

Chief's Verbal
Ottawa Police Services Board Meeting
May 28, 2018

Good evening,

I know we have a number of presentations tonight so I have kept the verbal report brief this evening.

Homicides

In the past five days we have seen two serious and disturbing homicides in our city.

Last night, a shooting in the City's south end left one man dead and a woman seriously injured. This homicide and attempted murder began as a dispute between neighbours and quickly escalated into deadly violence. It's a pattern of violence escalation we are seeing repeated. Major Crime is currently seeking an individual in relation to this case.

Last Thursday, a woman working as a librarian in a downtown religious centre was attacked and murdered. This morning a man appeared in court to face charges in her death. This violence is a crime trend we are seeing in Ottawa and other Canadian cities. It takes strong police work to solve them and hold offenders accountable and this city is served by professional police members who are doing just that.

Tamarack Marathon

We saw another successful race weekend in the past few days and I want to congratulate all the participants and organizers on a great event. I also want to thank the many members of our police service and other emergency responders who worked to make this event a success. There were very few incidents and we were once again able to balance the security needs for a major event and achieve a fun weekend for all.

ByWard Market and Downtown Rideau

Earlier this month we announced an initiative focused on the ByWard Market and Downtown Rideau during the warm months ahead. Like past summers, there will be an increase of officers on bikes and foot. In addition, the Bikes & Beat Unit, the Traffic Unit, RIDE Programs, the Drug Unit, the Guns & Gangs Unit, and the Direct Action Response Team (DART) will also be active in these areas. In partnership with Ottawa Bylaw, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and OC Transpo, we are conducting community safety initiatives to disorderly behaviour, like *Liquor Licence Act* offences, criminal activity and aggressive panhandling. The first of these occurred over the May

long weekend. This is just one of the ways OPS is working with community partners to address these and other issues.

Constable Terrence Gill

One of our members, Cst. Terrence Gill of C Platoon Central, is in need of a kidney transplant. He is a husband and father to two young children. Terrence is in the final stages of kidney failure if it gets worse he will need dialysis while he waits for a transplant. Terrence suffers from Crohns and a side effect is kidney failure. Despite this, Terrence is still on the job and working shift work. In support of Terrence and his family, OPS members held a kidney donation information session and blood-typing event with Canadian Blood Services last week to see if any of our members could be a blood type match.

We wish Cst. Gill all the best, and will continue to keep you informed.

Police Week 2018

Police Week ran from May 13-19th and this year's theme was *Celebrating Policing and Community Partnerships*. It was great to see all the community members and police members who came out to the various events across the City. The Ottawa Police Hoopstars were chosen as this year's charity and received upwards of \$1,200 in proceeds and donations. This group of officers volunteer their time with youth in the community, using a basketball as a tool for meaningful engagement.

Fentanyl

On May 9th, the Street Crime Unit executed a search warrant and charged an adult male after an investigation into drug trafficking activity. A variety of drugs were seized including a purple putty-like substance which had been submitted to Health Canada for analysis. That analysis has confirmed the putty did contain heroin and fentanyl. Since the seizure was made, police services across Ontario have reached out to advise us of recent similar seizures as it seems to be a province-wide issue.

We continue to work with our City partners through the overdose task force to work against this ongoing trend in drug use.

Diversity Audit, Graybridge Malkam

I am pleased to announce that we have hired local company Graybridge Malkam to conduct our Diversity Audit. They have already begun their work. Graybridge Malkam brings vast experience to this project including conducting employment equity and diversity reviews – for policing, safety and public-serving organizations in Ottawa and nationally. They have deep subject matter expertise in diversity, equity, and inclusion

and respectful workplaces. Their areas of focus align well with OPS current work on bias-awareness, anti-racism, and gender equity. The selection committee included members of the Board, Community and the police service. They will work closely with the community, internal members and other stakeholders to deliver the audit this year. We have invited the group to make a public presentation to the Board at next month's meeting on June 25th.

Canada Road Safety Week

This May we also participated in Canada Road Safety Week. Our officers focused on some of the most dangerous driving behaviours from drunk and drugged driving to distracted driving. The Traffic Services Section conducted various education and safety enforcement blitzes across the city resulting in about 1,150 charges being laid.

DC Jill Skinner

I want to start by recognizing Deputy Chief Jill Skinner. This is her last Board meeting and in just about three weeks she will retire after 37 years of dedication to this Service and our community. Her contribution to policing both locally and nationally and her work in the community has strengthened our service. I want to congratulate her on her career and thank her for being a member of my executive team for the past five years. I have valued her insight, leadership and friendship. I invite you to join us at her retirement celebration on Tuesday, June 26th.