



P A C E
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
& COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



By Email: Diane.Deans@ottawa.ca

January 19, 2022

Diane Deans
Chair
Ottawa Police Services Board

Dear Chair Deans:

Please find attached the final version of our report, *Rethinking Engagement: Supporting the Shift from Police Force to Police Service*.

In June 2021, the OPSB engaged our firms – PACE Public Affairs & Community Engagement and Middle Ground Policy Research – to rethink how the Board can establish a more constructive dialogue with racialized communities, one that ensures that all members of these communities feel heard, respected, supported, and accepted, irrespective of their racial identity or status. Our report proposes that the Board modify its approach to include two distinct engagement streams, one based on traditional public consultation, and another based on public deliberation.

As you know, we presented a draft to the Board at its public meeting on October 25, 2021. The draft report was shared with the Board and the interviewees from our study and posted on the Board's website for public comment. Our goal was to raise awareness around deliberation, and to gather broader public input to help inform, strengthen, and legitimize the report's findings and recommendations. Posting the draft on the website also signaled the Board's commitment to openness and transparency.

In reviewing the earlier draft and completing the final report, we have made several changes to respond to comments and suggestions from the Board and our readers, including:

- 1) Changing the report's subtitle to emphasize the role of public deliberation in the Board's future engagement processes;
- 2) Adjusting the Methodology section to reflect changes to the process;
- 3) Tweaking language and key terms in places to better reflect the diversity of opinion; and
- 4) Editing parts of the text to ensure that it reads clearly and easily.

We look forward to hearing the Board's reaction to our final report and we encourage you and the other members to act on the recommendations as quickly as circumstances permit.

It was a pleasure working with you and the other Board members on an issue of such importance to the community.

Regards,

Don Lenihan, President
Middle Ground Policy Research Inc.

Grégoire Jodouin, President
PACE Public Affairs & Community Engagement