chair Deans went on to congratulate Chief of Police Peter Sloy on his first-year anniversary with the Ottawa Police Service and welcomed Councillor Rawlson King to the Ottawa Police Services Board.

## CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

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The Chair requested the Board's consent to add two new items to the public agenda:

- A motion for consideration by the Board on reconciliation; and,
- A motion for consideration by the Board on use of force.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm the amended agenda of the 26 October 2020 meeting.**

CONFIRMED as amended

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. MINUTES #27 OF THE 28 SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING
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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm Minutes #27 of the 28 September 2020 meeting.**

CONFIRMED

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

1. ALEKSANDAR GOLIJANIN

## INQUIRIES

The following inquiries were raised by Board members, to be addressed at a future meeting of the Board:

**Member D. Nirman- Service changes/improvements since the death of Mr. Abdirahamn Abdi**

Could you please outline the service changes or improvements that have been made since the death of Mr. Abdi. Furthermore, in light of the recent trial decision involving Cst. Daniel Montsion, what are the areas you will be focusing on next and who do you think needs to be involved in the process?

**Member D. Nirman- Policy and training on rights to counsel**

A recent decision by a judge on a drug case involving OPS officers cited the following, "The fact that two senior and experienced drug unit officers so flagrantly disregarded fundamental rights related to the right to counsel is shocking. Each officer held a fundamental misapprehension of the right to counsel and the spirit of that right. Both claimed to be familiar with the duty to hold off after giving the right to counsel, but their evidence spoke to how little they actually understood of that right. Their ignorance of these basic charter protections is highly troubling." What is the policy and training offered to OPS officers? What follow up action or policy review is proposed in this direction to avoid recurrence of such incidences which brings disrepute to the organization and good work being done by the OPS members as a whole in our community?

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. CHIEF'S VERBAL REPORT

Chief's report

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A copy of the Chief's verbal report is available [online](#).

A question was raised with regards to the Mental Health Strategy and engaging diverse communities throughout the early stages of its development. It was explained that the Ottawa Police Service will not be leading the development of this strategy, that they will instead be heavily relying on the leadership and input of the public health sector. It was noted there are many mental health resources in Ottawa and the OPS wants to look at coordination and joint service delivery.

The OPS suggested that they form a consultation plan and identify a steering committee, and bring it forward for the Board's input and approval in

December.

There is presently a Mental Health Unit (MHU) within the OPS, consisting of five dedicated officers and one sergeant. The MHU has an understanding with the Ottawa Hospital. The Chief said that they will look at enhancing those capacities to better refine crisis response.

It was also explained that a key element of the strategy will involve implementing supports to address mental-health issues before they reach a crisis point, such as accessible treatment options.

A further question was raised as to whether this plan will in any way affect the budget. The OPS are not seeking any further budgetary resources.

It was then explained that there's a need for a more data-informed picture of where the OPS is with mental-health calls, and that data will be significant to the strategy's direction. It is estimated that up to 40 per cent of all calls received by the OPS are related to mental health. Without precise data, it will be impossible to evaluate the success of the strategy in the future.

Although other questions were posed in relation to the Mental Health Strategy, answers were caveated with the fact that the model has not yet been developed, nor has the consultation begun. A suggestion was made that perhaps mental health workers will be embedded directly into OPS communication centers.

It was said that the plan is being developed with the community, by the community and for the community, but that it was too premature to say with whom the OPS would be partnering to form the Mental Health Strategy. They have reached out the five different networks.

Chief Sloly attributed the longstanding reliance on the OPS for the handling of mental health calls with the Service's general, overall success in dealing with them.

It was elaborated that as opposed to a defunding of the police, funds must be allocated appropriately so that all social systems can work together effectively.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

2. NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CRIME STOPPERS: SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

Presentation by the President of National Capital Area Crime Stoppers Richard McMullen

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National Capital Area Crime Stoppers President Richard McMullen presented a semi-annual report, in which he attributed 18 arrests, 43 criminal charges and the seizure of three guns to the organization in the first half of 2020.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLBEING PLAN

Presentation by General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services Anthony Di Monte and Program Manager Lisa Petch

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A question was raised regarding the engagement of community partners during the creation of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. It was explained that a wide variety of people have been consulted on this, and it's believed that the integration of services is key not only to mental wellbeing but across many other services, as well.

