

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

### Board of Police Commissioners' meeting of August 21, 2017

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#### Personnel:

- Human Resources (HR) completed competitions for the rank of Staff Sergeant and is currently processing candidates for a promotional routine for the rank of Sergeant.

#### **New Hires**

- Fourteen (14) civilian employees were hired: 6 Emergency Response Communicators; 1 Accounting Clerk; 1 Functional Analyst; 1 Disability Case Management Coordinator; 2 Traffic Support; 1 Crime Analyst; 1 Public Relations and Communications Manager and 1 Victim Services Coordinator.

#### **Retirements**

- One (1) Sergeant retired.

#### Operations:

##### **Traffic Unit**

- Throughout July and August, the Traffic Unit has been involved in most special events in the municipality, providing traffic control and police escorts.
- Impaired Driving is the August road safety theme as per the province's road safety calendar. To raise awareness of our enforcement efforts, and in an effort to deter and prevent incidents, we promote each monthly theme via social media.
- In July, the Traffic Unit solicited public input on our enforcement efforts, asking Facebook users where they felt more enforcement, particularly of exceeding the speed limit, is required. The responses were compiled into 50 locations within HRP jurisdiction that we will monitor more closely.

##### **Notable Investigations**

- **Robbery**

Investigators with the General Investigation Section of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division have charged a man in relation to an armed robbery that occurred on August 8 in the 400 block of Herring Cove Road. A man entered a store, pointed a handgun and demanded money. The suspect left on foot.

- **Robbery/Stabbing**

On August 2, patrol officers arrested a 16-year-old Halifax youth in relation to the assault of a taxi driver. The youth is charged with robbery, assault with a weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon.

- **Sexual Assault**

Following an investigation by the Sexual Assault Investigative Team in the Integrated Criminal Investigative Division, a 26-year-old man from Manchester, England was charged with one count of sexual assault in relation to an incident that occurred in July at a downtown hotel.

- **Fraud**

Investigators with the General Investigation Section of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division have charged a women and man in connection with theft and fraud related offences. On March 15, HRP received a report regarding an employee who was misappropriating funds from the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia, a non-profit organization. Investigators determined that the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia was defrauded of almost \$13,000.

**Outreach Initiatives/Projects:**

- HRP members participated in various community initiatives including the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Halifax Pride Festival, Canada Day parade and Nata Day parade.
- Recruitment efforts for the HRP Youth Program on both social media and traditional media are underway.
- HRP attended the 2017 CACP Annual Conference in Montreal and promoted the 2018 CACP Conference, which will be held in Halifax in August and jointly hosted by HRP, Halifax District RCMP and Military Police.
- HRP officers provided mentorship to youth through three summer camps in July and August: HRP Sports Pals, Camp Courage and HRP Kids and Cops Summer Camp. **HRP Sports Pals** is a one-day camp that welcomed 40 youth to enjoy a day filled with soccer and swimming. **Camp Courage** introduced 24 females, between the ages of 15 and 19, from across the province to the emergency services, while developing their confidence, leadership skills and problem solving abilities. The inaugural **HRP Kids and Cops Summer Camp** saw 30 campers, ages nine to 13, participate. Participants were chosen by school resource officers. The camp helps foster positive relationships between officers and students in a fun, interactive and educational setting.

**Public Relations and Communications:**

- Ms. Neera Ritcey was announced as the new Public Relations and Communications Manager. She will begin her role on August 21.

**Buildings:**

**Facility Review Project:**

- Inspector Don Moser assumed responsibility for managing the new facilities business case in July, and he met with Greg MacKay, HRM Project Manager, at the end of last month. Final

edits, comments and suggestions are being added to the draft business case this month by project team members with a goal to present the final draft version to the HRP Executive Management Team in September for their final review.

#### **Policies:**

- The following policies are in their final stages: Drugs and Report to Justice and Detention Orders.
- The following are upcoming policies: Sexual Assault Investigations, SBOR (Subject Behaviour Officer Response Report - use of force report), Strip Search, Use of Force, Spit Hood, Use of the Safety Smock, High Risk Prisoners and Major Crime/Cold Case/Homicide.
- See the attached update for the Drug Exhibit Audit. The Reconciliation Team still expects to complete the work by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Street Checks:**

- Dr. Chris Giacomantonio, HRP Research Coordinator, advised that the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission has determined who will be working with him on the analysis, however, no terms of reference or scope have yet been defined. Dr. Giacomantonio is satisfied with the Commission's choice of expert. They will work on an HRM-wide analysis, recognising that the data sets from each service (HRP and Halifax District RCMP) may show different patterns due to how they are reported. It is expected that the NSHRC will be making the announcement soon regarding the identity of the expert.

#### **Police Diversity Advisory Committee:**

- The inaugural meeting will occur on September 21, 2017. Constable Amit Parasram is coordinating the meeting.

#### **Other:**

- At the Montréal CACP Conference in July, Chief Dwight Hennigar of Vale, Colorado, addressed the CACP International Policing Committee meeting, co-chaired by Chief Blais. Chief Hennigar detailed his state's experience since cannabis was legalised. He stated the following:
  - In Denver, there are more cannabis stores than McDonald's and Starbucks combined;
  - There has been a substantial number of these stores that have been broken into, and in some cases, repeatedly;
  - Cannabis-containing edibles are more popular than smokeable marijuana, partly because of the higher percentages of THC in the baked goods;
  - The majority perception amongst Colorado youth is that alcohol is worse than cannabis;

- 60% of all fatalities on Colorado roads (vehicle drivers and passengers) have some level of THC in their system.