



**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
August 17, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Natalie Borden, Chair  
Commissioner Carole McDougall, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Tony Mancini  
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn  
Commissioner Lindell Smith  
Commissioner Anthony Thomas

**REGRETS:** Commissioner Carlos Beals

**STAFF:** Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chief Dan Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police  
Chief Superintendent Janis Gray, Halifax Detachment RCMP  
Martin Ward, Solicitor  
Katherine Salsman, Solicitor  
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant  
Robyn Dean, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. and convened In Camera (In Private) at 3:24 p.m. The Board reconvened in public session at 3:37 p.m. and adjourned at 3:38 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the ancestral unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

## **2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners noted a number of special community announcements.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 20, 2020**

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the minutes of July 20, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

MOVED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

### **5.1 HRM Wortley Report Recommendations – Extension for Data Access**

Commissioners discussed comfort with extending the deadline for accessing the street-check data and there was general support for extending the deadline. Commissioner Smith requested the Commissioners to consider extending the deadline while also delivering a communication strategy to enable community members to understand how to engage with street check data. Commissioner Smith proposed staff develop a communication plan and proposed to assist with this task as part of the Councillor's role on the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners Work Plan.

## **6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **8.1 Correspondence**

The Legislative Assistant noted that general correspondence was received. All correspondence was circulated to the Board.

### **8.2 Petitions – None**

### **8.3 Presentations**

#### **8.3.1 Martha Paynter – Women's Wellness Within Nova Scotia**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A presentation from Martha Paynter dated August 17, 2020

Martha Paynter, founder and coordinator of Women's Wellness Within Nova Scotia, gave a presentation to the Board of Police Commissioners regarding the application of a gender lens to the public arrest of several women and children earlier in the winter of 2020, and particularly to policies regarding arrests of breastfeeding persons.

## **9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **10.1 STAFF**

#### **10.1.1 HRM Wortley Report Recommendations – Update**

- **Community Engagement**
- **Data Collection**
- **Street Check Ban**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A spreadsheet dated August 17, 2020

Commissioners expressed support for the format of the Wortley Report Recommendations update document and several expressed support for the inclusion of the document for posting to supporting websites.

Janis Gray, Chief Superintendent of the Halifax Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provided an update on the Halifax District RCMP's progress with the HRM Wortley Report recommendations including information relating to the street check ban data, dates for data collection and management and the extension for data access.

Chief Kinsella provided an update on HRP's progress with the Wortley Report recommendations including data collection, meetings with stakeholders groups to accomplish recommendations, and the recruitment program outreach.

The Board discussed the update with Chief Kinsella and Chief Superintendent Janis Gray responding to questions.

In response to a question from Commissioners regarding challenges to freedom of information requests for police data, Chief Kinsella and Chief Superintendent Janis Gray provided insight regarding the process for collecting and vetting data. They noted that most data requests are simple and limited in scope, and thus quickly processed. Where police receive large scope data requests, police communicate with the requester to see if there are ways to reduce the scope while addressing the concerns identified.

### **10.2 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

#### **10.2.1 Defunding the Police – Further Discussion on the Approved Motion**

Martin Ward, Solicitor, updated members regarding process and the motion approved at the July 9, 2020 meeting of the Board. The motion was at that time approved on the understanding that the decision of whether to create a sub-committee was dependent on a future discussion of the Commission. The Commissioners engaged in a discussion of the merits of creating a subcommittee to develop a definition of defunding the police, and also discussed the process to form a subcommittee.

The motion now reads:

**THAT the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners appoint a Community Advisory Committee to assist in adopting a definition of defunding the police and that the Committee present this definition at a future meeting of the Board for further discussion and debate. Further, the definition of defunding the police should be based on the following:**

- **Police performing core policing functions;**
- **Allocating appropriate resources to perform non-police functions; and,**
- **Investing in resources that have been proven to support community risks and promote crime prevention.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **10.2.2 Commissioner Blackburn – Public Access to HRP Policies via Website**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A request for consideration form from Commissioner Blackburn

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners direct the Halifax Regional Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as part of the Board of Police Commissioners workplan covering policy review make available to the public, via the website, their policies including but not limited to: information on Conduct of Service Members, Conflict of Interest, Complaints and Use of Force policies.**

Commissioners expressed a desire to suspend the requirement that the motion return by way of a staff report.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

**THAT the motion be amended to add that “the Board of Police Commissioners suspend the requirement to return with a staff report”**

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair proposed two friendly amendments that the motion be amended to include the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to make policies available to the public and also that the list of policies be deleted from the motion, to which the Mover agreed.

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners:**

- 1. Direct the Halifax Regional Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as part of the Board of Police Commissioners workplan covering policy review make available to the public, via the website, their policies; and**
- 2. Suspend the requirement to return with a staff report**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

### **10.2.3 Commissioner McDougall – Complaints Policy**

The following was before the Board of Police Commissioners:

- A document entitled “Complaints Against HRP Chief of Police”

Commissioner McDougall outlined work performed to develop and review policy regarding how to address a complaint against the Chief of Police for the HRP.

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners accept the policy of receiving complaints against the Chief of Police for the Halifax Regional Police as submitted on August 17, 2020.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **10.3 COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

#### **10.3.1 Management Employee Relations Committee – Update**

There was no update as the meeting was cancelled at the request of the Halifax Regional Police Association.

#### **10.3.2 Canadian Association of Police Governance Board – Update**

Commissioner McDougall stated that the Canadian Association of Police Governance Board’s annual conference will be held virtually on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. There has been a call for nominations and re-nominations.

#### **10.3.3 Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Board – Update**

Janis Gray, Chief Superintendent of the Halifax Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provided an update noting several personnel changes to the governance board and noted that school resource officers are returning to their previous roles.

### **10.4 HRP/RCMP CHIEF UPDATES**

Chief Kinsella provided and Janis Gray, Chief Superintendent of the Halifax Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provided several updates to the Board.

### **11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

### **12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION – NONE**

### **13. IN CAMERA (In Private)**

#### **13.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – July 20, 2020**

This item was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner McDougall

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners approve the July 20, 2020 In Camera (In Private) minutes as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Commissioner McDougall, seconded by Commissioner Smith

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners convene In Camera (In Private) to discuss the personnel matters.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**13.2 Personnel Matter – *Private and Confidential Correspondence***

No further action was taken.

**13.3 Personnel Matter – *Private and Confidential Correspondence***

No further action was taken.

**13.4 Personnel Matter – *Private and Confidential Correspondence***

No further action was taken.

**14. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 21, 2020**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel  
Legislative Assistant