

## Chief's Verbal Report

November 27, 2017

I have several items I want to update the board on this evening.

### **Grey Cup Weekend**

A big thank you goes to all of our members, partners and all the fans who helped to make this past weekend's Grey Cup festivities were a success. Our officers were dealing with the logistics of managing thousands of happy residents and visitors here to celebrate a great Canadian tradition. They did a remarkable job of ensuring everyone had a great time and got home safely. While dozens of officers were involved in the Grey Cup, it was a very busy weekend for our service. We had several difficult calls that changed lives in our community including a hostage situation and a high risk missing person who was located quickly.

### **Handgun Call**

On that note, I want to recognize some great police work by Cst. Stanley de Jong. This Saturday he was called to a west end restaurant after reports that a man had pulled out a handgun and fired a shot into the ceiling after an argument with the staff. Cst. de Jong arrived to a volatile situation as the suspect approached him and tugged at the grip of the handgun. Cst. de Jong was able to control the scene and the man was arrested at gunpoint. The handgun turned out to be a replica air pistol and the male is facing charges in the matter. This could have turned out far worse and it is just one example from this past weekend that shows the excellent and professional work of our officers.

### **Violence Against Women**

As a police service, we work with our partners like OCTEVAW to eliminate Violence Against Women in our city and it remains one of our top three operational priorities. Every November, we work with our partner agencies to educate the public on this very real issue. Starting this week we are supporting the White Ribbon campaign that encourages men, young and old, to wear a white ribbon to show their support for the elimination of violence against women. I would like to encourage all of you to wear a white ribbon to send a clear message that violence against women will not be tolerated in our city. A ribbon has been placed on all of your desks.

## **Human Trafficking**

Our Human Trafficking Unit spent four days this past week contacting and working to rescue sex trade workers within hotels around Ottawa. This initiative was run deliberately during the week of Grey Cup festivities. We know that demand for prostitution increases during large scale events. Officers attended 11 local hotels and made contact with 20 women who identified as sex trade workers. Two were immediately rescued from abusive situations. We will continue to follow these files. We have also identified some of the people responsible for victimizing these women. I want to thank the members of the Human Trafficking Unit for their commitment to this issue. A majority of sex trade workers are trafficked against their will. Even so, gaining their trust is often a difficult and long process. We hope that the contacts we made this weekend will be the first step for them to get them out of terrible situations.

## **Joint Investigation Leads to Arrests**

We value the partnerships we have with other police services in the area. On Wednesday of last week, our Guns and Gangs Unit worked with the Gatineau Police on a drug investigation. As a result, a search warrant was executed at a home in downtown Ottawa and a loaded handgun and a large quantity of cocaine was seized. A man and a woman face several charges including possession of a weapon.

## **Drug Unit Gets Guns off Street**

As well, Our Drug and Street Crime units issued two separate warrants last week in the west end of the city resulting in the seizure of several drugs and weapons, including an assault rifle, a pistol grip shotgun, and a revolver and ammunition. A total of eight people were arrested and charged in these two separate investigations.

## **Collaboration Leads to Arrests**

Earlier this month our service received a report about a convenience store robbery in the South Keys area. One of our officers received information about direction of travel for the suspect vehicle. The vehicle was located on the Airport Pkwy. and the officer began to follow. She contacted our Communications Centre and they coordinated with other frontline officers from Central Division to set up a vehicle stop. The suspects were arrested without incident. Seized were several knives and an imitation handgun. All three suspects were charged in relation to that robbery, and one suspect was charged in relation to a convenience store robbery that occurred earlier the same day in Kanata. I want to thank all the members involved in this incident. The coordination between Frontline, our Communications Centre, and our Robbery Unit, ensured that the three suspects were quickly located and charged.

## **Human Rights Learning Forum**

If you haven't signed up yet for the annual Human Rights Learning Forum on December 13, I would encourage you to do so. It's a unique opportunity to interact with people from all the diverse communities that make up the city of Ottawa, and exchange ideas on how to make this city inclusive for everyone. This year's session is being hosted by the OPS, COMPAC and our LGBT Liaison Committee with a theme of "Facilitating Reconciliation by Understanding the History of Canada's Indigenous Peoples."

That concludes my verbal report.