

Report to / Rapport au:

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

20 December 2021 / 20 décembre 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: 15 November 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Amy Patterson and Constable Keith Jay

Excerpt from Letter:

I called the police last night over a domestic dispute. Both police officers were amazing. The female officer was really down to earth and I'd love to get more of her advice. The male officer was also great, please tell them both how much I appreciate them.

Date Received: 21 November 2021
From: Member of the public
OPS member: Detective Akiva Geller
Excerpt from Letter:

We are very impressed by the action of Detective Geller on our case of jewellery stolen by our cleaner. With his fast, decisive action, his professional interviewing skills and pleasant demeanour, he was able to obtain a confession from her on theft over \$5000 from 3 clients (2 Ottawa, 1 Gatineau). We understand other charges will be laid in our case. He was also able to locate and retrieve some items for myself and the other Ottawa client. This is incredible! Other Ottawa clients are coming forward as well.

So far, there have been no charges laid in the confession in Gatineau and the other Gatineau victims (at least 3) are still waiting to be contacted by a detective! Anything you can do to help get that moving would be wonderful as [name redacted] has been doing this for many years, with what we estimate to be at least 6 figures in dollar value stolen and fenced.

We are a culturally diverse group of friends and contacts, all in our senior years, who used [name redacted] through personal referrals. Detective Geller has treated those that he dealt with equally, with respect and understanding, and by-the-book.

While our case is still in progress, we are highly recommending a commendation for him as he is a fine example of how your community policing helps us.

Date Received: 25 November 2021
From: Member of the public
OPS member: Traffic Unit
Excerpt from Letter:

Thank you for all the work you do all the time; but especially for the blitz statistics that have been reported by the media. As I drive for a living, I appreciate the effort put in to making our streets safer.

Date Received: 15 November 2021
From: Cornerstone Housing for Women
OPS member: Constable Alex Slobodian
Excerpt from Letter:

On November 10th, at approximately 7:00pm, Constable Slobodian came to our facility to follow-up with one the residents who reported a sexual assault a few weeks prior. We were impressed by Constable Slobodan's approach with this particular resident. Constable Slobodian was warm, respectful, validating towards the residents feelings and emotions and showed flexibility when the resident was not in a place to follow-up with the report and talking about the incident.

During the interaction, the resident noted that she did not have a toothbrush. Constable Slobodian returned to our facility with a handful of toothbrushes, not only for the resident she came to support, but for the other residents who may need on in the house. Constable Slobodian gave the resident her card and invited her to call her if she wanted to chat further. This was such a kind gesture which conveyed to the resident that she was heard and valued. It also challenged some of the residents existing views of officers; to see police as supports rather than enforcers.

(Our facility provides supportive housing) for Women. We work with a verity of women who are struggling both with mental health and trauma. The approach used by the officer allowed the resident to feel some control over the situation and she noted it was a positive interaction. She often gets nervous around police, but Constable Slobodian made her feel very comfortable.

We want to say we are extremely grateful to Constable Slobodian for her approach and showing empathy and compassion in this situation. Thank you Constable Slobodian for being an amazing police officer and making a difference in the people you connect with.

Date Received: 27 November 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Claire Laviolette

Excerpt from Letter:

This Officer is a Credit to the Force. An extremely Kind Compassionate Person! Officer Laviolette went above and Beyond her Duty in terms of Her dedication to her JOB!

OPS please try to Hire with Your Limited Budget More Truly Dedicated Officers Thank You!

Date Received: 26 November 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Part 1: Constable Shelley Dang, Part 2: Homicide Unit and responding

officers

Excerpt from Letter:

I want to thank and praise all of the first responders who helped in my accident when I was t-boned by a driver who ran a red light and my car rolled 3 times in a major intersection on Nov 6/21. My trauma was further heightened when I was witness to [a] tragic event that took place on Nov.14/21. I and the victims where not only neighbors but friends for many years. The entire night was surreal as we witnessed first hand how all your officers and other emergency personal risked their lives responding to the situation. Detectives were in my house that night could not have been more caring. I as a 20 year citizen of Ottawa want to express my gratitude and praise for the at time unappreciated job you do each day. We as citizens cannot know how these events must effect your personal but also their families every day. Thank you for all you do each day.

Date Received: 01 December 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Phil Kane

Excerpt from Letter:

I know that a lot of negative stuff has been directed towards police forces throughout North America for the past few years.

Today was the day that made me respect a man, a human being and a police officer. He acted extremely professional and acted like a man of honour on how he conducted himself. Even though I was behaving poorly and basically acting like an arrogant rich jerk.

Officer Kane remained extremely calm, professional and even provided me with some great education on my driving habits.

