

Chief's Verbal Report

December 17, 2018

OPSB meeting

New Board Members

I usually use this report to update the Board on important matters and issues in policing. Tonight, I want to begin by congratulating our new Chair on her election. I also want to thank our previous Chair, Councillor El-Chantiry, for his service and dedication. I also want to welcome our new Board members Councillors Egli and Meehan. I have had the opportunity to meet with all of you and I know we all share the same passion for keeping our community safe. I know that our priorities like gun violence, traffic issues, violence against women and community policing are top of mind. We look forward to briefing you on these and other matters in the weeks and months ahead.

Deputy Chief Steve Bell will have a presentation for you at the next board meeting on some of the key changes we are making to bolster our community policing efforts. Deputy Chief Jaswal is leading our equity, diversity and inclusion efforts and will also have some important updates in the next few months.

Human Rights Learning Forum

Our Diversity and Race Relations section hosted its fourth annual Human Rights Learning Forum on December 6. The theme for this year's discussion was: "Hate in the Community: How to recognize the signs and mitigate the impact." More than 175 people participated in this daylong event, including members of our Service, the board, and community partners. I would like to thank the U.S. embassy for arranging our guest speakers: Dr. Marian Misdrahi from the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence; and Bill Evans, the former commissioner for the Boston Police Department. The day reinforced the message that we need to work together as a community to increase both officers' and residents' well-being and safety. I want to thank everyone who participated and shared their stories.

RIDE Campaigns

This month our Traffic and Frontline officers are focusing their efforts on impaired driving. Since the legalization of cannabis we have stepped up our RIDE programs looking for drivers impaired by drugs or alcohol. Along with our policing partners and groups like MADD we are also conducting mega RIDEs every week.

Mandatory Alcohol Screening comes into effect on December 18th 2018. One of the many changes to the Impaired driving law in Canada. This change means that any officer who stops a driver for any violation, or during a RIDE can demand a roadside sample without suspicion that the driver has consumed alcohol.

Distracted Driving

We are also preparing for new changes to our Distracted Driving laws. As of January 1st, a first offence will yield a three-day licence suspension, three demerit points, and a fine of up to \$1,000. If you are caught three times, you will lose your licence for 30 days, lose six demerit points, and face a fine of up to \$3,000. I am grateful that these new regulations have been put into place. Distracted driving has overtaken impaired driving as one of the greatest risks to road safety. We need to make it as unacceptable a thing to do as drinking and driving. These new fines and penalties will help with that.

Province-wide child porn investigation results in 6 arrested locally

Earlier this month our Internet and Child Exploitation team concluded its participation in a province-wide series of investigations into child pornography. Crimes against children are probably the most heinous we have to deal with as police service. Out of 23 arrests province-wide on December 5, six of those were in Ottawa. I'm proud of the work that our ICE unit put into this initiative, and grateful for the assistance from our Surveillance, Tactical, Frontline and Forensics members.

Two constables rescue man in distress

Our officers are often put into high risk situations where people rely on them to make quick life-saving decisions.

We recently had a call about a young man who had texted a friend, saying he was going to commit suicide. Two of our officers, Constables Jarrid Foley and Shane Farley, responded to the call for help. When they arrived at the address, the door to the residence was locked and they were able to breach it and make their way inside. They split up and searched the home and finding a male in the basement already hanging from a rope around his neck. They raced across the room and cut him down, saving his life.

Happy Holidays

I would like to end my report by wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah and Happy Holidays. Whether you are spending it with family, friends or colleagues, I hope that you find some time over the next few weeks to relax, and enjoy the company of people you care about most.

We will see you in the New Year!