



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 3

Halifax Regional Council
February 17, 2009
Committee of the Whole

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russell Walker", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Russell Walker, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

DATE: February 10, 2009

SUBJECT: A Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Roundtable

ORIGIN

At the February 9, 2009 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, the Commission passed a motion to endorse the recommendations and Action Plan as set out in the report dated February 10, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council approve the recommendations and Action Plan endorsed by the Board of Police Commissioners as set out in the Staff Report dated February 10, 2009.

BACKGROUND

See Report Dated February 10, 2009.

DISCUSSION

See Report Dated February 10, 2009.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

See Report Dated February 10, 2009.

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

Report dated February 10, 2009

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 : Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerks Office 490-6519



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Item No.

**Halifax Regional Council
February 17, 2009
Committee of the Whole**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

Chief Frank A. Beazley, Halifax Regional Police

DATE: February 10, 2009

SUBJECT: A Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Roundtable

ORIGIN

At the September 30, 2008 Council meeting Halifax Regional Council ratified the following motion:

1. Accept the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence report and forward it to staff including Police, Police Commission and all other relevant departments within HRM, Province of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government to create an implementation strategy; and
2. further, that in consideration of any other reports that impact on community safety initiatives, direct staff to return to Council with a report and any recommendations that should be considered in preparation for the upcoming business planning cycle.

There was also a request for the cost of the initiative, 'A Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Roundtable'.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council approve the recommendations and Action Plan endorsed by the Board of Police Commissioners.

BACKGROUND

In November 2006, Mayor Peter Kelly initiated the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence in the Halifax Regional Municipality in response to the growing concerns that violent crime was escalating in the Municipality. Mayor Kelly engaged Professor Don Clairmont, Director, Atlantic Institute of Criminology to facilitate the process. Professor Clairmont submitted a final report to Mayor Kelly as a result of the roundtable titled: Violence and Public Safety in the Halifax Regional Municipality, A Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Roundtable. The report was added to the Committee of the Whole Agenda of September 30, 2008 and the aforementioned motion put and passed. This item was subsequently ratified at the Regional Council meeting of September 30, 2008.

DISCUSSION

Frank A. Beazley, Chief of Police, Halifax Regional Municipality, was assigned the responsibility of addressing the motion of Regional Council. Chief Beazley convened a Working Group to conduct a comprehensive review of:

- the Violence and Public Safety in the Halifax Regional Municipality report;
- other initiatives underway that will have an impact on policing and public safety; and
- initiatives launched by HRM's operational units and partners addressing some public safety concerns of recent months.

Further to the request regarding the cost of the initiative, 'A Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Roundtable', the net cost was \$68,772.88.

The Working Group gathered information to identify the initiatives and outcomes achieved to date and key initiatives being undertaken. There has been and continues to be significant strides in addressing violence and public safety related issues by the respective stakeholders, since the inception of Professor Clairmont's study.

Analyses

The following processes were undertaken to address the Report to the Mayor as a Result of the Roundtable.

- Gap Analysis identifying the gaps between the current situation and the recommendations made by Professor Clairmont (Annex A).
- Review HRP/RCMP Initiatives Impacting Police and Public Safety (Annex B).
- Review External Initiatives Impacting Police and Public Safety (Annex C).

The key stakeholders were identified and consulted regarding the aforementioned processes. There has been ongoing dialogue and actions initiated that address recommendations from Professor

Clairmont's report. A number of these initiatives have been documented throughout this report. The findings of the processes were presented to the Board of Police Commissioners and the HRM Senior Management Team (SMT).

Action Plan

Professor Clairmont's recommendations comprised nine themes. The Working Group reorganized the recommendations into five themes for the purposes of the Action Plan (Annex D). The five themes are as follows:

- Sustainability Initiatives
- Diversity
- Provincial Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Police Community Response

Annex E, Appendices 1 to 5, encompass the five themes. Each appendix identifies Professor Clairmont's recommendations, the current situation, next steps and responsibility centres.

The following recommendations have been endorsed by the Board of Police Commissioners for immediate implementation.

- The Board of Police of Commissioners serve as the Public Safety Committee.
- Police Services establish a Public Safety Office to include existing services and programs administered through Community Relations and Crime Prevention (Victim Services, Volunteer Services, School Liaison Program), Mobile Mental Health, Park Patrol and Traffic units and the Community Response Team.
- A position be established to coordinate the Public Safety Office and implement the Action Plan. Initially, the office will be composed of 32 police officers, 14 civilians, volunteers and have a budget of approximately \$3.2 million from realigning existing resources.
- Partner with HRM Business Units, RCMP, the Provincial/Federal Governments and community to explore crime prevention initiatives that address crime and its root causes.
- Approve the Action Plan attached as Annex E of this report.

In the coming fiscal year, the responsibility centres identified in the Action Plan will continue to collaborate and implement public safety initiatives. Simultaneously, each recommendation from Professor Clairmont's report will have an assigned champion, stakeholder commitment, strategies, time lines and resources identified. There will also be a Public Safety Strategy incorporated in the

pending HRP Strategic Management Plan. The Public Safety Officer will establish and conduct a monitoring process and submit an annual report to the Board of Police Commissioners. An evaluation will be conducted for year end to assist with the development of initiatives to be considered for the business plan of the following fiscal year.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Public Safety Office will be composed of 32 police officers, 14 civilians, volunteers, and has a budget of approximately \$3.2 million from realigning existing resources.

The Nova Scotia Minister of Justice has approved a position to support the creation of a Public Safety Officer for HRM as part of the 250 police officer program.

There are no further budget implications at this time.

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

Annex A - Gaps Analysis

Appendix 1 to Annex A - Zone Map (plus 8 maps)

Annex B - HRP and RCMP Initiatives Impacting Policing and Public Safety

Annex C - External Initiatives Impacting Policing and Public Safety

Annex D - Action Plan Themes

Annex E - Next Steps

Appendix 1 to Annex E - Sustainability Initiatives

Appendix 2 to Annex E - Diversity

Appendix 3 to Annex E - Provincial Partnerships

Appendix 4 to Annex E - Community Engagement

Appendix 5 to Annex E - Police Community Response

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Report Prepared by : Allan M. Wayne, Executive Officer, Chief of Police, Halifax Regional Police, 490-6484