

## **Chief's verbal for December 18, 2017**

Good evening,

Mr. Chair, I want to begin this evening by wishing all the members of the Board and your families Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

### **Winter Classic**

This weekend we saw the last major event of Canada 2017 with the Winter Classic. It was a very busy year for Ottawa and our Service and I want to thank all the members of our service who ensured public safety during this and so many other events this past year.

There are many individuals to thank for their work but I also want to make special mention of Superintendent Joan McKenna, Inspector Murray Knowles, Staff Sgt. Kevin Kennedy, Staff Sgt. Russ Lucas and Sergeants Darren Elder and Mark Nethercott who were the officers responsible for planning all the events for us.

### **Traffic Safety**

Sadly, we were called to a fatal collision this weekend in the east end. The investigation into that event has resulted in impaired driving charges against a 33-year-old man. With the holiday season upon us, it's important to remind residents that if you drink, don't drive.

We are running our annual Mega-Ride program again this year, checking on drivers all throughout Ottawa for indications of impairment.

### **Project Sabotage**

Congratulations once again to the investigators from Guns and Gangs Unit for the successful completion of Project Sabotage. This six-month investigation resulted in the arrest of 13 people, with more arrests pending. 24 guns were taken off the street and criminal networks were disrupted. We also seized cocaine, Fentanyl patches and hydromorphone pills. Getting those guns off our streets, and arresting those responsible, is the result of solid police work.

I can tell you that enforcement efforts will continue to ensure our streets are safe from those who wish to cause harm. But we also know we can't arrest our way out of the guns and street violence issues in the city. That's why the work we do with our community partners is so important to help eliminate these threats from our streets.

Crime Prevention Ottawa unveiled its update to the Ottawa's Refreshed Street Violence and Gang Strategy at the start of December. Inspector Mark Patterson, and our

Strategic Youth Specialist Jessica Ripley, joined our other city partners in helping to develop a new plan that will consider the growing complexities and needs of our community neighbourhoods.

### **Sexual Assault Review Panel**

And it's our partnerships that help us to develop new strategies for some of the Service's top priorities, like violence against women. I am proud to say we launched the Domestic Review panel last week and will launch the Sex assault panel in January. The purpose of this work is to put a different professional perspective on our investigative process in an effort to serve victims better.

### **CEW Deployment**

One of the reports on this agenda highlights our replacement purchase of Conducted Energy Weapons. These devices continue to assist our officers in resolving volatile situations. Earlier this month officers responded to a call from a man who told 911 he had a gun and was going to shoot someone. When they arrived officers were confronted by the man who insisted they put two bullets in his chest. The man reached under his coat and Sergeant Gordon Burns used a CEW to subdue him. The man was taken to Hospital for mental health assessment.

The use of the CEW prevented what could have otherwise been a very tragic ending for all involved.

### **Bank Robberies**

Finally, our Robbery Unit continues to deliver excellent work. In November, the unit investigated a series of seven bank robberies, along with one pharmacy robbery, that officers believed were committed by the same person. The unit identified a male suspect and a known female associate. On November 30, both suspects were arrested separately, and the Robbery Unit executed search warrants at three addresses. Sufficient evidence was gathered to charge the man in connection with all eight robberies, and the female associate in relation to the pharmacy robbery. The male suspect was also wanted on a Canada-wide warrant in relation to breaching conditions of parole.

That concludes my verbal report.