



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
October 22, 2014**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Mike Moreash, Chair  
Commissioner Fred Honsberger  
Commissioner Barry Dalrymple  
Commissioner Linda Mosher  
Commissioner Tim Outhit

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Phil Read, Vice Chair

**STAFF:** Chief Jean-Michel Blais, HRP  
Deputy Chief Bill Moore, HRP  
Staff Sargent Fred Priestly, RCMP  
Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Board of Police Commissioners are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bpc/141022bopc-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m., and adjourned at 2:03 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

**3. REPORTS**

**3.1 Staff**

**3.1.1 Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities**

The following Information was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- Documentation pertaining the Police Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities

Chief Jean Michel Blais introduced Ms. Kathleen Patterson, Business Initiatives Coordinator, Halifax Regional Police and noted that she would provide an overview of the recommendations pertaining to the the Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities.

Ms. Patterson provided an overview of the Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities and noted that she would be happy to answer questions from the Board relating to the Directional Priorities.

Commissioner Moreash inquired if there will be a process included within the strategic plan to work with the RCMP to achieve the directional priorities for 2015.

Staff Sargent Fred Priestly commented that the RCMP is supportive of the recommendations as presented. He commented that the RCMP will work closely with the HRP to implement Directional priorities.

Commissioner Mosher expressed her concern that more emphasis needs to be placed on police services working with at risk youth.

Chief Blais cited programs already in place such as Souls Strong and the Youth Advocate program and commented that he envisions programming for at risk youth a high priority for the new Public Safety Coordinator when the position is filled. He further noted that HRP will play a strong partnership role with the new Public Safety Office in manners pertaining to at risk youth.

In response to a follow up question from Councillor Mosher, Ms. Patterson commented that Integrated Community Initiatives will be a priority with respect to the 2015-16 deliverables.

Chief Blais provided further commentary on the level of coordination between the HRP and the new Public Safety Office once it is established.

Commissioner Mosher expressed her opinion that most residents do not want civilians staffing the Public Safety Office and that the current police presence has been positive in terms of community safety.

Chief Blais commented that HRP has no intention of abdicating its responsibilities respecting public safety in HRM. He commented that the establishment of a civilian Public Safety Office will allow for another avenue of leadership in public safety matters especially in areas where a singular police presence is not always effective.

Commissioner Honsberger noted that many of the Directional priorities, particularly those pertaining to the budget require Board consultation before implementation. Ms. Patterson agreed with Commissioner Honsberger's assessment and noted that further alignment with the Board of Police Commissioners to establish a robust reporting system from HRP is a strong priority for staff.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted the great deal of work placed in the Directional Priorities document and inquired if may be too many deliverables presented. He commented that staff may have to change some of the implementation dates as the work involved may be time consuming and heavily dependent on available resources. Ms. Patterson agreed with Commissioner Dalrymple's assessment and noted that staff will be reviewing all recommendations and perhaps changing priority outcomes if required.

Commissioner Dalrymple commented that the Operational Assessment Report, as outlined should remain a priority. He further commented that recommendation 7, pertaining to a potential HRP Human Resources Skills Map is very useful, particularly if it involves an electronic HR data base of sworn and civilian members. He commented that this item should be included as a future agenda item for discussion with the Board.

Commissioner Moreash noted that recommendation 23, the development of social media strategy, would be very beneficial for HRP to undertake in terms of communication with the public. He further noted that the Board of Police Commissioner can assist in this regard.

Commissioner Mosher echoed Commissioner Moreash's commented and noted that a policy regarding social media for police service members would be very welcome.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted that there will likely need to be a strong training component associated with the establishment of a social media policy to ensure that officers are prepared to engage in social media activities in an official capacity.

Staff Sargent Priestly agreed with Commissioner Dalrymple' s assessment and noted that there is a strong desire to ensure that officers are savvy with social media so that they are aware of what is happening in the community and can inform the public on matters pertaining to public safety and crime awareness.

Commissioner Dalrymple noted his support for recommendation 12, pertaining to the development of an Annual Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Strong. He noted the strong dependency on the police to collect crosswalk data.

Commissioner Moreash noted that the Board of Police Commissioner can play a strong role in the recommended development of an HRP Crisis Plan to act as a conduit between Police Services and the Public to illustrate how HRP can respond in certain circumstances.

With respect to Recommendation 28, updates to the City Watch program, Commissioner Moreash suggested adding an email or twitter function. Commissioner Mosher suggested that HRP liaise with HRM Corporate Communications to assist in this regard.

Further discussion ensued.

**MOVED by Commissioner Honsberger, seconded by Commissioner Mosher that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the Halifax Regional Police Strategic Plan and 2015 Directional Priorities.**

**MOTION OUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair thanked Ms. Patterson for her presentation.

**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 10, 2014**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Liam MacSween  
Legislative Assistant