

Chief's Verbal Report

October 1, 2018

Good evening,

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Jaswal for his swearing in today. He has been back for over a month and it has been great working with him and having him as part of the executive team.

I'd like to congratulate Inspector D. Zackrias on his recent promotion to Inspector.

Memorial

I want to begin tonight by thanking all of the members of our police service, the Board and our Community who came to Parliament Hill yesterday to commemorate our fallen colleagues. Six officers were added to the memorial for those who have fallen in service to our communities. The Canadian Police and Peace Officer's Memorial gives us the opportunity to recognize their sacrifices and demonstrate to their loved ones that they are remembered.

Tornado Response

We all saw or felt first-hand the devastation reaped by a series of tornados that hit Ottawa on September 21st. Immediately our officers, communications centre personnel and other emergency responders were responding to assist the injured and searching for people who needed help.

Our immediate response included house-to-house searches by our Emergency Services Unit and frontline officers working with Ottawa Fire and Paramedics in difficult and dangerous conditions. Our Comm Centre handled a massive wave of emergency calls dispatching help to those in need.

The coordination between the various city services and the experienced and dedicated officers and personnel on the ground ensured that this response was successful in minimizing the after effects of the tornados. Anyone who saw the coordination on the ground could only be impressed. It was difficult work and their focus was always on helping the community.

During this major weather event we were still able to continue to serve the rest of the policing needs of the community. We saw the arrests of two individuals in a shooting at a Bank St mall, arrests in a homicide investigation and we saw other major events like a Redblacks game and the Army Run carry on. I want to thank all of the members who

worked during those days for their dedication and service to our community. We are all proud of them.

Panda Game

This past weekend also saw a major deployment of police in the Glebe and Sandy Hill areas to deal with disruptions caused by revelers heading to the Panda Game. Dozens of officers including our Emergency Services Unit were deployed to ensure everyone had a safe and lawful Panda. If you saw some of the images in the media you have a sense of what our officers were dealing with. This event has grown more popular in the past few years and it's important we have a deployment that matches the size and behaviour of the crowds. Other Ontario cities have seen similar large events turn violent. We will be discussing the growth of this event when we debrief with both universities.

Our officers were able to maintain order and safety and I want to thank them all for their patient approach and professionalism.

Missing elderly man

Our Emergency Services Unit has been called on for every major event we have seen in the past few weeks. At the same time as Panda was ongoing they were also involved in the search for an elderly man with dementia who wandered away from his home. The man was found after two days of searching in difficult and swampy conditions.

Gun violence

I want to acknowledge the ongoing work from our members including Guns and Gangs, Drugs, Street Crime and PIVOT focused on Gun violence. Through a series of investigations, search warrants and seizures these units are keeping the pressure on those criminals who are carrying guns in our community. So far this year more than 40 guns have been seized and investigations are ongoing. The reality is that guns are appearing more frequently in our calls for service.

Just this morning, Frontline officers seized several more weapons including a loaded handgun in the south end.

It's important that we keep the pressure on those responsible for gun violence. We are focused on ensuring the resources we need are in place and have requested more resources from the provincial government.

Bikes & Beats Deployment

Finally, this is the first time we have met formally in more than two months. Over the summer and into September we saw a successful bikes and beats deployment in the Byward Market area, a focus on gun violence, the solving of a series of high end vehicle theft and an intense school zone enforcement blitz just to name a few. This work is possible because of the dedication of our members. Policing can take an emotional and physical toll. Our Members are putting in a great deal of time and effort to ensure the community is served and I want to thank them all.

That is my update.