

# Legislative Roles and Responsibilities of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

May 11th, 2015



HALIFAX



PARTNERS IN POLICING

# Halifax Regional Municipality

- HRM is responsible for the policing and maintenance of law and order within the municipality and for providing and maintaining an adequate and effective police service at its expense in accordance with its needs.

# Halifax Regional Board of Police Commissioners

- The Board is a civilian body to which the Halifax Regional Police are accountable, but which also serves as an advisory board for the RCMP.
- The Board is created under the *Police Act* and is regulated by the *Act*, the *Regulations*, HRM By-Law Number P-100 and by reference AO #1.



# The Function of the Board

- The primary functions of the Board are to:
  - 1) provide civilian governance in regard to strategic policy planning and policy driven budget planning for police service delivery within the communities serviced by the HRP;
  - 2) serve in an advisory role in respect of police matters within the communities serviced by the provincial police service (RCMP).



# The Function/Role of the Board

- The dual function and role of the Board is spelled out in the legislative framework, including the By-laws.
- The Act provides that Regional Council can delegate additional or more specific roles and responsibilities to the Board.
- The MOU that was negotiated resulted in By-Law P-100 and was also adopted as a policy of Council.



# The Mandate of the Board

- The *Police Act* and the MOU preserve both the Chief's and RCMP's independence to uphold the law, provide police service to the community and manage their respective police services while making them accountable to the Board for their operation of police services, the manner in which their responsibilities are carried out and the administration of finances.



# Outside the Scope of the Board

- Any matter over which the Board has no jurisdiction under the *Act* or By-Law, which are summarized in the MOU and include, but are not limited to:
- Day-to-day police operations
- Investigations and Prosecution
- Complaints, personnel and discipline matters, except in relation to the Chief of Police
- Drafting and implementing policy
- Promoting, suspending, dismissing and reinstating members, special constables, bylaw enforcement officers and civilian employees of HRP



# The Chief of Police

- The Chief Officer is responsible for the actual day-to-day direction of the police department with respect to the enforcement of law and the maintenance of discipline within HRP.
- The Chief Officer is required to file an annual report with the Board respecting, among other things, the initiation of programs and strategies implementing HRP's priorities, goals and objectives.





# The Role of the Chief of Police

- As the senior police manager within HRM the Chief of Police reports to the CAO on police service matters pertaining to their development, planning and implementation as required in providing for efficient, effective and economical police service delivery.
- The Chief of Police serves a staff function for the Board in terms of undertaking research, strategic planning, policy development/implementation and the reporting of results.



# The Chief Administrative Officer

- The CAO liaises with the RCMP and Minister of Justice on such matters as may be agreed upon by HRM and the Minister of Justice.
- The CAO is authorized to carry out strategic and/or business planning reviews reflecting the goals of efficient, effective and economical service delivery of law enforcement, crime prevention and policing within the municipality.

# Halifax Regional Police

- Serves the geographic service boundary described in the MOU as amended from time to time.
- HRP consists of a Chief of Police and such other officers, assistants, and civilian employees as Council, through the CAO, may from time to time deem necessary.



# RCMP

- The RCMP is responsible for police services in the remainder of the municipality which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the HRP.
- The Officer in Charge – Halifax Detachment is responsible for the operations, policies, functions of the RCMP within HRM and reports to the Board as required on matters of police service delivery.
- Annually, the Officer in Charge, Chair of the Board, the CAO and the Minister of Justice are to consult on the estimated cost and the numbers of members and support staff required for the RCMP/Halifax Detachment.



# Questions?



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