



Ottawa Police Services Board

Minutes 40

Monday, June 28 2021, 4:00 PM

Via Zoom

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Board Members:

Councillor D. Deans, B. Johnson, Councillor R. King, Councillor C. Meehan, D. Nirman, L.A. (Sandy) Smallwood, R. Swaita

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm the agenda of the 28 June 2021 meeting.

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES #39 OF 31 MAY 2021

That the Ottawa Police Services Board confirm Minutes #39 of the 31 May 2021 meeting.

CONFIRMED

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

The Board heard from the following public delegates on a range of topics. The Board welcomed delegations to provide their preferred pronouns and the phonetic pronunciation of their names.

- CASSIE SLACK (*she / they*)
- ROBIN BROWNE (*he / him*)
- MOHAMED MIGUIL
- KIM SHELDRIK (*she / her*)
- SAM HERSH
- JULIA HAMER (*she / they*)
- ROBIN SHABAN
- SAAMIA AHMAD (*she/her*) (*saw-me-ya*)
- NORA OTTENHOF (*she / her*)
- INEZ HILLEL (*she / her*)
- IRVIN WALLER
- SAMANTHA MCALEESE

Some of the topics and feedback expressed during the delegations included:

- Concerns with the OPS budget increasing in 2022.
- The thin blue line flag still being flown outside the Ottawa Police Association even after the Board had sent a letter asking if it could be taken down as a result of community concerns.
- Questions related to the selection of StrategyCorp to assist the Board with its budget review, strategic planning, and use of force policy review. It was noted that the detailed proposal was not included with the agenda's materials as it contains confidential proprietary information.
- The make-up of the Mental Health Response's guiding counsel was

referenced. The Service indicated that it is made up of representatives from six local coalitions and mental health practitioner groups. Each group selected two people from within their organizations to sit on the guiding counsel. The OPS are in the process of developing and transitioning the guiding counsel from a group supported by the OPS to a group that will be supported through the City.

- The upcoming City of Ottawa Finance and Economic Development Committee (FEDCO) meeting and its potential implications on the OPS 2022 budget was noted. The Board explained that city Council does not set the OPS budget, the Board does.
- The Ottawa Carleton District School Board's decision to end their relationship with Student Resource Officers was mentioned. In response to the points raised, the Service explained that this will not alleviate any budgetary pressures as the OPS members will be redeployed, and there will remain active partnerships between the OPS and all four education boards.
- Clarification was made by the Service regarding the timeline on their Mental Health Response Strategy; the OPS have said that it could take up to three years for the development and evaluation of a fulsome City-wide Mental Health Strategy, but it will not be a three year period before any changes are implemented.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. EMAIL DATED 21 JUNE 2021, FROM KIM SHELDRIK
2. EMAIL DATED 18 JUNE 2021, FROM IRVIN WALLER

INQUIRIES

A question was raised during the delegation portion related to OPS social media account policy, specifically as it relates to blocking members of the public. Following the delegation, the Board discussed this matter and it was decided that it be put forth by way of inquiry to enable a public response.

Chair Deans, OPS Social Media Account Policy and Blocking

Please describe the social media policies in place for OPS accounts. What would prompt the OPS to block someone from their social media accounts? What legislation

governs this, and are the OPS in adherence?

Member Nirman, Guns and Gangs Unit

1. Is there any link between the significant restructuring of the OPS' Guns and Gangs Unit and the surge in shooting incidents Ottawa has been experiencing? Please describe this in terms of the Units' overall performance and solvency.
2. Please indicate how both the operational and staffing budgets for the Guns and Gangs Unit' have changed over the last five years.
3. Being mindful of the fact that a number of the Guns and Gangs Unit positions are provincially funded, how many positions constitute the Unit, and are they all presently filled?
4. How many cases does the Guns and Gangs Unit handle annually? Please provide statistics for the past three years.
5. Strategies used to address gun violence and violent crime need to be community-specific, given that the actions of police have been cited to, at times, cause community members to feel less safe. How does the OPS address and reconcile this increasing sentiment?
6. To what degree has the Community Equity Council been engaged to review the work of the Guns and Gangs Unit? Have they been involved in directing enforcement activities with community impacts? How has the CEC and the larger community been leveraged to inform enforcement practices of the Guns and Gangs Unit, as well as the OPS as whole?

Member Nirman, Provision of Translation Services in Scenarios Requiring Use of Force and De-escalation

1. How significant to negotiations are language skills in a situation requiring de-escalation?
2. It was previously noted that the OPS rely on an ad-hoc policy to call in on-duty officers fluent in the language being spoken other than official languages, as needed, when an incident emerges. In considering how a more permanent and consistent policy could be implemented, does the OPS intend to adopt a language interpretation model based on Ontario legislation, or consult best practices? Is the current ad-hoc model representative of best practices?

Member Nirman, Violence Against South Asian Women

How many South Asian women speaking neither official language called the OPS for assistance between the years of 2019-2021? Was adequate and timely assistance provided to them all?

Member Johnson, The OPS' Review of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

Could the OPS share the results of their completed review of the TRC Calls to Action at a future meeting of the Board's Policy and Governance Committee in order to assist the Board with fulfilling its outstanding motion to identify Calls to Action within the TRC that apply to both OPSB and OPS, and to develop an action plan to implement the findings.

