

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

28 June 2021 / 28 juin 2021

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

Contact Person / Personne ressource:

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SUBJECT: LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

OBJET: LETTRES DE MENTION ÉLOGIEUSE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du présent rapport à titre d'information.

BACKGROUND

Attached for the information of the Board are excerpts from letters of appreciation / thanks received from the public since the last regular meeting for services rendered by members of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

Date Received:

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Nigel Emaman

Excerpt from Letter: I wanted to take a moment to recognize your officers from a recent incident that took place.

A fatal car accident occurred in front of our house. The driver died instantly, and the car burst into flames. The whole event was terrifying as my teen children were outside at the time and witnessed the whole thing.

The incident was a tragic and traumatizing experience for all of us; HOWEVER, the kindness and care that your officers showed my children that day I will forever be grateful. When the first responders found out the children had witnessed the event, people came to the house to show their support and concern for the wellbeing of my family.

They even sent a trauma counsellor with her dog to speak with the children. I was amazed at the outpouring of support.

Today, one of the officers, Nygil Enaman (sp) who I believe had led the officers that day came to the house to see how we were all doing. It was such a kind gesture and way beyond the call of duty.

I hope that all of the first responders who I did not get to meet that day know how much we appreciate their kindness and how they made a terrible day just a little bit less terrible.

Many thanks for all of the work that you do.

Date Received: May 23, 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Cst. Duncan Collis

Excerpt from Letter: To the sweet Ottawa Police officer who paid for this tired nurse's breakfast this morning at 0730-thank you!

Date Received: May 30, 2021

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from Letter: I am so proud of the Ottawa Police and the way they have handled the anti-rally lockdowns.

I have been participating in these anti lockdown protests and our Ottawa police officers have been exemplary.

The Ottawa protestors, like me, who have attended peaceful anti lockdown rallies, appreciate how helpful the Ottawa police officers have been to our groups.

The officers have helped us to be safe on the route, from cars. They have been polite, friendly, helpful and models of what it means to be a good police officer. I want you to know that people like me will always support our Ottawa police officers too. Why

wouldn't we? We need good police officers who take their job to protect all of us, seriously. God bless you.

Date Received: May 29, 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Det. Groulx – Lavergne

Excerpt from Letter: Please pass on to Det. Groulx-Lavergne my thanks for her kind and professional approach during my interview at your HQ last week. Considering the work she had put into her investigation, I thought this was worth remarking on.

Date Received: May 29, 2021

From: Member of the Public

OPS Member: Constable Edwin Code

Excerpt from Letter: I wish to thank and commend Officer E. Code for all his help and understanding in helping my husband, who has dementia get home safely. It was a harrowing 12 hours. His kindness was very appreciated.

Date Received: June 4, 2021

From: Member of the public

Excerpt from Letter: Fast and efficient work by the men and women of the Ottawa Police. Thanks folks for finding the young child so quickly. I salute you all.

Date Received: June 4, 2021

From: Member of the Public

Excerpt from Letter: As I'm sure many others were, I was jolted awake at approximately three in the morning. I was a little confused until I realized it was an Amber alert. I went back to sleep thinking to myself how lucky I was to live in a country where child safety is a much higher priority than a good night sleep. Thank you for always being there.

Date Received: June 10, 2021

From: Member of the Public

OPS Member: Cst. Shai Kemp, Cst. Mallory Munro and Sgt. Jason Riopel

Excerpt from Letter: I wanted to pass along my gratitude for the work of a couple of Ottawa Police officers on Friday night. My neighbour went into medical distress and OPS responded. An OPS officer (female) had to assess the situation, get some guidance, and eventually kick the front door in to allow for my neighbour to receive medical attention.

Both this officer and another, also female were both professional and compassionate in pretty trying circumstances.

A third officer gave me some guidance on how to secure the door, which suffered a broken jamb. In as much as we're heartbroken about my neighbour's demise, OPS obviously made the right decision with the forced entry and the officers exemplified the idea that policing is, at its heart, a caring profession.

Date Received: June 10

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Victor Fuenmayor

Excerpt from Letter: I want to offer a note of praise and thanks to the officers who assisted with a call yesterday morning around 6 a.m. My elderly neighbour across the street is 92 years old and has dementia.

He had gotten out of the house during the early morning hours, unbeknownst to his wife, and wandered off. I saw their front door was partially open, went to check on them, and discovered he was missing from his bedroom.

I woke up his wife, and had her call 911. He had already been found a couple blocks away, but couldn't tell the officers more than his first name, apparently. The dispatcher connected the dots, and an officer arrived quickly to explain that they had him, had provided a pair of underwear for him (he'd gone out with only an undershirt on) and were bringing him home.

He arrived seated on his walker, happy, being pulled along by the officers (there were three now). The officers treated him gently, respectfully, and with some humour. Thank goodness one of them spoke German (whether by luck or because he was called in) because my neighbour's English is fading with the dementia.

I didn't get the officers' names, though wish I had so I could mention them individually here. I hope you can pull their names from the incident report and note wherever you do such things that they handled the situation very well, and with great kindness for my neighbor and his wife. As the neighbour who was involved, I wanted to express my thanks for their caring professionalism and humanity in this situation.

Date Received: June 13, 2021

From: Member of the Public

OPS Member: Constable Corey Bourguignon

Excerpt from Letter: I am writing to commend one of your officers for coming by and speaking with the children in our neighborhood. Constable C. Bourguignon came by and

spent the better part of an hour interacting with the kids in our area. He showed the kids and parents the cruiser, let the kids play with the lights and siren, answered questions about his equipment, spoke about what life is like as an officer and generally brought some joy to a bunch of kids who have had an abnormal year and a half.

However, the effect of Constable Bourguignon continues on after his departure. There was a segregation of sorts on our street where kids played together based on ethnicity, why I have never found out. After the police cruiser tour all the kids are playing together. New friendships appear to be made and there is a new vibe when the kids are playing. Even the adults (parents) appear to have been brought together.

I'd like to thank Constable Bourguignon and the Ottawa Police for such an amazing experience and for bringing our neighborhood together!