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Transpo constables win police board's support

BY MATTHEW PEARSON

The OC Transpo Special Constable Program got a ticket to ride from the Ottawa Police Services Board last night.

The board voted unanimously to continue the program for another five years.

It also extended the special constable status for the 39 existing members until July 2013.

Orléans Councillor Bob Monette said after the meeting that the board's decision is a reflection of the program's good reputation in the community.

"The report clearly showed they are undertaking their duties very well, they're getting strong support from the community," he said.

As an example, Mr. Monette used the fact that out of 189 arrests made by the special constables, the board has only received three complaints.

He said the special constables carry out their duties in a "professional, courteous manner" and have provided greater security on buses, especially on nights and weekends.

"I'm quite pleased the extension was given to them," he said.

The program began in February 2007 as an 18-month pilot project of the province's Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

The special constables carry out a number of peace officer duties. They are equipped with batons, handcuffs and soft body armour.

Earlier in the meeting, the board discussed overtime policing costs on Canada Day, which haven't been this cheap since 2002.

The force's overtime bill cost the city \$92,000, according to Acting Chief Sue O'Sullivan.

Acting Chief O'Sullivan told



ROD MACFAR, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Councillor Bob Monette says OC Transpo special constables carry out their duties in a 'professional, courteous manner.'

the board that the July 1 holiday was a busy day for police, which worked in conjunction with numerous agencies, including the National Capital Commission, the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police, Gatineau police, the paramedics and the Ottawa Fire Department.

Police made a total of 33 arrests, including 25 for public drunkenness and eight for criminal offences.

The board also awarded the contract for the new West Division Patrol facility, which will be built on Palladium Drive in Kanata. Vanbots Construction will oversee construction management services for the new facility, up to \$522,573.

The company will receive an additional \$11,120,000 to develop and construct the 41,000-square-foot facility.

The new building will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certified and will include parking for up to 260 vehicles.