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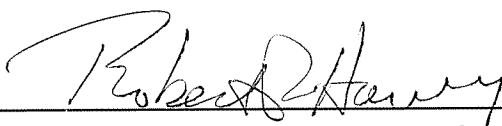


PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
February 18, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Comm. Harvey, Vice-Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

DATE: February 12, 2003

SUBJECT: D.A.R.E. Education Program

ORIGIN

Board of Police Commissioners meeting of February 10, 2003. Report in response to a request by Regional Council at their January 30, 2001 meeting for a report regarding the possibility of implementing the D.A.R.E. Education Program in all HRM Schools. **Status Sheet item #10.1.5.**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the D.A.R.E. Education Program not be implemented in all HRM schools and that HRP continue with its current programs.

BACKGROUND

See February 10, 2003 report to the Board of Police Commissioners attached.

DISCUSSION

At the Board of Police Commissioners meeting of February 10, 2003, the report was discussed and the Board agreed that the HRP's program should not be abandoned for the D.A.R.E. program used by the RCMP. The HRP's program is very well received by both students and teachers and offers a broad range of programs to a larger number of students than could be offered through the D.A.R.E. program.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

See report dated February 10, 2003 attached

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.

ALTERNATIVES

See report dated February 10, 2003 attached.

ATTACHMENTS

D.A.R.E. Education Program report dated February 10, 2003 to the Halifax Regional Board of Police Commissioners from Acting Chief of Police, Frank A. Beazley.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Lynne Le Boutillier, Legislative Assistant, Secretary to the Board of Police Commissioners

Re: 9.2.1

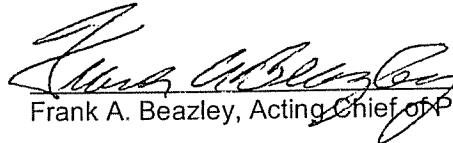


Halifax Regional Board of Police Commissioners
February 10, 2003

Halifax Regional Police

TO: Chairman and Members of the
Halifax Regional Board of Police Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY:


Frank A. Beazley, Acting Chief of Police

DATE: February 10, 2003

SUBJECT: D.A.R.E. Education Program

David P. McKinnon
Chief of Police

ORIGIN

At the Halifax Regional Council on January 30, 2001 the Board of Police Commissioners was asked for a report regarding the possibility of implementing the D.A.R.E. Education Program in all HRM schools.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that;

The D.A.R.E. Education Program not be implemented in all HRM schools and that HRP remain with its current programs.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Halifax Regional Police have a very informed, well thought out drug program that was created with such partners as Addiction Services, IWK Poison Control and is part of our core programming curriculum in the family of schools within HRP jurisdiction.

D.E.F.Y. (Drug Education For Youth) has been redone in 2002 and has components in every Grade 3, 6, 8, and 10 classrooms. The program covers the drugs which our Drug Investigators and Addiction Services consider to be the choice of kids today, Marijuana, alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs.

Level one was developed last year by a pharmacy student, Janet McMullin, who did a work term with HRP. It is entitled "Medicine Cabinet" and it speaks to the dangers of medicines and products found in every household. Poison control is very supportive of the program, and recently assisted with a launch of this program at a school in Bedford. Poison Control provides a take-home bag with stickers, and pamphlets to each child in Grade Three.

Level Two has been revised and is in the review stages. It is an introductory drug program with additional emphasis on tobacco and decision making offered in Grade Six.

Level Three is based on studies (Nova Scotia Student Drug Use Survey 2002) that show teens are still mainly involved in alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use. In consultation with HRP Drug Unit, they also mention we should cover Ritalin and Valium have been added and are to be offered to Grade eight classes.

Level Four has as its primary focus "Club Drugs". The program covers the six major club drugs and speaks to the dangers and side effects of the drugs. It also speaks to the drugs used to facilitate sexual assault and offers tips to avoid being a victim of these drugs. This program is to be offered to Grade ten classes.

D.E.F.Y should not be seen as standing alone, but complimenting our already intensive list of core programs speaking on such topics as Stranger Danger, Crosswalk Safety and Bullying (highly successful components at Grades 2, 4 and 7), Internet Safety and Dating Violence. The totality of these efforts has interaction at all grade levels.

It is important to note that HRP liaises with the School Board to ensure that police student interaction is meaningful to the education process. Our programs have been and will continue to be reviewed by teachers and staff in an effort to ensure that we are complimenting the learning outcomes of teacher's lesson plans. We are also actively meeting with the RCMP to identify other programs that both agencies presently provide in an effort to be uniformed in our approach to these areas.

Why not D.A.R.E?

In researching D.A.R.E, officers were asked what the program provides them. All responded that the program provided easy to use lesson plans and a comfort level when presenting information. They further commented that they were seen as approachable and well known by the youth in the community. The importance of these points is not lost, and in fact our Community Liaison Constables enjoy this same

comfort and familiarity, but it does not speak to any educational value of the program.

Presently, the RCMP in metro use the D.A.R.E. program. On last review, they are only able to reach one third of the Grade Six population per year. In Windsor, an area with 11 schools, five are covered one year, and six the next year. Time commitment and cost are cited as the two main issues. Officers go to the classroom for 17 consecutive weeks, and it is suggested that the program costs in the area of \$35.00/student.

The International D.A.R.E. program has recently undergone some changes after negative reviews and includes visits in primary through fourth grade classes speaking on child safety and prevention issues. Students are alerted to the potential dangers in the misuse of drugs, medicine, and other substances. Four D.A.R.E. sessions are held for grades primary through to grade two and five sessions are held in third and fourth grades.

A Junior high component was also added, providing information and skills which enable students to resist peer pressure and other influences in making personal choices. The lessons concentrate on helping students manage their feelings of anger and aggression. The program consists of a series of ten lessons on social skills and violence prevention strategies to be taught cooperatively by the officer and the classroom teacher.

It should be noted that HRP already speaks to these components through our Core programming.

If HRP adopts D.A.R.E., a move not supported by the Nova Scotia Addiction Services, it would struggle to meet the demand. We have more than 80 Grade Six classes and in order to reach all of them, it would take more than 1370 hours of classroom time.

Our present list of Core programs reach every student in our jurisdiction at least once per year throughout their school life, requiring 1368 classroom and human resource hours. This does not include time the officers spend on intervention and administrative issues with schools. We feel that this repeat interaction with our school population each year is necessary for any successful lifestyle program, including drugs.

If HRP adopt D.A.R.E., the present compliment of staff would be full-time D.A.R.E. in Grade Six only, and unable to do any other programs which we presently offer and are received positively in the schools.

In addition resources would be required, \$35.00 per student at 2000 students, to fund the D.A.R.E. Program.

In essence HRP currently offers the best of what D.A.R.E. has to offer, but in a manner that best suits the local needs of our community.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

If D.A.R.E. was adopted a licensing fee of \$35.00 per student would be remitted to D.A.R.E. International for use of the program.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative would be to abandoned our current programs, such as Bullying offered to all grade levels ,in favor of implementing D.A.R.E. to a limited number of students.

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.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Sergeant Robin McNeil, 490-5397.