

## Information Report to the Board from the Chief of Halifax Regional Police

Board of Police Commissioners' Meeting - March 19, 2018

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### Personnel

- There were four civilian employees who were hired: Traffic Support (term) and three Emergency Response Communicators.
- There was one civilian employee who resigned.

### Training

- Annual Block Training is continuing until May.
- The first draft of the cadet class curriculum and budget have been completed and submitted.
- The Training Section will be conducting the K-9 Pare test the week of March 18. Arrangements are being made to run the Emergency Response Team (ERT) testing in the future.

### Operations

- During the month of March, the Traffic Unit's enforcement and education theme is Occupant Restraints.

### Notable Investigations

- On February 23, police responded to Halifax West High School after receiving a call from an unknown person reporting that there would be a shooting at the school. Patrol members with the assistance of the K-9 Unit searched the school, however, no firearms were located. Members of the General Investigation Section are investigating.
- On February 21, police responded to a hold up alarm in the 400 block of Herring Cove Road. While responding to the alarm, it was learned that a robbery had taken place. A 29-year old man from Dartmouth was arrested, without incident.
- On February 21, 2016, police responded to a in Halifax in relation to a report of a 16-year-old girl in medical distress. The girl was pronounced deceased at the scene and investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death was conducted. Through the course of the investigation, investigators determined there was evidence to lay drug trafficking charges. On February 26, 2018 police arrested a 21-year-old man at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Dartmouth without incident.
- On March 4, 2018 police responded to a report of a stabbing in Halifax that resulted from an altercation between two men who are known to each other. Upon arrival, police disrupted the altercation and separated the two men. Officers discovered one of the men had sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Following the subsequent physical confrontation with police, officers took a 20-year-old suspect into custody.

- Investigators in the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division have charged a man in relation to the disappearance of Karen Lee MacKenzie. On March 3, police received a report that she had not been seen or heard from since February 25. Investigators treated her disappearance as suspicious. On March 14, police charged a 40-year-old-man with interfering with human remains, assault and two counts of breach of probation.

### Outreach Initiatives and Projects

- Two members of the HRP Executive Management Team – Insp. Andrew Matthews and Dr. Chris Giacomantonio – joined the national working group on the Collection of Provincial and Territorial Cannabis Crime Statistics. The working group assists the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in developing a statistical and data collection framework to capture information on new provincial offences that occur after cannabis legislation, in part to help measure the overall impact of legislation on police and justice resources.

### Communications

- PR Unit assisted with awareness and education initiatives such as HRP Bully Hotline, Fraud Prevention Month and Road Safety, which included a contributed article in *The Chronicle Herald*.
- Wanted Wednesday (#WantedWednesdayHfx) continues as a social media project between HRP's High-risk Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) Unit and PR Unit. The campaign features people with outstanding arrest warrants for violent offences or a number of arrest warrants whom police have not been able to find. The goal is to locate and arrest each person who is profiled. As of March 14, 2018, 20 of 36 people profiled have had their warrants addressed.
- To celebrate International Women's Day a social media campaign was created to highlight some of the phenomenal women who work at Halifax Regional Police.

### Buildings

- The business case has been completed, and a presentation to the Board of Police Commissions this month is currently under development.

### Policies

- A current state assessment of HRP Policy Manual was initiated.
- Policies in progress: Drugs, Report to Justice and Detention Orders, Sexual Assault Investigations (minor update) and Invisible and Private General Occurrence Reports (minor update).

### Police Diversity Working Group

- The committee is scheduled to meet again on April 18, 2018.



## Professional Standards

Further to BoPC Chair's notice of motion regarding improvements in professional standards reporting and communications, relevant personnel from HRP, Halifax District RCMP and Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner met to have a discussion and formulate an action plan. Below is a brief synopsis of the discussion.

- To ensure consistency between HRP and RCMP board reporting, which will reflect the integrated model, both services will:
  - look at each others' reported statistics to see if further alignment is possible;
  - perform an analysis on the types of complaints with a view toward identifying training needs;
  - include links for RCMP process on the HRP website on the "Complimenting or filing a complaint against a Halifax Regional Police Officer" section;
  - educate intake staff of both RCMP and HRP so that further ways to simplify the process can be identified.
- Bring forward a plan for enhanced communication of process by:
  - presenting to BoPC for awareness;
  - developing a brochure with the most salient content from the website;
  - curate a list of touch points for brochure dissemination (Councillors, MP and MLA offices, libraries, multicultural organizations, etc.);
  - create quarterly Facebook PSAs;
  - consult with the Police Diversity Working Group and collect feedback.
- Demonstrate accountability through improved data sharing and reflect how the complaints process flows.

