

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

Board of Police Commissioners' Meeting – October 16, 2017

Personnel

- There was one new hire of a civilian employee and 14 new Crossing Guards.
- There was one resignation of a civilian employee.
- There were two retirements: one Inspector and one Constable.
- Human Resources is currently conducting a recruitment process to hire 15 experienced police officers to fill future anticipated vacancies.

Training

- During the week of October 2, HRP held two training sessions in 'Fair and Impartial Policing': one for managers and another to train the trainers. The Fair & Impartial Policing curricula is based on the science of cognitive and implicit biases which impact what people perceive and do, even in people who consciously hold non-prejudiced attitudes. The training offers tools to help identify biases and take steps to address them. The training will be delivered in early 2018 as part of our Block Training to our constables, special constables and civilians with the goal of introducing attendees to the elements of a comprehensive agency program to produce Fair & Impartial Policing and Procedural Fairness.
- Firearms recertification training, September 6 to October 27, is almost complete. This year's theme is "Cars and Cover."

Operations

- A Traffic Unit Sergeant, along with HRM legal services, presented and discussed "loud exhaust" at the HRM Transportation Standing Committee on Sept 28. The committee recommended the discussion be brought to HRM Council to forward to the province's Transportation Minister. The Traffic Unit Sergeant also attended a meeting of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, Justice and other partners on the same topic and how loud exhaust is treated in the *Motor Vehicle Act*.
- Operation Impact took place over the Thanksgiving weekend, during which greater focus was placed on road safety, particularly the issues of impaired driving, use of hand-held devices, and distracted driving. Police services from across Canada participated in this national initiative championed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Notable Investigations

- **Homicide**

The suspicious death of a 20-year-old man in Clayton Park on September 17 was later ruled a homicide by the Medical Examiner. The investigation is being led by the Homicide Unit of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division.



- **Attempted murder**

Officers in the General Investigation Section of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division have charged an individual with attempted murder and robbery in relation to an assault that occurred on Gaston Road on October 2. The 59-year-old victim was found with life-threatening injuries and it was later determined that a sum of money was stolen from the victim following the assault.

- **Drug seizure and arrests**

On September 20, members of the Special Enforcement Section of the Integrated Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance of West Quick Response Unit, executed a search warrant at an apartment on Lynnett Road. A quantity of crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and a handgun were seized. Officers arrested three men during the search without incident.

- **Robbery**

Officers charged an individual following a robbery at Robie Street gasbar on September 29. A man entered the business and asked for cigarettes, which he was given by the employee. When the employee asked for payment, the man produced a knife and fled on foot. On their way to the robbery call, patrol members observed a man matching the suspect description who was carrying a knife. The man was arrested and taken into custody.

- **Stunting**

On October 4, a member of the Halifax Regional Police Traffic Unit observed a speeding car travelling eastbound on Highway 107. The 18-year-old driver was travelling 171 km/h in a 100km/h zone. He was ticketed for stunting under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, a charge that is automatically laid when a vehicle is travelling at more than 50km/h over the posted speed limit.

Crime Trends:

- **Tire thefts:** Four incidents of tire theft have been noted within the last month. Based on similar activity in the fall of previous years, there is a list of possible persons of interest.
- **Thefts from businesses:** In both Central and East divisions, there is a noted trend of holes being cut through exterior walls of businesses to gain access in order to steal items.

Outreach Initiatives and Projects

- The Special Olympics LETR Truck Convoy event took place in September. HRP provided traffic control and vehicle escorts.
- A short video to share tips on safely navigating intersections was posted to HRP's social media accounts on October 10 in recognition of the provincial road safety theme, Intersection Safety. The video has so far been viewed more than 3,500 times.

Public Relations and Communications

- The PR Unit developed and delivered a Twitter workshop to the Community Relations and Crime Prevention Unit and scheduled media relations training for its Watch Commanders in November.



- Unit members coordinated advance and on-site media and social media for the Fallen Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

Wellness

- We were very pleased to welcome our new Wellness Program Specialist, Melanie Bower, to HRP in late September. Melanie will be instrumental in establishing and leading initiatives to support HRP employee wellness. The focus will be on designing and implementing an evidence-based comprehensive health and wellness program to support physical, emotional and mental health needs. Melanie's background includes a BSc in Health Education and a Master of Education in Health Psychology. She has worked for over twenty years in various health and wellness roles with many great organizations and has spent the last 15 years as a Health Promotion Specialist with the Canadian Armed Forces. Melanie's specialties include mental fitness, suicide awareness and prevention, anger management, goal setting and motivation as well as stress management.
- In December, Melanie will be presenting to the Board on her plans for this position.

Audits

- See attached Drug Exhibit Audit update.

Buildings

- The business case draft is in the final stages. We expect final review and comments to occur by early 2018.

Policies

- A Sexual Assault Investigations policy, including Sexual Assault Investigations, Investigations of Sexual Assault Resulting in Physical Injury and Trauma-Informed Response to Sexualized Violence was issued on September 27.

Police Diversity Working Group

- Inaugural meeting held September 21.
- Ms. Debbie Eisan and Mr. Brad Rowe were elected to be the inaugural chair and vice-chair of the Working Group.
- The Group continues to recruit a youth member and a member of the Lebanese community.
- Next meeting will be held November 1.

Halifax Regional Police Foundation

- The Halifax Regional Police Foundation was formally established to help support important community based initiatives. Many police services across Canada have similar foundations; the most notable being the Calgary Police Foundation, the RCMP Foundation and the Vancouver Police Foundation. Just like these initiatives, HRP's Foundation will be used to fund ancillary community-based programs and projects not normally financed through HRM (through individual business unit initiatives and/or coordinated through the Public Safety Advisor) and HRP. One of the specific conditions



of the Foundation is that support through donations would not be provided for sponsorships of community groups and entities, but for specific initiatives and purchases for programs that already fall under existing registered charities.

- The HRP Foundation web link, which is housed on the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia website, is now live: http://ns.cfns-fcne.ca/?page_id=1200 We expect to take additional steps in the future to promote the fund in a targeted way, possibly through a news release, and help create further awareness for the Foundation.

