

**Item No. 11.5.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 22, 2013**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council  
Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** for / Commissioner Micki Ruth, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

**DATE:** October 9, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Souls Strong Project

**ORIGIN**

- April 30, 2013 – Regional Council approved implementation of the Souls Strong Program as part of the 2013/14 budget, subject to Federal Funding.
- Private and Confidential Staff report dated September 30, 2013
- Board of Police Commissioners meeting October 7, 2013 item 10.1 – In Camera session.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter, Section 68 (1) and Section 35 (3) of the *Police Act*.

HRM Charter, Section 21 (4) respecting the procedures of Advisory Committees.

HRM Charter, Section 19 (2) (e) respecting the procedures of Council for closed session meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Board of Police Commissioners recommends Halifax Regional Council:

1. Authorize the establishment of the Souls Strong Youth Initiative program outlined in the Private and Confidential report of September 30, 2013 subject to funding;
2. Authorize the Chief of Police to execute the Contribution Agreement attached as Appendix A of the September 30, 2013 private and confidential report, and further authorize the Chief of Police to negotiate and execute any required amendments to the Contribution Agreement related to the nature and scope of the program and the allocation of funds received; and
3. Not release the Private and Confidential report to the public until such time as the formal Federal announcement of funding has been made.

## **BACKGROUND**

In January 2012, a series of focus group meetings with residents and community leaders were carried out in North Preston to address issues relating to youth crime. A specific area of focus was placed on how to steer young men in North Preston between 15 and 20 years, away from the criminal justice system. As a result of the public information sessions the "Souls Strong" project proposal was submitted to the Federal government for funding under a National Crime Prevention Strategy. The program will be overseen by the Board of Police Commissioners, and implemented and managed by HRM's Community Recreation & Culture Division with program staff based out of the North Preston Community Centre. Advice and guidance from community groups and the RCMP Preston detachment will be communicated to the Program Manager on how the program can best achieve its objectives.

Details regarding funding are outlined in the September 30, 2013 Private and Confidential report to the Board of Police Commissioners provided as In Camera Information Item No. 1 of the Regional Council agenda of October 22, 2013.

## **DISCUSSION**

Details regarding this matter were dealt with by the Board of Police Commissioners in a Private Session as required to address the details of the funding arrangements. The Board of Police Commissioners recommends that Halifax Regional Council proceed with the Souls Strong Project as outlined in the recommendation section of this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the Private and Confidential report dated September 30, 2013.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

As outlined in the Private and Confidential report dated September 30, 2013.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the Private and Confidential report dated September 30, 2013.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

No alternatives were discussed by the Board of Police Commissioners.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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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: Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, 490-6521

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