

Ottawa Police Services Board

May 25, 2015

Chief's Verbal Report

Good evening,

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

Recovery of stolen firearms from B&E

I want to start by recognizing some great police work by our Patrol, Break and Enter and Guns and Gangs units. On May 13, Patrol officers responded to a break and enter where numerous guns were stolen from a residence. The investigation led to the execution of three search warrants at residences in Ottawa and Gatineau. A total of 27 firearms including rifles and several handguns were recovered, as well as other evidence. Four people have been charged.

Charges in murder of Sharif Said

Within days of the murder of 21-year-old Sharif Said on Tremblay Road at the start of May our Major Crime Section made arrests. Khalid MOHAMMAD, 26 years old of Ottawa, was charged with second degree murder. Abdulaziz ABDULLAH, 28 years old of Ottawa, was also arrested and charged with Accessory after the fact to murder.

Ottawa Race Weekend

I also want to acknowledge the work of the many members involved in supporting the Ottawa Race Weekend. This year, 49,000 runners took part in the various races and thousands more came out to cheer them on. Race Director John Halvorsen commented to those who gathered at a reception Friday night how impressed he has been by the professionalism and support exhibited each year by our members. Congratulations to the Planners, Operations, Paid Duty, Traffic, Volunteers, Special Constables, Senior Officers, Auxiliary officers and Communication Centre for another successful race weekend.

Cst. Jonathan Conohan

Recently, one of our officers, Cst. Jonathan Conohan, was involved in an investigation into ongoing harassment of a 38-year old man living within an intellectual disability. In addition to carrying out an investigation and following up with the offenders, who were 10 years old, Cst. Conohan decided to do something special for the victim. After taking the time to get to know the victim, Cst. Conohan found out he was a hockey fan. Cst. Conohan made arrangements for a dinner with the victim where he picked him up in a

police car, gave him an Ottawa Senator's t-shirt, and arranged for Senator's player Chris Neal to come and surprise him. I know I speak on behalf of all members of the OPS when I commend Cst. Conohan's professionalism, patience, and compassion.

Facebook announcement

Earlier today, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney and Facebook made an important announcement in our lobby at 474 Elgin related to the Amber Alert system. In collaboration with police across Canada, Facebook will share Amber Alert information immediately after the alerts are issued. It's another example of social media being used to assist police in keeping residents safe.

Operation FREEZE

Starting tomorrow, Patrol officers will be joining Mac's Convenience stores in an initiative called "Operation FREEZE". The initiative is about recognizing and reinforcing positive behavior of youth. Young people who are observed doing random acts of kindness or exhibiting positive behaviour will be given a coupon for a free beverage at participating Mac's stores across the province. Officers can use the coupons to recognize youth doing good deeds, participating in community activities, picking up trash, deterring crime, or observing school crossing rules. They can also be used as icebreakers to establish a rapport with a child in their patrol area.

Prescription Drug Drop Off

On May 9th, as part of the National Drug Take Back Strategy, a prescription drug drop off by the Drug Unit was held to encourage residents to dispose of old and unused prescription medication in a secure, environmentally-friendly manner. It's an important initiative that raises awareness about the amount of prescription drug misuse. A total of fourteen pounds of various medications and substances were seized and destroyed as a direct result of this initiative.

ABLE Awards

The Association of Black Law Enforcers' (ABLE) 23rd Annual Scholarship Awards Ball was held in Ajax this past Saturday evening. The event was well attended by OPS with 17 sworn and civilian members. I would like to congratulate Director David Snoddy who received the Super Supporter Award for 2015.

Community Police Awards Ceremony

This is a reminder that tomorrow, we'll be joining members of the Board at the 2015 Community Police Awards Ceremony. I look forward to this opportunity to acknowledge

and celebrate members of the public who have contributed to our community's overall safety. I am happy to take any questions you may have.

Award for Board Chair

Finally, I want to congratulate you Mr. Chair for the award you received from the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Emigrants this past week. For those of you who don't know, he was recognized for his involvement in politics in the City of Ottawa, as well as for his ongoing help for Lebanese people in Ottawa and abroad.

Congratulations.

That was my update.

Thank you.