

MINUTES

OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD

OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

CHAMPLAIN ROOM

26 May 1997

5:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Chair: Mr. P. Vice
Vice Chair: Mr. A. Bouwers
Members: Mr. G. Baskerville, Ms. A. Boudreau, Councillor D. Holmes

REGRETS

Regional Chair P. Clark

INTRODUCTION, INSPECTOR LARRY BEECHEY

Chair P. Vice introduced Inspector Larry Beechey, who will replace Acting Inspector Mike Hopkins as Transition Commander for the OPP detachments in Ottawa-Carleton.

Inspector Beechey has been a member of the OPP for 17 years and has served in progressively responsible positions in Bracebridge, Brantford and Sault Ste. Marie before coming to Ottawa-Carleton. In both Brantford and Sault Ste. Marie he served as Detachment Commander, and was Acting Inspector for No. 14 District Headquarters from April to October 1995. While at the Sault Ste. Marie detachment, he instituted full community policing utilizing the team and zone policing concept.

Chair Vice welcomed Inspector Beechey on behalf of the Board and the Ottawa-Carleton Police Service and he thanked Staff Sergeant Hopkins for filling in so capably over the past few months.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Services Board confirm the Minutes of the 28 April 1997 meeting.

CARRIED

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

1. PRESENTATION FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA DAVIS

This item was deferred to a subsequent Board meeting.

2. PRESENTATION FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERT COMMITTEE

- Letter from Sue MacLatchie dated 16 May 97

The Board heard from Mr. Angelo Filoso, Chair, Neighbourhood Alert Committee, who provided background information on the formation of the group. He spoke about the spiralling deterioration of this residential community, which is beset by problems coming from social clubs, bars, and the drug and sex trade.

Mr. Filoso described a number of achievements realised since 1994, when Neighbourhood Alert was formed. These include:

- co-ordinating actions with citizens, local politicians, schools, police and church to enhance safety in the community
- working on liquor licensing issues with the LLBO and local businesses
- working with residents, landlords and Housing Help to resolve issues with rooming houses
- forming the Coalition of Community Associations to enhance community safety.

Mr. Filoso continued by saying many new challenges have yet to be met and the collaboration of residents, community partners and the police is essential to reach the goal of a safer community. He identified the following barriers to reaching this goal:

- how to stop social clubs from offering all-night gambling and drug dealing
- how to get police to respond to “noise complaints”
- how to encourage a more visible police presence in the community
- how to deal with “trouble spots” in the community.

Mr. Filoso concluded his presentation by saying that a strong alliance between residents and police will make the community a safer place to live. (A copy of the presentation is on file with the Board Secretary.)

Councillor D. Holmes addressed the unique problems in this neighbourhood. She stated the Police are being asked to take the lead in establishing a “compliance committee”, consisting of representatives from the Regional Health Department, City of Ottawa Property Standards and noise inspectors, the fire department and Regional Police.

Working together the compliance committee would set criteria, list the most problematic establishments and work together to bring these establishments into compliance. In reply to questions from Chair Vice, Councillor Holmes cited the example of the rooming house committee established by the City of Ottawa where all agencies work together to address concerns as opposed to working in isolation.

Deputy Chief A. Mackie confirmed that staff have been looking at issues related to partnerships and have reviewed a compliance model used in the City of Windsor. He indicated that Regional Police are prepared to work towards this end. Replying to a question from Chair Vice, Mr. Filoso said he was satisfied with the present level of co-operation, but he believed there could be a closer involvement between agencies and police. Chair Vice assured him that the Board and the police service would continue to co-operate in every way possible to improve conditions in the neighbourhood.

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive this for information.

RECEIVED

3. OTTAWA-CARLETON STREET AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:
JOINT PRESENTATION BY THE PANHANDLING WORKING COMMITTEE
AND THE BUSINESS FORUM ON CRIME PREVENTION

Mr. Rick Malloch from the Business Forum on Crime Prevention described the proposed pilot program. (A copy of the proposal was previously distributed to Board members and is on file with the Board Secretary.) He explained it was developed by the community with multi-faceted participation from various agencies. Its aim is to deal with the dramatic increase in the level of aggression from street people and to try to address the problem from a community perspective.

