



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

Item No. 10.2.1

Halifax Regional Council

June 12, 2012

June 19, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Earl Gosse, Chair HRM Board of Police Commissioners

DATE: 14 May 2012

SUBJECT: Formation of a Citizen Led Committee or Task Force

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Councillor Jim Smith made a motion at Regional Council that Regional Council support the formation of a citizen led and membership focused, including those residents in areas particularly affected by violent crime, Committee or Task Force, tasked with compiling resident and other stakeholder input and solutions in regard to reversing the Culture of Violent Crime in HRM, and that Regional Council request the support and involvement of the provincial government of Nova Scotia support in the Committee/Task Force formation with HRM, and that both levels of Government agree to consider and adopt the recommendations from this entity recognizing the need to come forward in a timely manner (within 3 months) in regards to a focus on addressing the root causes of Crime in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Smith stated that the motion was driven by inquiries from residents regarding the root causes of crime; noting that he had not heard any complaints about the work the police were doing and this would be a community driven initiative. He indicated that he would like to see a Council initiative to speak to the communities most impacted by crime to see what they believe the root causes of crime are and how HRM could move forward.

DISCUSSION

Councillor Jim Smith attended the March 12, 2012 meeting of the HRM Board of Police Commissioners and spoke on behalf of his motion from Council.

A discussion ensued which outlined the fact that matters concerning the root causes of crime in North Dartmouth and other areas of HRM are available within the report of the Mayor's Round Table on Violence. Further, there is a body of research collected through research and public meetings that is available to any community group on order of government from Dr. Don Clairmont, the author of the Report.

Further discussion revealed that a committee known as the Safer and Stronger Communities Committee presently existed within HRM that mirrors the request from Councillor Smith. The committee is comprised of Provincial and Federal Government Departments, the office of the HRM CAO, RCMP and HRP. Further, the Halifax United Way – Action for Neighbourhood Change Program is presently active in North Dartmouth.

At the close of the discussion, Halifax Regional Police committed to supporting community groups in their efforts to address the root causes of crime within HRM. Further, the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities group will continue within HRM.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

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

No consultation was held with the community except the inquiries Councillor Smith received from residents in his constituency regarding the root causes of crime.

ATTACHMENTS

None

**Formation of a Citizen Led Committee - 3 -
or Task Force
HRM Board of Police Commissioners Report**

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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: Chief Frank A. Beazley, Halifax Regional Police, 490-6500

Original Signed

Report Approved by: Chief Frank A. Beazley, Halifax Regional Police, 490-6500