The CSWB is a part of the strategic plan for Council, and the Board was told that it will remain there as a living document. It will need to be updated on an ongoing basis to ensure it continuously fulfills the needs of the community. It was said that this will act as a foundational plan.

Chair Deans remarked that the plan will require money and it will be up to the Province whether the CSWB plan can be put forth.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this presentation for information.**

RECEIVED

#### 4 2021 BUDGET DIRECTIONS AND TIMETABLE

##### Chief's Report and Presentation

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Chief of Police Peter Sloly and Chief Administrative Officer Jeff Letourneau delivered this report to the Board.

A question was raised with regards to the background of those providing officer training, specifically the backgrounds of those providing training on de-escalation. The Board was told that there will be an efficacy review, covering all aspects of training programs, spanning the breadth of the beginning stages of training design all the way through to the delivery and evaluation stage.

A separate point was made on the idea of “cherry-picking” statistical information to portray a scenario in ones favour, and that the Board and the Service must be weary of this in evaluating programs. The idea of “Cop to Pop” was given as an example; Ottawa has one of the lowest cop-per-pops in Canada, and as a city ranks quite low on the crime severity index. Whereas if we look to Edmonton, we see the exact opposite scenario. In that breath, it could be argued that fewer police officers equate to lower levels of crime, but of course that is not the case. It was said that the cop-to-pop measure doesn't give a true picture of cost effectiveness of a Police Service, nor can it portray the success of something such as the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

##### **That the Ottawa Police Services Board:**

**1. Direct staff to prepare the 2021 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets based on a 3% Ottawa Police Services levy increase and an estimated 1.5% increase in taxes resulting from assessment growth generated from new properties.**

CARRIED

**2. Approve the 2021 budget review and approval timetable.**

CARRIED

Motion on Background Checks Moved by Chair D. Deans

Seconded by C. Meehan

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A question was raised regarding how much money the OPS generally receives from background checks. The Board was told that the budget allots \$4.4 million annually,

but that most of the background checks conducted are for employment purposes. The volunteer background checks are weighed as 10 per cent of that total.

**WHEREAS Volunteers play an important and vital role in the delivery of community services throughout the city of Ottawa;**

**WHEREAS We have heard concerns of the cost of background checks from community agencies who describe it as a barrier to new volunteers;**

**WHEREAS The current pandemic has created financial strains in the community:**

**BE IT RESOLVED that Ottawa Police Service waive the current fees for all volunteer background check applications for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That these fees be re-instated once the city of Ottawa enters into Phase 3 of Ontario's action plan to re-opening**

CARRIED

5. OAPSB LABOUR SEMINAR ATTENDANCE

Executive Director's report

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve the attendance of R. Swaita, D. Nirman, L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood, B. Johnson, and K. Ferraro at the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) Labour Seminar being held virtually on November 12 and 13, 2020.**

CARRIED

6. ENDORSEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, 2015-2024

Motion by Chair D. Deans

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Chair Deans noted that this motion came forward at the request of Ms. June Girvan – a community leader, activist and philanthropist. She has been doing a lot of work in the community to promote the significance of the United Nations Decade for People of African descent. This motion is another way the Board can show it is taking step to bring about lasting change.

**WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board and the Ottawa Police Service are conscious of the United Nations General Assembly Proclamation of the period from 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent in its Resolution 68/237 of December 23, 2014; and**

**WHEREAS, The Decade was officially recognized by Canada (January 30, 2018) and Ontario (February 2017), and was adopted by the City of Ottawa on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21, 2018); and has since been recognized by the publicly funded education systems in Ottawa;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ottawa Police Services Board, joins the Orders of Government, the education system and the Equalist Movement in Ottawa, in adopting the intention of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), with the theme "Recognition, Justice and Development", with people of African descent recognized as a distinct group whose human rights must be protected and promoted by the Ottawa Police Service.**

CARRIED

7. UPDATE ON THE JOINT OPSB/OPS STRATEGY ON WORKPLACE SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

Presentation

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this presentation for information.**

RECEIVED



8. COMPLAINTS REPORT, PART V – POLICE SERVICES ACT: 3RD QUARTER 2020

Chief's Report

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A question was raised as to why there has been a 30 per cent increase in complaints. It was explained that there has been a steady increase in complaints, with more of them being screened out, and that this is consistent within other services as well.

