BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES
July 15, 2026

PRESENT:	Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair Commissioner Tony Mancini Commissioner Virginia Hinch Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar
REGRETS:	Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair Commissioner Yemi Akindoju Commissioner Brian Carter
STAFF:	Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety Chris Giddens, Solicitor Andrea Lovasi-Wood, 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 1:05 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.

1.1 African Nova Scotian Affirmation

The Chair led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 3, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the minutes of June 3, 2026 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

Deferred to a future meeting of the Board:

- Item 8.3.1 – Violence Against Women Advocacy-Case Review Model – Sunny Marriner

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

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 – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence – None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Violence Against Women Advocacy-Case Review Model – Sunny Marriner

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment provided recent statistics relating to calls for service, proactive calls for service, intimate partner violence, and traffic and road safety enforcement. Duff spoke to key operational updates pertaining to recent investigations including seizures.

The Board of Police Commissioners acknowledged Chief Superintendent John Duff's upcoming retirement and Duff's contributions to the Board and community.

Deputy Chief Dean Simmonds, Halifax Regional Police spoke to recent funerals of fallen officers across Canada. Simmonds noted the upcoming police science program graduation and ongoing recruitment efforts. Simmonds spoke to past and upcoming community awareness events and key operational updates pertaining to recent investigations and traffic and road safety enforcement. Simmonds noted firearm statistics and acknowledged errors in past reporting of domestic violence statistics which would be updated at a future Board meeting.

Simmonds, Duff and Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.2 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Rachel Boehm, Executive Director of Community Safety spoke to recent homelessness statistics including designated encampments and undesignated sites. Boehm noted results from a recent lived experience survey regarding ongoing homelessness which would inform Community Safety's ongoing work. Boehm detailed ongoing engagement with the North End Halifax community to address safety concerns including barriers to the safe access of public spaces that would inform a more structured approach to provide solutions which could be used in other neighbourhoods. Boehm spoke to efforts to provide criminal justice system information to the newcomer community. Boehm responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.3 STAFF
10.3.1 Verbal Update on NS Minister of Justice Directive to All Municipal Police Agencies and RCMP – Operational Communications

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Halifax Regional Detachment and Deputy Chief Dean Simmonds, Halifax Regional Police provided a verbal update on a recent Nova Scotia Minister of Justice Directive to all municipal police agencies and RCMP regarding operational communications.

10.3.2 BoPC Policy on Body Worn Cameras

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated June 15, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Body Worn Cameras for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated June 15, 2026.

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

Aimee Thomey, Director & Deputy Clerk of Access, Privacy & Corporate Information Management/Chief Privacy Officer responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3.3 BoPC Policy on Community Engagement and Outreach

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated June 10, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Community Engagement and Outreach for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated June 10, 2026.

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3.4 Integrated Criminal Investigation Division Managerial Review Report

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated June 18, 2026
- Staff presentation dated July 15, 2026

Cathy Collett, Senior Policy Advisor, GREA and Kara Evans, Coordinator to Commissioner of Public Safety gave a presentation.

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

1. **Endorse the nine recommendations regarding the review of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division, as set forth in the Managerial Review documentation that is Attachment 1 of the staff report dated June 18, 2026;**

2. **Direct the Chief of Halifax Regional Police (HRP), and advise the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP Halifax Regional District (HRD), as part of their regular reports to the Board, to provide a joint overview of the actions taken to address the implementation of the nine recommendations which are the subject of Recommendation 1.**

Collett, Sergeant Matt Conn, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safet responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.4 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
10.4.1 Commissioner Mancini - Sexual Violations Case Review Working Group

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner Mancini

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality:

1. **Nominate up to three members to a Sexual Violations Case Review Working Group to inform the overall scope and objectives of a Board policy on a Sexual Violations Case Review process; and**

2. **Request the support of HRM Legal Services to provide the Sexual Violations Working Group a legal analysis of options that may enable the sharing of case file information to achieve the Working Group's objectives of a case review process.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS – NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

13. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality convene to In Camera (In Private) to discuss Item 13.2 PERSONNEL MATTER and Item 13.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – June 3, 2026

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of June 3, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential - Information Item Brought Forward from May 6, 2026 - Deferred from June 3, 2026

The following was before the Board:

- Private and confidential staff report dated April 9, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private).

13.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - Private and Confidential - Deferred from June 3, 2026

This matter was dealt with In Camera (In Private) and ratified in public as follows:

The following was before the Board:

- Private and confidential staff report dated May 26, 2026
- Extract from the June 3, 2026 Board of Police Commissioners draft minutes

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

1. **Adopt the direction provided In Camera (In Private); and**

2. **Direct that the private and confidential report dated May 26, 2026 be maintained private and confidential.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 2, 2026

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood
Legislative Assistant