He really showed me that officers are in fact human and showed me that he cares for his community.

I believe Officer Kane is a tremendous asset to our police force and he's an example for police officers around the globe on how to conduct themselves.

I did some serious soul searching when I arrived home today after our encounter and I deeply felt ashamed for how I presented myself to Officer Kane. It made me realize my unconscious bias towards our local police force, who do so many great things for our community and making it safe.

Bravo, Officer Kane and I truly appreciated the opportunity on getting to know you better during our encounter this afternoon. Thanks brother!

Date Received: 02 December 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Andrew Barrette

Excerpt from Letter:

I am writing to you today to give full praise to Constable Barrett for the fantastic assistance he provide last Sunday night on an emergency call to my father's residence. My father is 85 years old and lives alone, and on the evening of November 28th, he unfortunately fell and was non-responsive, which triggered an emergency 911 call from his fall detection protection on his Apple watch.

The call was quickly answered by both the police and the paramedics, and Constable Barrett reached my father swiftly in order for the paramedics to do their work. I cannot express how we are truly grateful for the fantastic job both Constable Barrett and the 2 paramedics did. Unfortunately, I did not catch the names of the 2 paramedics, but if at all possible, we would like to extend our praises to them as well, they were wonderful at the hospital.

As I received notification from the alarm company that something was happening at my father's house, you can appreciate that I was quite frantic as I had been trying to reach my father with no success. Constable Barrett quickly contacted me to give me the details of what was happening, and this, in a very soothing and calming manner, and assured me that my father was well taken care of and that he would be transferred to the Queensway-Carleton hospital. He also assured me that he would remain at the house until my husband and I could arrive, as I live 50 minutes away from my Dad's home.

As promised, Constable Barrett was still there when we arrived, and again was so very kind, he was very sorry for having to break the front door, for which we told him that on the contrary, we were grateful that he did get to my Dad swiftly. Truly, your service is very lucky to have Constable Barrett, he is such a very professional, conscientious police officer, but mostly a fantastic gentleman.

We were very lucky in that my father, although he is pretty banged up from the fall, is doing well and should recoup fully. I believe that this is in full part due to the great work Constable Barrett and the paramedics did.

So on behalf of my family, please forward our gratefulness to Constable Barrett, and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Date Received: 06 December 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Stephane Ethier and Police Communicator Sasha Tremblay

Excerpt from Letter:

As a parent of a child with serious mental health issues I am always reluctant to involve police for fear they don't know how to deal with these circumstances differently than they would the general public.

Last night I was in a position where I felt I didn't have any other choice so I called to report my suicidal son.

From the lady who initially took my call to the police constables who responded to my home I couldn't have asked for more. They were exceptional. They were respectful and sympathetic of my son and our situation which as a Mom I appreciated greatly, they were concerned about his well being and had me updated with 15 minutes of leaving my home as to where my son's phone was traced too.

I just want to thank Cst. Ethier for being compassionate and kind in a crazy call.

Date Received: 09 December 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Damian Levesque and Constable David Cameron

Excerpt from Letter:

On October 30, 2021 my wife tragically passed away. All first responders involved performed their jobs with the utmost care, kindness, dignity and compassion. The two constables involved, Damian Levesque and David Cameron, went far beyond their duty. They were at my house for almost 6 hours and they couldn't have been more caring, compassionate and comforting. They went out of their way to make sure I was kept informed of what the process was, any social assistance available to me and if there was anything that "THEY" could do for me. To say that I was impressed with David and Damion is a gross understatement. It was so apparent that these two officers are doing their job for all the right reasons, they truly care and want to make a difference. If these

two officers are an example of the people employed by the Police Services in Ottawa, and I'm sure that they are, then the citizens of Ottawa are in good hands. My heart felt thanks to David and Damion, you won't be forgotten!

Date Received: 10 December 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Constable Griffin McCaffery

Excerpt from Letter:

Last night my friend and I were driving from Kanata to Westboro when the car stopped functioning at the corner of Hazeldean and Eagleson Roads around 7 p.m. One of the busiest intersections in Kanata! What a nightmare! A police officer arrived to ensure our safety and stayed behind us with his hazards on until the tow truck arrived. He then helped the tow truck driver move the car. We so appreciated his efforts to ensure our safety. I do not know his name but if you can reach him, please extend our most sincere thanks. I hate to think what could have happened without his assistance.

Date Received: 12 December 2021

From: Member of the public

OPS member: Multiple officers

Excerpt from Letter:

Just want to thank all the officers who had to respond to the (homicide in Barrhaven). My heart goes out to all of them. They put their lives and minds on the line. Thank you.