Mr. Malloch described the current situation as follows:

- 5.26 million people visited the National Capital Area in 1996
- although the core of the city is principally affected by increased aggression, many business owners live in other parts of the RMOC, making this a regional issue
- the perception of the lack of safety caused by increased aggression must be addressed
- police officers on the street confirm that incidents of aggression have increased
- social agencies continue to see dramatic increases in demand for service; their people on the street do not necessarily focus on curbing aggressive behaviour.

Mr. Malloch cited several examples of improper behaviour in which panhandlers have engaged in recent weeks. He said the duties of representatives from the Street Ambassador Program will include educating the public, providing an increased safety

presence, taking complaints, serving as a quick link to the police, informing street people about programs that help and gathering data relative to the pilot program. He acknowledged that training will be critical and social agencies will be contacted about making some of their street workers available for this purpose. Mr. Malloch indicated a similar program in Illinois has resulted in a dramatic reduction in aggressive behaviour. The majority of the \$100,000 the program is estimated to cost will be raised by the business community. The Police Board is being asked to contribute \$10,000.

The Board heard from Mr. Doug McKeen, Glebe Business Bureau, who expressed concern about the possibility of increased panhandling in the Glebe as a result of the proposed program. He stated if their neighbourhood is not included in the program, panhandlers feeling the pressure elsewhere will simply move into the Glebe area. He pointed out that area residents rather than tourists are the mainstay of businesses in this area, and seniors are particularly intimidated by aggressive behaviour. Although police response time has been good, there are concerns because the foot patrol officer in the area has been less visible and Glebe residents would not want to see the situation worsen because of this program.

Mr. Rob Quinn, representing the Glebe Business Bureau, noted that while the report proposes an innovative solution, it raises questions about how much time beat officers spend patrolling their area; about whether panhandlers are eligible for welfare assistance; about how many panhandlers there are in the central area, and what are their characteristics. Mr. Quinn said knowing this information is vital if the program is going to work.

Mr. Jim McKeen, owner of the Loeb grocery store in the Glebe, said that although some of his customers are able to ignore panhandlers, and some make donations, there are those who are offended by the behaviour and who therefore avoid the situation. Mr. McKeen said all three types find aggressive behaviour intolerable. He believed that to be effective the program has to be undertaken on a city-wide basis.

In reply to a question from Councillor D. Holmes, Mr. Malloch said approximately 60 - 70% of the funding required to run the program will be provided by the business community. The remainder will come from other sectors such as the hotel industry and some government grants.

Councillor Holmes asked what police officers have been doing about the increase in aggressive behaviour. Inspector Sheila Dunlop replied that the shift schedule has been completely modified and there are constant foot patrols by officers. In addition, charges have been laid and, to some extent, the number of complaints has decreased.

Member Baskerville asked about the composition of the panhandlers and whether this would influence how they are handled. Sergeant A. Fiore said panhandlers vary from

young adults, to intoxicated persons dependant on alcohol or drugs, to elderly people. Currently efforts are being made to identify each individual, i.e., whether they have a permanent address or are receiving benefits. Sergeant Fiore said the program will complement this work and street ambassadors can act as the complainant if they see a crime being committed.

Member Boudreau expressed concern about the safety and risk to team members. She asked what “pool” of people would be used for the program. Mr. Malloch replied there will be two persons to a team, and teams will be in close proximity to one another. Candidates will be people who have been exposed to the street population, who have been volunteering with agencies that help street people or who have completed criminology programs. Mr. Malloch agreed to provide Board Members with copies of the program budget, as requested by Member Boudreau.

Responding to a question from Chair Vice, Mr. Malloch said the program will not be restricted to tourist areas; if there is displacement of the problem, the teams will be in a position to respond. Mr. Malloch also confirmed that the program will proceed even without the total amount of funding, as the business community wants to find a solution to the problem.

Vice-Chair Bouwers said the program is a good example of co-operation between the community and the police, and the Board will be getting good value for its investment. He expressed the hope the Board was not being asked to contribute to a program that will require increasing funding, and emphasized there is a role for the community to play. Mr. Malloch, in reply to additional questions from Member Boudreau, said the project is seen as a partnership and if successful a five-year plan will be developed.

