

**Board of Police Commissioners
February 27, 2017**

TO: Chair and Members of the HRM Board of Police Commissioners

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Chief Jean-Michel Blais, Halifax Regional Police

DATE: January 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Next Steps for HRP's Analysis of Street Check Data

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the January 9, 2017 meeting of the HRM Board of Police Commissioners, the Chair of the Board asked Halifax Regional Police to provide the next steps in the analysis of street check data.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

-HRM Charter, Section 21 respecting the procedures of Advisory Committees.

-HRM By-Law P-100 Respecting the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality in particular section 8(2)(c): "The Board in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Police Act* and HRM Bylaws may in consultation with the Chief of Police, review priorities, goals, and objectives of the municipal police service."

BACKGROUND

At the January 9th, 2017 meeting, an initial analysis of street check data was submitted to the Board by Dr. Chris Giacomantonio, HRP's Research Coordinator. Following the report, the Board Chair asked what further steps were to be undertaken by HRP regarding the analysis.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Giacomantonio advises that there are at least four areas that he would like to pursue his research:

1. Look at socioeconomic and demographic data relating to neighbourhoods in which street checks are conducted, to better understand the impacts of these factors on ethnic disproportionality in the street check data;
2. Look at the effectiveness of street checks quantitatively, in terms of any measurable impact of street checking levels on crime levels in an area or in general;

3. Look at the effectiveness of the practice qualitatively, in terms of situations in which street checks may have been used to support other operations (investigations, charges, warrants, etc.). On this point HRP does not have adequate records to do a quantitative analysis, but will speak to people in appropriate positions to determine whether and how they use street check records for intelligence-led work;
4. Consult with other stakeholders (community organizations, the Board, etc.) to determine which additional questions they may be interested in, which we can then examine through the data.

As Dr. Giacomantonio indicated at the January 9th meeting, this kind of data rarely provides conclusive answers, but should provide HRP with a better understanding of the issues involved at the end of the process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Considering the concern manifested in certain quarters as well as the need for a clearer view of what the data represents, not continuing the analysis would be detrimental to the community discussion.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As indicated in the discussion section of this report, HRP intends to consult with other stakeholders (community organizations, the Board, etc.) to determine which additional questions they may be interested in, which can then be examined through the data.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Chief Jean-Michel Blais, 902-490-6500
