



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES **October 1, 2025**

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair
Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar
Commissioner Brian Carter

REGRETS: Commissioner Yemi Akindoju

STAFF: Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety
Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 3, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT the minutes of September 3, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 35 (1) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant requested that Item 10.4 Community Safety Update be considered prior to Item 10.2.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Carter

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – September 3, 2025

7.1 Governance Implication of Province of Nova Scotia Police Review

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated August 7, 2025, revised September 25, 2025
- Extract from the September 3, 2025 Board of Police Commissioners draft minutes

The following motion was on the floor from the September 3, 2025 meeting:

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Commissioner of Public Safety for the Halifax Regional Municipality actively engage with the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice to share feedback and advance concerns regarding the Nova Scotia Police Review and report back to the Board on progress within 3 months.

Commissioner Kent requested that the motion be amended to change the wording from “direct” to “request”. As provided for in section 50 (2) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality request the Commissioner of Public Safety for the Halifax Regional Municipality actively engage with the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice to share feedback and advance concerns regarding the Nova Scotia Police Review and report back to the Board on progress within 3 months.

Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety, Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist and Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, RCMP HRD agreed to return to the Board with further information pertaining to the RCMP's contributions to developing a definition of service standards.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence – None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

9.1 Commissioner Mancini – Violence Occurring on Halifax Transit Buses and Terminals

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated August 11, 2025
- Staff presentation dated October 1, 2025

Lawrence MacDonald, Senior Analyst, Transit Operations, Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment and Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Philip Herritt, Director of Transit Operations, Robin Gerus, Executive Director of Halifax Transit and Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

9.2 Commissioner Mancini – Interim update on HRP use of the RCMP H Division Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee (SAIRC) process

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated August 11, 2025
- Staff presentation dated October 1, 2025

Superintendent Dave Boon, Criminal Investigation Division, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

9.3 Commissioner Hinch – HRM Police Use of Emergency Alerts

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated August 11, 2025
- Staff presentation dated October 1, 2025

Inspector Jeff Mitchell, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment and Superintendent Greg Robertson, Support Division, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE/ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT CHIEF UPDATES

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) spoke to recent major incidents, charges and ongoing investigations. MacLean spoke to recent HRP efforts to ensure public safety during the Davis Cup and university homecoming celebrations. MacLean spoke to recent and ongoing HRP policy review, domestic violence reporting, road traffic control and traffic-related summary offense enforcement. MacLean also spoke to upcoming events including the 43rd annual Nova Scotian Fallen Peace Officers Memorial on October 19, 2025. MacLean responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment spoke to recent community engagements, past and upcoming events. Duff spoke to current and ongoing vehicle safety initiatives, recent major incidents and ongoing investigations. Duff spoke to the equipment modernization initiative and timelines respecting the adoption of new uniforms. Duff responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 Supplemental Administrative Policies of the Board

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated September 15, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the Supplemental Administrative Policies of the Board for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated September 15, 2025; and**
- 2. Amend Administrative Policy One, The Procedures of the Board Of Police Commissioners Administrative Policy by including provisions on the election of the Chair and Vice Chair and Board member attendance, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated September 15, 2025.**

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist and Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel spoke to the topic. Bates, Ward and Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

10.3.1 Commissioner Kent - Endorsement of CAPG Board Representative

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner Kent

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality request the Chair to send a letter to the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) endorsing the election of Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar as a Nova Scotia representative on the CAPG board.

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Commissioner Kent requested that the motion be amended to distinguish two parts to the motion, first endorsing the appointment and requesting the Chair to send a letter to the Executive Director of the CAPG. As provided for in section 50 (2) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Endorse the election of Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar as a Nova Scotia representative on the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) board.**
- 2. Request the Chair to send a letter to the Executive Director of the CAPG endorsing the election of Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar as a Nova Scotia representative on the CAPG board.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Rachel Boehm, Executive Director of Community Safety spoke to homelessness and housing strategy, outreach workers' recent work, and the recent de-designation and closure of the Cogswell Park encampment. Boehm also spoke to non-violent crisis intervention training, mobile crisis unit efforts and youth service strategies. Boehm responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 6, 2025

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant