

Report to / Rapport au:

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

26 July 2021 / 26 juillet 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: RESPONSE TO INQUIRY I-17-01: ON DUTY OFFICER ATTIRE

**OBJET: RÉPONSE À LA DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS I-17-01: TENUE
DES AGENTS DE SERVICE**

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.**

INQUIRY

Provide policies and a report that outlines the equipment that officers wear, as well as the risk assessment prior to execution of any warrant and how decisions are made regarding officer attire.

Addition to inquiry from June 22, 2020 meeting - provide policies and practices that guide how OPS cruisers are painted and the various police markings that are used.

Addition to inquiry from January 25, 2021 meeting - provide greater information regarding what's allowed to be worn with the police uniform and the sporting of "thin blue line" patches.

RESPONSE

Ottawa Police Service (OPS) duty attire is identified under our Uniform and Personal Appearance Policy, as well as the [Policing Standards Manual of Ontario](#) (AI-010, PO-

001, ER-001, ER-002 and ER-003). Internal policies exist for specialized equipment for Tactical, Drug Unit and any other section that may execute warrants. Changes to policy in 2021 directs that all specialized equipment must be vetted through the chain of command prior to issuing.

OPS CRUISERS

The OPS takes several security and precautionary measures to ensure that police vehicles and equipment are decommissioned or repurposed in an appropriate manner. This response details those steps.

Once an OPS vehicle has reached the end of its life cycle, it is removed from service and brought to 474 Elgin Street to remove all accessories and components – and anything else added by the OPS after it was delivered by the manufacturer. All of the items removed are then sent to be refurbished for future use.

After this process is completed, a vehicle decommission sheet is reviewed to ensure all OPS-related items have been removed; like licence plates, fuel fobs and all OPS decals. Decals are removed by applying heat which renders them unusable. This sheet is completed by the Fleet attendant and reviewed by the supervisor and kept on file.

The vehicle is then shipped to auction for sale, and the cheque with the buyer's information is sent back to the OPS. All police vehicles are special-ordered and not available from dealer lots. These police-rated vehicles come with spotlights and special suspension, and need to be ordered well in advance for operational deployment.

Any vehicle involved in an accident, and not expected to be resold for value, will be stripped of parts for future use by the OPS. Items like light bars are taken apart to use as replacement parts at a later date. Any salvaged items from vehicles -- like MDT metal mounts, partitions, damaged rims, doors or accessories -- that are not useful to keep for future use, are sold to a scrap metal dealer.

At no point are any OPS Fleet-related items sold directly to the public.

ADDITIONS TO UNIFORMS

As part of our ongoing evaluation of dress and deportment, members were reminded on February 22, 2021 that they have a responsibility to maintain a standard of appearance consistent with the professional image of the OPS.

In that message, members were notified that all uniforms and equipment must be returned to the state they were issued through Quarter Master and the Professional Development Centre. No additions, modifications, personalization, or other exceptions are allowed unless permitted by the Chief via the Ceremonial Sergeant Major.

Supervisors are expected to monitor and address any breaches to this directive. This will assist the OPS in evaluating our uniform and equipment needs to ensure they align with the City and the Province's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.