The next inquiry was raised during discussion of item #7, the Professional Standards Unit Report, 2020:

Vice Chair Smallwood, Professional Standards Unit Report

Could the Service please comment on or explain the 24 per cent increase in public complaints received in 2020 as outlined in the PSU 2020 Annual Report?

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

Chair's report

Chair Deans delivered a verbal report, in which she spoke to Rabbi Bulka's legacy, the two recent corruption charges laid against OPS officers, the Mental Health Response Strategy and its coordination with the City of Ottawa, and the Board's hiring of two firms to provide support on various important initiatives. Lastly, an update on CAO recruitment was provided.

Her full report can be read [here](#).

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

RECEIVED

2. CHIEF'S VERBAL REPORT

Chief's report

A copy of the Chief's verbal report is available [online](#).

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

RECEIVED

3. PROCUREMENT RELATED TO 2022 OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE BUDGET,
USE OF FORCE REVIEW, AND BOARD'S STRATEGIC PLANNING

Chair's report

It was noted that developing a new strategic plan, conducting a review of use of force policies, and exploring opportunities to reduce or freeze the 2022 budget at 2021 levels are key to the Board's 2021 workplan. Given the Board's limited internal resources and the need to ensure alignment between the various work pieces, it was recommended that StrategyCorp be procured to assist.

Completion of the budget analysis, the use of force review, and the development of the strategic planning process is anticipated by the end of 2021. The strategic planning process implementation, including a robust public consultation, are planned to begin in early 2022. It was noted that the full strategy to realize all three work packages is anticipated to be carried out over a period of 18-months.

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve the procurement of StrategyCorp consulting firm, a vendor of record with the province, to support the Board in its development and review of the 2022 Ottawa Police Service budget; its review of use of force; and the development of its strategic planning process.

CARRIED

4. PROPOSED REGULATIONS UNDER THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
POLICING ACT, 2019

It was explained that often the timelines for feedback do not align with the Board's monthly meeting schedule. As such, Chair Deans requested delegated

authority to continue to review the draft regulations and provide feedback alongside Board staff and the OPS. It was noted that reports detailing the feedback would still be provided, however they would be for information as opposed to for approval moving forward.

A request was made that the Chair distribute her feedback to the Board in advance of sending it to the Ministry, allowing them 48 hours to review and contribute. When feasible, Chair Deans agreed to do so.

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General (Ministry) continues to develop regulations to bring the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, into force; and

WHEREAS the Ministry is requesting public and stakeholder input on the proposed regulations as they are drafted and released for consultation; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Police Services Board meets on a monthly basis on predetermined dates (with the exception of August where no meeting is held), making it difficult for the Board to align its consideration and development of feedback on the proposed regulations with the Ministry's deadlines for input;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ottawa Police Services Board delegate authority to the Board Chair to work with Board staff, in consultation with staff at the Ottawa Police Service, to develop and provide comments and feedback to the Ministry on proposed regulations under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, as they are released.

CARRIED

5. CANADA DAY BRIEFING

Presentation

The Service provided a high-level overview of their July 1 operational plans and expectations, noting the pandemic's impact on their resource deployment. There would be no changing of the guard, no outdoor stage on Parliament Hill and the fireworks display had been cancelled. Given that Ontario would be moving into Stage Two of reopening on June 30, the Service did anticipate some crowding in the downtown core.

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

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6. 2021-2023 STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE:
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Chief's report

A question was raised regarding the intended meaning of the term "intelligence lead policing" within the report, and more specifically to whose intelligence it refers and for what purposes.

The Service explained that the traditional approach to intelligence lead policing is being reimagined to align with the new requirements of the *Police Services Act* and specifically integrate within the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. The intelligence that the OPS plan to rely on will largely be that brought forth by the community to the planning and risk management processes, as well as to the intervention plans and the evaluation methods.

It was noted that until more appropriate language is established and co-created with the community, the OPS will have to employ the language of the past, such as intelligence lead policing.

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

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7. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Chief's report

A question was raised regarding the 24 per cent increase in public complaints, as outlined in the report. The Service noted that 2020 was a complex year for policing, and there could be a wide variety of factors at play. It was further stated that changes to legislation and procedure within the Office of the Independent Review Director (OIPRD) could have played a role.

It was decided that this question would be put forth as a formal inquiry to allow for a more fulsome response (*noted previously under Inquiries*).

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

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8. REPORT ON SIU INVESTIGATION

Chief's report

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

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9. RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-21-08: MAY 2020 RACIST MEME OUTCOMES IN LIGHT OF RECENT TIKTOK VIDEO

Chief's report

Further to the response provided, a question was raised with regards to the later circulated meme which contained 13 pictures, and any other versions that might have been circulated. The Service explained that all versions of the meme are under investigation or were investigated. The other meme is still actively being investigated by the Professional Standards Section. The Service agreed to update the Board with their findings once all investigations have concluded.

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

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10. OUTSTANDING BOARD INQUIRIES & MOTIONS: JUNE 2021

Executive Director's report

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

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11. LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Chief's report

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

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OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

Please note that the in camera meeting was held prior to the public meeting and the following items were discussed:

IN CAMERA ITEMS

1. Canada Day Briefing
2. Legal Indemnification Matter
3. Legal Matter
4. Personnel Matter
5. Personnel Matter

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting - Monday, July 26 2021