

From: jalil marhnouj <jalil.marhnouj@gmail.com>
Sent: November 22, 2021 6:00 PM
Subject: Re: OPS Board Meeting

Good evening Councillor Deans,

My name is Jalil Marhnouj and I am President of Assunnah Muslims Association and Co-Chair of the United Muslims Organizations of Ottawa-Gatineau which is a consortium of the 14 major mosques and affiliate organizations,

I would like to speak to the importance of our work, the needs and concerns of our community, and their relationship with policing services in Ottawa.

I am joining you today from Toronto, attending the NCCM Ontario advocacy day. I can tell you that the atmosphere is charged. As resilient as I am, I am deeply affected, on a personal and community level, following the heinous attacks on the Muslim community in Toronto and in London that resulted in death. I no longer feel safe for myself and especially for my wife and daughters in my city: Ottawa. Unfortunately, Islamophobia and Anti-Islam is security issue for the Muslims communities and individuals living across the country.

We understand very well that numerous people are hurting financially following the pandemic. This makes discussions around police budgets difficult, as funds need to be allocated where they'll make the most difference.

As a community we would like to highlight the following priorities:

- Increasing dialogue and collaboration to build trust between the OPS and the Muslim and BIPOC community;
- Exploring in-person open dialogue and discussions with youth and elders to build trust and enhance relationships.
- Increased safety and security concerns at Mosques during important Islamic celebratory events and Friday prayers.
- Opportunities for data sharing with community leaders to assist in leveraging community safety awareness and crime prevention while protecting privacy.
- We would like the OPS to address disproportionality reported by traffic stop project which indicate that middle eastern and black young men are about 3 times more likely to be stopped compared to counterparts from the white community. (Report on OPS website.)

There is also more work to be done. To list a few:

- Initiating trust-building opportunities such as in-person youth engagement programs, healing circles, learning forums to increase community, youth and police dialogue.

- Leverage our Demand For Service (DFS) mechanism for patrol presence when possible at Mosques for Friday prayers and celebratory events such as Eid.
- Review current CPTED audits provided by our Crime Prevention Section for Mosques in the Ottawa - Gatineau area and establish a connection.

Jalil Marhnouj
President
AMA Centre