September 18, 2012

Mr. Eli El-Chantiry, Chair
Ottawa Police Services Board
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON
K1P 1J1

Dear Mr. El-Chantiry,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Ottawa Police Services Board's resolution on the G20 and the Morden Report. In your letter and your motion, you requested that the OAPSB seek clarification on the role of police services boards under the *Police Services Act.*

As you may know, the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards passed a motion on this issue at our last board meeting on September 12, 2012. The relevant text is provided in the attached document.

The OAPSB shares your concern about the implied responsibilities of police services boards as outlined in the Morden Report. Our members need to know if the report applies beyond the specific incidents examined, and whether (and how) their responsibilities may have changed as a result. We know that, for many boards, the Morden recommendations are a departure from long-standing practices.

For these reasons and due to the feedback we have received from Ottawa and other boards, our September 12th motion authorized the OAPSB to write to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to request a formal determination of the applicability of the Morden Report to police services boards across Ontario. This letter was sent to Minister Meilleur today.

The OAPSB agrees with the overall direction of the Morden Report, and we will be working with our member boards to provide training and guidance on ways to improve communications with chiefs, implement effective reporting and monitoring mechanisms, and adapt and implement other recommendations in the report. Our motion further calls on the Board to ask a member of the Morden team to speak at our upcoming Section 31 Seminar to provide some insight, and for a committee to be formed to help determine the appropriate level of policy direction to be given to police services by local boards. We recognize that there is still work to be done.

Thank you for your letter, and for your continued work on behalf of the people of Ottawa.

Sincerely,

Henry Jensen
President

Encl.: Text of motion

OAPSB MOTION (September 12, 2012)

THAT the Board of Directors concur with the general themes of the Morden Report:

- Direct the Chief regarding operational outcomes and any limitations, clearly and concisely

- Pay special attention to special events and circumstances (like G20)

- Exercise a robust monitoring program regarding policy compliance, and query the Chief on operations

- Establish special reporting and monitoring forums in special circumstances (like G20)

- Improve communications to and from the Chief;

THAT the Board of Directors acknowledge ongoing challenges in defining the appropriate level of direction and scrutiny a given police services board should apply to operations in general, and challenges police services boards may have in fully discharging their policy and monitoring responsibilities to the extent implied by Morden;

THAT OAPSB undertake to examine issues and concerns regarding sharing confidential or classified information;

THAT OAPSB assist TPSB, if so requested, in the creation of a comprehensive policy on crowd control at mass demonstrations;

THAT a member of the Morden team be invited to speak at the Section 31 Seminar;

THAT OAPSB request that the Minister of MCSCS determine the applicability of the Morden Report to other police services boards; and

THAT a committee of the Board be formed consisting of Michael Ray, Vaughn Stewart, George Braithwaite, Alok Mukherjee and Fred Kaustinen, to study the questions: how much policy direction regarding operations is enough? How much policy direction regarding operations is too much?