

Ottawa Police Services Board

November 30, 2015

Chief's Verbal Report

Good evening,

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

Shootings/Guns & Gangs Update

Since November 9 our city has seen a sharp increase in the number of shootings, many of them gang related, bringing our total to date to 42. The motives for these shootings can vary. Sometimes it is connected to the drug trade, in some other cases retaliation plays a factor. Regardless, this activity is unacceptable to our community and our police service and compromises public safety. While our partners seek ways to stem the flow of guns into the country, or work to steer youth away from street gangs, the job of the Ottawa Police is to focus on enforcement here in the City. Already this year we have charged 69 people with 868 charges related to these types of crimes.

Just last week, murder charges were laid against three individuals in the shooting death of 41-year-old Dady Junior Jean. In separate incidents, two handguns were seized during the arrests. Investigators are seeking another man, Adil Omer, who has been identified as the shooter in a November 21 Montreal Road incident. We are making progress but more needs to be done. These investigations are complex. Victims and witness do not always cooperate. So we must rely on other investigative avenues such as surveillance, informant information and search warrants.

To meet the investigative demands of this most recent increase we have assigned another 12 investigators to our guns and gangs unit's current 10 members. Assistance is also being given by other units of the police service. By increasing the number of investigators focused on gun and gang violence, we can ensure we have the resources to investigate these crimes and hold offenders accountable. We are confident that we will be successful in solving many of these current investigations and preventing other shootings from occurring. The suppression effort against guns and street gangs continues and involves officers across the organization. Patrol, District and EOD/Traffic officers will continue targeted enforcement of Guns and Gangs members and their associates. We will continue to monitor this issue very closely.

Paris Attacks

It has been a little over 2 weeks since the tragic terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13th. We continue to be in regular contact with our law enforcement partners and to monitor the situation. We have been in touch with many of our community leaders and they are supportive of our efforts and commitment to working in partnership to maintaining community safety. While there does not appear to be any links domestically to Canada, we continue to remind members and the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Fatal Collisions

Another priority for our community is road safety. Sadly, preventable deaths continue to occur on our roads. On November 8, our officers responded to a fatal collision at the intersection of Meadowlands and Viewmount. One person was killed, while another was left injured. A 22-year-old male was charged in relation to this collision. Days later on November 12, another fatal collision took place. This collision involved a single car on River Road, just south of Manotick. One person died. We will continue to focus resources and efforts on both education and enforcement activities, including our involvement in the Safer Roads Ottawa program.

Through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, we will be focusing our efforts on impaired driving and speeding throughout December. We will also be continuing our involvement in the annual MADD Red Ribbon Campaign which was launched November 6. The Red Ribbon Campaign raises awareness about the dangers of impaired driving. We know the risk for impaired driving is especially high around the holidays and we will be partnering with fellow agencies to conduct enforcement and help educate and raise awareness among drivers.

Violence Against Women

We saw the release of an important research study this past month with respect to survivors and their experience with our Service. Professor Holly Johnson of the University of Ottawa led the study. In terms of findings, the participants in the study described their experiences with OPS, identifying good practices that could be built upon, and areas where we can improve. Studies like this not only highlight opportunities for improvement, they also help underline the great work our members do every day in this area. Just last week we saw the results of some of that work. Howard Richmond, who was charged with the murder of his wife Melissa Kelly Richmond in

2013, was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison with no parole for 25 years. I would like to congratulate all of the members who assisted with this case, especially the detectives in our Major Crime Unit and Forensic Identification Sections.

Guilty Verdict – Fadi Saleh Homicide

I would also like to recognize all of the members involved in a 2004 murder case involving victim Hussein El-Hajj Hassan. One of the men convicted had their conviction overturned by the Ontario Court of Appeal in 2013 and was retried. The 7 week re-trial wrapped up this month. After hearing testimony from 32 witnesses, the jury convicted Fadi Saleh once again of first degree murder. I am also pleased to say that all 7 homicides that occurred in Ottawa in 2015 have been solved. This includes First degree murder charges laid against three individuals in the shooting death of 41-year-old Dady Junior Jean which took place on November 14th.

Suicidal Female

One of the tools our officers use most often is communication. This is particularly true when a person is in crisis. In early November, our officers attended a call for a domestic dispute following a break-up. One of the involved parties was having a particularly difficult time with the end of the relationship. After picking up her belongings, the woman proceeded to the rooftop of her partner's apartment building and was threatening to jump. Our officers successfully talked her off the ledge of the roof and saved her life.

Community Engagement – Jasmine Crescent

Criminal activity can have a ripple effect in neighbourhoods. It can cause fear and concern for residents in the area. Part of our response takes into account this secondary impact and we look for different ways to engage with the affected neighbourhood. An example of this occurred in the area of Jasmine Cres in October. On two occasions, some of our East District Neighbourhood officers attended events in the community that provided them with an opportunity to speak directly with residents and hear their concerns. Two of our officers, Cst. Max Periard and Cst. Tim Karwaski, even went as far as to help out the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard and speak with the different clients who use the services there. The clients, as well as the volunteers, were very appreciative of the officers being there.

Organized Auto Theft Award

Our Service received some awards this past month. I'd like to congratulate our Organized Auto Theft Section on receiving the International Association of Chiefs of Police Vehicle Theft Award of Merit.

Community Safety Award Winners – Dave Zackrias & Jacques Carrière

Also, at the start of November, the 7th annual Community Safety Awards were held, recognizing people, groups and programs that have made a difference in preventing crime and making communities safer. The event took place during Crime Prevention Week. Two of our members, Staff Sergeant David Zackrias and Constable Jacques Carrière, were recipients of the Enforcement Professional Award for their contributions.

That concludes my update. Thank you.