

## Chief's verbal for January 28, 2019

Good evening,

I have a brief verbal update for you this evening.

### **Westboro Collision**

I want to begin by recognizing the victims of the bus collision at Westboro station earlier this month. It's been more than two weeks since that tragedy but the memory of it is still very fresh. When calls for help came from Westboro station that afternoon all of the city's first-responders converged on the scene to triage efforts to help those impacted. Our hospitals also began to prepare to provide medical care. I am proud of the way our first responders from police, fire and paramedics and medical staff at the hospitals responded in the moments after the collision. The response showed how much we train, how prepared we are and how much we care about our community.

The Ottawa Police Service remains the lead in the investigation, but we have welcomed technical assistance from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) and other partners. Our team is working hard to fully investigate this incident and it will take time. I appreciate your patience. We will continue to update you as the investigation progresses.

### **Black History Month**

This past weekend members of our Service took part in Black History Ottawa's launch in recognition of this year's Black History Month. The launch continued to build on the UN Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, Development. The theme resonates with our Service as we continue to foster our existing relationships, build new relationships and work to ensure a reflective police service – all of which supports our mutual goals for safe communities and public trust.

The Ottawa Police Service wishes our community partners and residents the very best for their celebrations throughout Black History Month, as well as the outstanding contributions that our Black leaders and residents make each and every day throughout the year.

### **Crime Stoppers Month**

January is Crime Stoppers month, and I want to thank those who have used the service, because we use your tips to eliminate incidents of criminality in our communities city-wide. Last year Crime Stoppers recovered almost \$500,000 worth of narcotics, assisted with 146 criminal charges, and helped us to clear 33 cases. It's a fantastic partnership

that helps us enhance the safety of our community, while keeping you completely anonymous. It's important that when you see something happening in your neighbourhood that you contact us – whether it's through Crime Stoppers, or by filing a report online, or calling us.

## **Homicide**

Two weeks ago our missing person section began an investigation into the disappearance of Susan Kuplu. Last week, that search became a homicide investigation. Two people are now charged with second degree murder in her death.

## **Community Policing Problem Address**

This evening we have a presentation by Deputy Chief Bell and his team on improvements we are making to community policing. This past weekend we saw an example of how we are responding to community needs. Officers had received public complaints about drug trafficking at a Montfort Street address in Vanier. Working with the community police officer, frontline officers conducted surveillance on the property. With the assistance of other investigative techniques, a search warrant was obtained by our Drug Unit and executed on Saturday. Nine people were found in the residence and one of the residents of the house was arrested. A quantity of three different types of Morphine and oxycodone and a digital scale were found. One man is facing several charges including possession for the Purpose of Trafficking. While this was a small scale dealer, we recognize the disruption this type of activity can have on a neighbourhood.

## **Retirement**

Today, I am announcing publicly my intent to retire at the end of my current contract which is on May 4, 2019. For 35 years, I have served this community with pride as a police officer. For the past 7 years, I've had the distinct privilege and honour to lead the best police service in Canada.

The Nation's Capital is blessed to have women and men of such a high caliber who are committed and passionate about keeping Ottawa safe. Our civilian and sworn members honour the uniform they wear and the police service they represent. Time after time, they have stepped up and faced adversity on many levels with courage and protected our community. Our members understand that we are here to serve our community first and foremost.

In the coming months, I'm sure I will have the opportunity to thank all those who have helped me achieve this position. I've been fortunate to have been supported by an

amazing team and together we have accomplished a great deal. I'm proud of our collective effort but we have more work to do. The Ottawa Police Service is fortunate to have the right people who have the experience and ability to continue leading this amazing police service into the future.

As we transition to new leadership, I remain focused on supporting our members, presenting a budget that meets our emerging community needs, submit our Business Plan that provides a roadmap for the next 3 years and supporting my Executive and the Board in developing a transition plan.