Moved by D. Holmes

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board endorse the Ottawa-Carleton Street Ambassador Program, and approve a contribution of \$10,000 towards its operation.

CARRIED

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS REPORT (AS OF APRIL 1997)
- Chief's report dated 5 May 97

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

RECEIVED

5. APPROVAL OF STANDARDIZED SYSTEMS
FURNITURE FOR OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL POLICE
- Director-General's report dated 15 May 97

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve the selection of the proposal as submitted by Advance Business Interiors Inc. for the supply, installation and maintenance of "Haworth" systems furniture.

CARRIED

6. INTERNATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL PARADE AND SERVICE: REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION
- Board Secretary's memo dated 15 May 97 and attached letter
from Constable Glenn Wasson dated 25 Apr 97

Chair Vice noted when this request was approved last year, the Board stipulated that future requests should be made well in advance so as not to be funded retroactively. He hoped this would not be a problem in the future.

Member Baskerville suggested this event should be recognized as an ongoing expense associated with public relations, and form part of the police service budget rather than the Board's budget.

Moved by G. Baskerville

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve a contribution of \$2,000 to offset costs of Ottawa-Carleton Police Service members attending the annual International Peace Officers Memorial Parade and Service in Cleveland, Ohio.

CARRIED as amended

7. **LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR
SPECIAL OLYMPICS: REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION**
- Board Secretary's memo dated 16 May 97 and attached letter from
Constable Sherry Jordan dated 15 May 97

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve a contribution of \$1,000 to offset costs of Ottawa-Carleton Police Service members participating in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

CARRIED as amended

8. **OTTAWA-CARLETON REGIONAL POLICE YOUTH CENTRE
FUNDRAISING EVENT: REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION**
- Board Secretary's memo dated 16 May 97

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board approve a contribution of \$800 to purchase a table for eight at the annual Boxing Night and Dinner fundraising event for the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Youth Centre.

CARRIED as amended

9. **CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE BOARDS:
RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT ANNUAL MEETING**
- Board Secretary's report dated 15 May 97

Board members discussed whether they, as a Board, had to take a position on the Resolutions being forwarded to the CAPB Annual Meeting. Vice-Chair Bouwers expressed the hope that delegates to the conference would not feel bound by positions taken by the Board. Councillor Holmes suggested, and the Board concurred, that the Resolutions only be received at this time.

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board receive the attached Resolutions, which are to be submitted for consideration at the Canadian Association of Police Boards' Annual Meeting on June 22, 1997.

CARRIED as amended

10. REGULAR REPORT FROM THE CHIEF AND OPP INSPECTOR

- verbal update from Chief B. Ford and Inspector L. Beechey

Chief Ford highlighted the following recent events:

- Police Week was held from May 11-17 and was marked by activities throughout the Region, including two very successful award ceremonies
- Ottawa-Carleton Police have taken over policing duties at the MacDonald-Cartier International Airport
- the Police Auction was held on May 10th; \$39,000 in revenue was raised
- the Ottawa-Carleton Police Pipe Band has been invited to participate in the opening ceremonies for the Centennial Bridge (New Brunswick to PEI). The Pipe Band, under the leadership of Pipe Major Pat Hayes, enjoys international recognition.

Inspector Beechey had nothing to report at this time.

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

RECEIVED

11. 1996 ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief B. Ford presented the findings of the 1996 Activity Report for Ottawa-Carleton. He was pleased to report that the crime rate has dropped in all criminal activity, with fewer homicides and fewer assaults of all types. Property offenses, the theft of motor vehicles and incidences of fraud have also decreased. There has however been an increase in abductions resulting from custody cases. Chief Ford believed the amalgamation of police services has contributed to a greater level of communication between organizations and has led to more crimes being resolved. In addition, the increased presence of police officers in the community through the introduction of a district policing model is a positive factor. Chief Ford said credit for the decrease has to go to all those who work daily on the front lines, including civilian staff.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Chair Vice congratulated Chief Ford for the excellent results achieved.

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

RECEIVED

IN CAMERA

That the Ottawa-Carleton Police Services Board move In Camera to discuss a personnel matter, in accordance with Section 35(4)(b) of the *Police Services Act*.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

W. Fedec
Secretary

P. Vice
Chair