



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 13.1
Halifax Regional Council
March 15, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

DATE: *for* March 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Request for Support – March 23, 2011 Meeting with the Minister of Justice

ORIGIN

March 14, 2011 Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council support the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners' statement of concern at the March 23, 2011 meeting with the Minister of Justice that provincial funding for the Additional Officer Program not be reduced.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the March 14, 2011 Board of Police Commissioners meeting, members learned that the Honourable Ross Landry, Minister of Justice, had invited all Municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, Advisory Boards, the RCMP and Chiefs of Police to a meeting on March 23, 2011 to discuss current challenges police are facing in Nova Scotia. As a result of this invitation, the Board discussed what items the Chair, who would attend on the Board's behalf, should address. The Board agreed that their concern regarding any potential reduction to the Additional Officer Program; which they had previously expressed via a letter to Minister Landry (Attachment A), should be raised.

The Board also agreed that having the support of Regional Council would be beneficial.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board of Police Commissioners meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes are posted online.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose not to support the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners' statement of concern at the March 23, 2011 meeting with the Minister of Justice that provincial funding for the Additional Officer Program not be reduced.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Correspondence dated February 21, 2011 from Commissioner Gosse, Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners, to Minister Landry
- Attachment B: Correspondence dated March 4, 2011 from Minister Landry to Commissioner Gosse, Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners

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: Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant, 490-6521

Attachment A



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

Distributed to: DCAO
✓ Mayor, Councillors, CAO,
Solicitor, Communications
J. Church, Chief Beasley
February 22, 2011
DATE
Shawnee Gregory

February 21, 2011

Minister Ross Landry
Department of Justice
5151 Terminal Road
PO Box 7
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L6

Dear Minister Landry:

This correspondence, regarding the Additional Officer Program, is forwarded on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality Board of Police Commissioners. As you are aware, HRM was provided 51 officers under this program, 39 to the Halifax Regional Police and 12 to the Halifax District RCMP.

HRM is a significant public safety partner in Nova Scotia with a policing budget of nearly 90 million in 2010. Many of the issues faced by HRP and Halifax District RCMP are provincial in nature and both agencies are required to support provincial policing initiatives.

The Additional Officer program plays an important role in ensuring Nova Scotia is a safe and secure place to work and live. The Program has allowed HRM to deploy officers to some of our most vulnerable communities. These communities are experiencing the effects of poverty, discrimination, and isolation. Many are struggling with drug trafficking and related violence. The program has had a direct impact on the violence in these communities and others. The officers involved play a critical role in the crime reduction strategies of both HRP and Halifax District RCMP. The results have been reflected in a continuous reduction of violent crime since 2006.

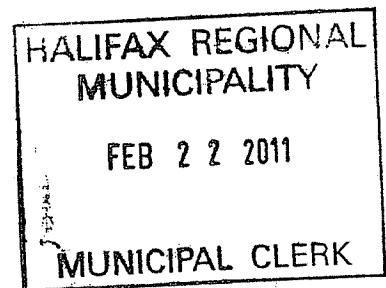
The Board understands that the Additional Officer Program is under review. In carrying out that review, we urge you to consider both the role HRM plays in public safety in Nova Scotia and the impact these officers have in the communities they serve. The loss of any of these officers would have a significant negative impact on community health and well being in the communities they serve.

We would be happy to meet and discuss in detail the Additional Officer Program as it relates to policing in HRM.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

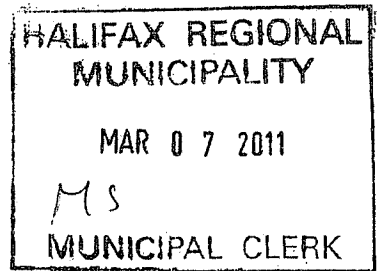
Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
HRM Board of Police Commissioners



Distribution:
Mayor Peter Kelly & Regional Council
All HRM Members of the Legislative Assembly



Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister



PO Box 7, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2L6 • Telephone 902 424-4044 Fax 902 424-0510 • www.gov.ns.ca

MAR 4 2011

Commissioner Earl Gosse, Chair
Halifax Regional Municipality Board of Police Commissioners
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Commissioner Gosse:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of February 21, 2011 in which you outlined your support of the Additional Officer Program and its positive effect in your community.

I want to thank you for sharing your thoughts, and I agree that the program has had a positive impact on the delivery of policing services in all our communities across the province.

As you know, the province is currently facing severe financial challenges, and I cannot say the program will remain as is for the indefinite future. I can, however, assure you that I and my colleagues are aware of its importance to Police Boards, Police Chiefs and communities in Nova Scotia, and no decision has been made regarding this program during budget discussions to date.

I have recently written to all Municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, Advisory Boards, the RCMP and Chiefs of Police inviting them to join myself and staff on March 23, 2011 to discuss current challenges police are facing in Nova Scotia. These meetings are crucial to us all as we explore our way forward and share ideas as to the best possible solutions to the challenges we face.

I look forward to seeing you on March 23, 2011.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Landry". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Ross Landry