A question was then raised on a separate matter, pertaining to members of the service and red-light camera tickets. The Board was told that if an officer is a “repeat offender” they are sent for drivers training.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

9. RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-20-11: CRUISERS PARKING ON SIDEWALKS

Chief's Report

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A question was raised as to why there isn't a policy which stipulates that this practice must be used as a last resort and only in exceptional circumstances. The Board was told that it is entirely unacceptable for a cruiser to be parked on a sidewalk, or illegally in any way, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Chief Sloly said there needs to be a careful assessment of what guidelines can be laid out, as he's not clear on how to prioritize the various bad options: parking on a sidewalk, closing a lane of traffic, etc. He will need to reflect further on how to address concern and be mindful of traffic management.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

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10. RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-20-12: HANDLING OF MENTAL HEALTH CALLS

Chief's Report

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

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11. LEGAL SERVICES STATUS REPORT – 3RD QUARTER 2020

Board Solicitor's Report

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

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12. BOARD MONITORING REQUIREMENTS STATUS REPORT: 3RD QUARTER 2019

Executive Director's report

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

13. OUTSTANDING BOARD INQUIRIES & MOTIONS – OCTOBER 2020

Executive Director's report

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

14. LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Chief's Report

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**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

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15. MOTION ON USE OF FORCE

Moved by Chair D. Deans

Seconded by L.A. Smallwood

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A question was raised as to whether this was a new motion just being brought forth. It was explained that it is a process motion, and the Board was not to debate its content, but rather ask the Policy and Governance Committee to review its substance and return to the Board with recommendations.

**WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Service is in the process of doing an internal review of the use of dynamic entries (also known as no-knock warrants);**

**AND WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) is responsible under the Police Services Act for establishing policies for the effective management of the police service;**

**AND WHEREAS the Board has heard community concerns around the use of dynamic entries by the Ottawa Police Service;**

**AND WHEREAS the Board has a duty to represent community interests in carrying out its responsibilities;**

**AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to ensure it is providing the necessary guidance to the Chief of Police with respect to the Board's general expectations around de-escalation, use of force and non-force options, and/or other tactical deployment strategies in relation to ensuring community safety;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board direct the Policy and Governance Committee to review, update, and potentially create Board policies applicable to de-escalation, use of force and non-force options, and/or other tactical deployment strategies, including but not limited to**

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**dynamic entries, recognizing that the policies shall not direct the chief of police with respect to specific operational decisions or with respect to the day-to-day operation of the police service but may set out a context or framework within which the police operations can take place.**

CARRIED

16. OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD AND OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE  
COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

Moved by Chair D. Deans

Seconded by B. Johnson

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The Chair thanked the Chief, Marc Maracle and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for their cooperation and support of this motion.

**Whereas in June of 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its findings and 94 Calls to Action to advance the reconciliation process in Canada; and**

**Whereas the calls to action were directed at all levels of Government, the private sector, and all Canadians; and**

**Whereas in June of 2019, the final report from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry was released and built on the findings of the TRC; and**

**Whereas the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) and Ottawa Police Service (OPS) have a responsibility to build strong relationships with our community and integrate best practices into our everyday work;**

**Whereas the Ottawa Police Services Board (OPSB) and Ottawa Police Service (OPS) recognize that there is a need for reconciliation with the OPS and between the OPS and the broader community;**

**Whereas the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), through the EDI Action Plan has done a considerable amount of work and continues to acknowledge and address racism in its many forms including anti-indigenous racism (AIR). The Ottawa Police Service, a member of the City of Ottawa Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC), has ongoing commitments to the City Reconciliation Action Plan that contains 14 actions that speak directly to**

**the TRC Calls to Action.**

**Therefore be it resolved that the OPSB and OPS commit themselves to continuing to support and advance reconciliation both internally and externally; and**

**Therefore be it further resolved that the Policy and Governance Committee commit to engaging with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and other potential indigenous groups or individuals and work to identify calls of action within the TRC that apply to both OPSB and OPS and report back to the Board with an action plan that will implement these findings.**

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board adjourn the public portion of its meeting to move In Camera to discuss confidential items pertaining to legal, labour relations and personal matters in accordance with Section 35(4)(b) of the Police Services Act.**

CARRIED

IN CAMERA ITEMS

1. Labour Relations Unit Report: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020
2. Legal Services Status Report – Settlements, Third Quarter 2020
3. Delay Application
4. Delay Application
5. Labour Relations Matter

ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm. The in-camera was scheduled to begin at

7:25 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting - Monday, November 23, 2020 - 4:00 PM

DRAFT