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## Item No. 2

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**15 January 2008**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Beazley".

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Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police

**DATE:** December 14, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Coordination of Graffiti Removal and Forensic Identification

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Councillor Hum asked staff to provide an information report on the process to be followed in the future to prevent HRM Graffiti Removal staff from TPW from removing graffiti before Halifax Regional Police were able to photograph it for evidence purposes due to the arrest of two suspects.

### **BACKGROUND**

On July 26, 2007 , Halifax Regional Police made two arrests of persons involved with placing graffiti on light poles in the Dunbrack Street area. The arresting officers placed a request with the Forensic Identification Section of the HRP to photograph those poles on the following morning as per our established practice to capture an image of the damage for evidence.

Vigilant HRM Graffiti Removal staff attended the area the next morning, observed the graffiti and without the knowledge of the previous nights arrest, cleaned the poles prior to photographs being taken by police.

### **DISCUSSION**

HRP has discussed with TPW staff a potential solution. The proposed solution will involve a three step approach:

1. Police will attempt to have photographs taken at the time of arrest in as many situation as possible. In those situations where immediate photographs are not possible, the following to steps will be followed:

2. If immediate photographs are not taken, police will notify the HRM Corporate Call Centre at 490-4000 indicating an arrest has been made , request a call be entered in Hanson outlining the fact an arrest has been made, the location and request that clean-up not be undertaken until police photographs are taken.

3. HRM Graffiti Removal Staff will take a digital photograph of the graffiti before removing same. This step will insure that an image is available in the event evidence is required.

It should be noted that this situation will only apply to HRM owned properties as privately held properties will be a direct police to owner relationship and an explanation of photographs times and process can occur directly between owner and police.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The only budgetary implication will be the collection of images by the HRM Graffiti Removal staff for materials to record the images on, ie. CDs. This cost can be absorbed within the current budget allocation.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Superintendent William Moore, 490-5358



Report Approved by: Deputy Chief Christopher McNeil, 490-5272