

TO: HRM Board of Police Commissioners (HRM Public Safety Committee)

SUBMITTED BY: Staff Sergeant R. Scott MacDonald, HRM Public Safety Officer

DATE: March 6, 2015

SUBJECT: National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention

ORIGIN

Since 2009, the HRM Public Safety Officer has represented Halifax Regional Municipality as a member of the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention. The purpose of this report is to inform Commissioners on the latest developments regarding the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention and to request authorization to engage in a new inter-municipal exchange program funded for the next three years by the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC).

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

In 2006, 15 Canadian municipalities responded to an invitation from the Institute for the Prevention of Crime of the University of Ottawa to be part of a municipal working group to share experience and expertise regarding crime prevention and to foster the development of integrated approaches for community safety. This initiative was made possible through the financial support of the NCPC from 2006 to 2009. It resulted in the publication of a compendium of Canadian municipal strategies and practices and the production of 10 Action briefs for municipal stakeholders.

Since then, the participating municipalities have been part of a national network to continue to share expertise and discuss common issues related to crime prevention and community safety through an annual face-to-face meeting and regular conference calls. A constant link has also been maintained with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Considering the momentum generated by the network and the benefits of this interactive process, a proposal was presented to the NCPC by the City of Montreal, on behalf of the municipalities of the Network, to put in place a comprehensive inter-municipal exchange, knowledge dissemination and training program. The NCPC has approved funding in the order of \$867,000 to support this initiative over the next three years. The project is scheduled to start on April 1, 2015.

The program entitled *Building Municipal Capacity to Harness Evidence to Prevent Crime* will focus on direct inter-municipal exchanges of expertise, on the mobilization of local stakeholders, on the training of key municipal employees and on knowledge development and dissemination.

The program is a unique opportunity for our municipality to learn from the experience of other Canadian cities, to share our expertise and to reinforce our policies and programmes related to crime prevention and urban safety. These include the prevention of youth violence and violence against women, safe urban design, city center and neighbourhood safety, the social inclusion of vulnerable groups, safety of the elderly and public engagement. The programme will foster municipal leadership throughout Canada in the development of a comprehensive vision of community safety for the benefits of our citizens.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All direct costs for the program activities will be covered by the NCPC contribution agreement. Municipalities will be called to provide in-kind support through the participation of their representatives in these activities and coordination of meetings and workshops taking place in their cities. These in-kind support costs already form part of the current operating budget for the HRM Public Safety Office.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the HRM Board of Police Commissioners as the HRM Public Safety Committee, endorse continued active participation in the National Municipal Network on Crime Prevention including taking part in the new inter-municipal cooperation program funded by the NCPC for the next three years.

It is further recommended that through the Board this update also be provided to HRM Council.