



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD RE-APPOINTS CHAIR & VICE CHAIR; DECIDES ON INTERNAL SEARCH FOR NEXT CHIEF**

Ottawa – At a meeting today the Ottawa Police Services Board re-appointed West Carleton Ward Councillor **Eli El-Chantiry** as the Board Chair, and provincially appointed member **Jim Durrell** as Vice Chair. Both appointments provide the Board with strong leadership and continuity during the upcoming period of transition with the departure of Chief Vern White. Chair El-Chantiry will be serving his fourth consecutive year as Chair, while Vice Chair Durrell continues in the position he was appointed to last September after joining the Board. The Board elects a Chair and Vice Chair at the first meeting each year in accordance with Ontario's *Police Services Act*.

In accepting the position, Chair El-Chantiry stated, "I want to thank my colleagues on the Board for their continued confidence in me, and for their support and commitment as we tackle the challenges ahead of us." Vice Chair Durrell added, "Since joining the Board I've been impressed by the professionalism of the Police Service and the Board, and am looking forward to continuing to work with both."

At the same meeting, the Board decided that it will be looking within the Ottawa Police Service for the next Chief of Police. Speaking on behalf of the Board, Chair El-Chantiry said, "When this Board hired Chief White, it gave him a mandate to address succession planning by developing a stable of strong future leaders. He has delivered on this mandate and today we are confident that the next Chief of Police for the City of Ottawa can be found within the organization."

The Ottawa Police Services Board is a seven-member civilian body established under Provincial legislation, responsible for governing the Ottawa Police Service and for recruiting the Chief of Police.

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