



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES **October 6, 2025**

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Brian Carter
Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar
Commissioner Yemi Akindoju

REGRETS: Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair

STAFF: Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety
Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Dorothy Maponga, 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 4:03 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 – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Akindoju, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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 – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence – None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1.1 Community Safety Programs

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated October 6, 2025

Rachel Boehm, Executive Director of Community Safety gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.1.2 Board of Police Commissioners Update on Report Recommendations

The following was before the Board:

- Presentation dated October 6, 2025

Commissioner O'Malley, Chair gave a presentation.

10.1.3 Halifax Regional Police 2026/2027 Proposed Operating Budget and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment 2026/2027 Resource Request

- **Public Consultation**

Paxton Romana, District 8 spoke in opposition to the increase of the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment (RCMP HRD) budget. Paxton highlighted hiring practices, continuous use of police force on vulnerable persons, the impacts of inflation and the price of ammunition and the excessive increase in police wages. Paxton suggested the Board consider redirecting funds to community led organizations that contributed to thriving communities.

Lou Campbell, District 8 spoke on defunding the police and opposed the increase to the HRP and RCMP HRD budget. Campbell highlighted areas within the budget that required further oversight from the Board including the personal clothing budget, cleaning allowance and over policing at protests. Campbell questioned the use of taxpayers' money by the police.

Libby Douglas, Chair of Alderney Landing Safety Committee spoke in support of the increase in police resources and added that community led safety committees identified the need for police presence at Alderney Landing.

Bea MacGregor, Chief Executive Officer, Alderney Landing spoke in favour of the increase in the police budget and noted that due to several incidents, police presence was required at Alderney Landing. MacGregor highlighted that the increase in the police budget contributed to a proactive approach to incidents and resulted in fewer incidents at Alderney Landing.

Christina Tellez, North End Halifax spoke in opposition to the approval of the police budget. Tellez spoke to the use of police as a global tool of colonial violence, the history of policing, polices that protected colonial structures as well as the militarization and the criminalization of African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq communities. Tellez emphasized that the approval of the proposed budget increase would not support the well being of community and advised that the Board ensure that HRP met the defunding goals.

Nicole Corrado, Montreal spoke in support of the non-policing options for people in mental health crisis through reduction of the police budget to further reallocate funds to alternative civilian led services. Corrado added that defunding the police would lower HRM's expenses and provide funds to invest in wildlife conversation and search and rescue.

Abi Hodson, District 8 spoke against the increase to the police budget and noted that the community safety care teams should contribute to the decrease of the police budget. Hodson highlighted the violent extremism of police and the need for demilitarization of police by diverting funds from the police budget. Hodson questioned the transparency of the democratic process due to continuous budget increases over the years.

Carmel Farahbakhsh, District 7 spoke on the over criminalization of marginalized youth and impoverished people, the importance of the involvement of the youth voice and the increase needed to fund various social services. Farahbakhsh noted the impact of community led programs, the pillars of the defunding reports and over policing of African Nova Scotian communities. Farahbakhsh highlighted the need to re-task coverage of non-violent incidents to community services to ensure police accountability and that vulnerable communities were represented in the delivery of social services.

Ziggy Kirch, President of the Students Union of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design spoke against the increase of the police budget, the history of policing in Canada and intimate partner violence. Kirch advocated for reallocation of resources to services that reduce crime and incarceration in communities such as housing, education, addiction and mental health responses. Kirch highlighted that students' lack of affordable housing and high tuition prices often led to unsafe, vulnerable living situations that could be escalated due to police presence.

Kay Macdonald, Kijpuktuk spoke against the police budget increase, the inefficiency of police in crime prevention, increase of houselessness in HRM and the lack of systemic structures to support mental

health and addition crises. MacDonald encouraged the reallocation of municipal funds to long term housing, early childhood education, senior and elderly supports and adequate medical services. MacDonald further spoke on the historical impacts of policing and questioned the return of investment on policing, militarization of police in African Nova Scotian Communities, the response to the banned street checks and interruption of Indigenous land defenders.

Nancy Hunter, District 11 spoke against the increase of police funding and noted the need for community evaluation to ensure the enactment of meaningful policing policies. Hunter further spoke on the militarization of police, the effects of the funding increase on social services such as fire services and wildfire training and the housing affordability crisis. Hunter advised the Board to further analyze police spending, wages and overtime prior to the approval of the budget increase and questioned the increased police presence in HRM.

Frank Heimpel, District 8 spoke in opposition to the increase of the police budget, the need for community consultation during the budget process, HRM's inability to meet the needs of other services such as fire and water and the re-tasking police work to health care, social programs and community groups. Heimpel suggested the Board freeze police funding to investigate fiscally responsible ways to serve the community.

Willa Oaks, District 8 spoke against the increase of the police budget and highlighted how a non-increase would allow HRM to further redirect funds needed to social services. Oaks encouraged the Board to use non HRP and RCMP statistics for evidence-based decision making to address intimate partner violence, food insecurity and the housing crisis. Oaks advocated for a pay-cut for high earning police officers, defunding police and the redirection of funds to community safety and non-police response to crisis.

Su Gurler, District 5 spoke on the lack of consideration given to public consultation, measures recommended to defund and detask the police, lack of meaningful Board oversight on the police budget increase, and increased police presence in HRM. Gurler also spoke against the budget increase and the importance of funding non-police resources that responded to crisis in HRM.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 29, 2025

Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant