



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 14.6.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 16, 2018**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council  
Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Steve Craig, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

**DATE:** December 18, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **CeaseFire Halifax Funding Proposal**

---

**ORIGIN**

Motion from the December 18, 2017 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM By-law No. P-100 Respecting the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- S. 8 (2)** The Board in accordance with the *Police Act* and HRM Bylaws may carry out any of the following roles and responsibilities:
- (b) provide civilian governance on behalf of the Council in relation to enforcement of the law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime within the municipality;
  - (c) In consultation with the Chief of Police, review priorities, goals and objectives of the municipal police service;
  - (e) prepare and submit in consultation with the Chief of Police and the Chief Administrative Officer or delegate, to Council an annual budget for the municipal police service. The municipal council shall only exercise global budget approval and shall only accept the police service budget submitted to it by the board or refer back to the board with instructions that it be altered upward or downward by a specific dollar amount or percentage;

**Recommendation on next page**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Board of Police Commissioners recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Request a staff report to examine the potential for continued funding for the CeaseFire Halifax program, the assessment of which should be in keeping with the principles outlined in the Public Safety Strategy.
2. Direct, with the agreement of the CAO, that the staff report be prepared by the Municipality's Public Safety Advisor.
3. Require that the staff report come back to Halifax Regional Council for consideration prior to the final HRM budget for 2018/2019.

## **BACKGROUND**

During the December 18, 2017 meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, the Board heard a presentation from Mel Lucas, Program Manager for CeaseFire Halifax, and Marcel Tellier of the Community Justice Society, in which the presenters requested that the Municipality consider co-funding the continuation of the CeaseFire Halifax program starting in 2018.

For further background information on this matter, please refer to the "Extract from the Draft Minutes of the December 18, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners" (**Attachment 1**), as well as the CeaseFire presentation titled "Sustainability Plan to Reduce Violence in Halifax" (**Attachment 2**).

## **DISCUSSION**

Immediately following the CeaseFire presentation, the Board of Police Commissioners asked further questions and discussed the funding request. This discussion resulted in a motion to forward the recommendation contained herein to Halifax Regional Council.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report. The risks considered rate Low.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. The requested staff report, if approved by Council, will outline financial implications.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

All meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners are open to the public. The agenda and reports are posted to Halifax.ca in advance of the meeting and minutes are available on the web once approved.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None identified by the Board of Police Commissioners.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Extract from the Draft Minutes of the December 18, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners.

**Attachment 2:** CeaseFire presentation titled "Sustainability Plan to Reduce Violence in Halifax," dated December 18, 2017.

---

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:       David Perusse, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk, 902.490.6517

---

## Extract from Draft Minutes of the December 18, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners

### 4. **PRESENTATION – CeaseFire Halifax Funding Proposal – Mel Lucas, Program Manager, CeaseFire Halifax, and Marcel Tellier, Executive, Board of Directors, Community Justice Society.**

The following was before the Board:

- Presentation titled: “Sustainability Plan to Reduce Violence in Halifax,” dated December 18, 2017.

Mel Lucas, Program Manager for CeaseFire Halifax, as well as Marcel Tellier of the Community Justice Society, presented an overview to the Board on the CeaseFire Halifax program; including its mandate, the history of the program and the organization, as well as the highlights of its work to date. Mel Lucas explained that the mandate of the pilot program has been to reduce gun violence within the community by taking an Afrocentric focus with their target demographic being African Nova Scotian males between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age.

Mel Lucas proceeded to outline the current funding dilemma being faced by CeaseFire Halifax, as well as the Community Justice Society who administers the program. As he explained, the CeaseFire pilot was launched in 2014 using Federal funding. However, this funding is set to expire at the conclusion of 2017. The CeaseFire program has been able to secure transitional support from the Nova Scotia Department of Justice in the form of bridge funding for the program until March 31, 2018. In order to ensure the continuation of the program past this deadline, representatives from CeaseFire and the Community Justice Society have been developing a long-term funding strategy, as well as seeking a consortium of partners to secure funding for the program for the next three years.

Mel Lucas concluded the presentation by providing an overview of a proposed sustainability solution, outlining the core objectives and deliverables of the CeaseFire Halifax program should it be able to secure funding for three years of continued operation.

Responding to questions from the Board, Mel Lucas further explained that the initial budget for the five-year pilot program was approximately 2.7 million dollars, which was provided by a grant from the Federal Government.

In terms of a proposal for funding moving forward, Marcel Tellier indicated that in the proposal submitted to the Province, they outlined three separate three-year funding scenarios for CeaseFire. The first scenario being a continuation of the status quo with a three-year ask of just over 2.2 million in funding. The second option proposes to expand the mandate of the program by expanding the target demographics beyond only African Nova Scotian males between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age, with a three-year ask of approximately 2.6 million. Lastly, the third option proposes three-year funding of 3.4 million, which would include enhanced rehabilitation services for individuals who are identified as being high-risk.

Responding to further questions from members of the Board regarding what the Province has agreed to fund, as well as funding expectations for the HRM should any co-funding plan move forward, Marcel Tellier indicated that the Province has not yet provided a specific figure. He continued that CeaseFire would be asking the Municipality to make a contribution in the approximate amount of 25% to 50% of the three-year cost of the program, based on what the Province agrees to cover.

When asked by members of the Board whether CeaseFire or the Community Justice Society have been able to identify other possible partners outside of the Province and the Municipality, Marcel Tellier indicated that they have not.

MOVED by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

**THAT the Board of Police Commissioners recommends that Halifax Regional Council**

- a. request a staff report to examine the potential for continued funding for the CeaseFire Halifax program, the assessment of which should be in keeping with the principles outlined in the Public Safety Strategy.**
- b. Direct that the staff report be prepared by the Municipality’s Public Safety Advisor.**

**Extract from Draft Minutes of the December 18, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners**

- c. Require that the staff report comes back to Halifax Regional Council for consideration prior to the final HRM budget for 2018/2019.**

**MOTION PUT AND PAST.**

The Chair thanked Mel Lucas and Marcel Tellier for their presentation.



# Sustainability Plan to Reduce Violence in Halifax

Presentation by

[Mel Lucas](#), Project Manager and

[Marcel Tellier](#) Executive, Board of Director, Community Justice Society

to the Police Commission December 18, 2017

# Our Story

Ceasefire Halifax four high risk areas we service from 2014 to 2017 are:

- The Prestons
- Dartmouth North
- Mulgrave Park
- Uniacke Square
- The Ceasefire pilot maintained an Afrocentric focus with our target group being African Nova Scotian males between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age

\*Spike in 2016 shootings occurred outside the four risk areas Ceasefire services

\*\*Prorated for 2017. All impacts are compared to the base year of 2012

Year	Shootings in HRM*	Shootings in CeaseFire Target Areas	Impact against base year 2012
2012	41	15	----
2013	36	11	----
2014	34	9	-17%
2015	18	4	-59%
2016	29	13	-29%
2017 (to 27 Oct 2017)	15	10	-56%**
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>62</b>	

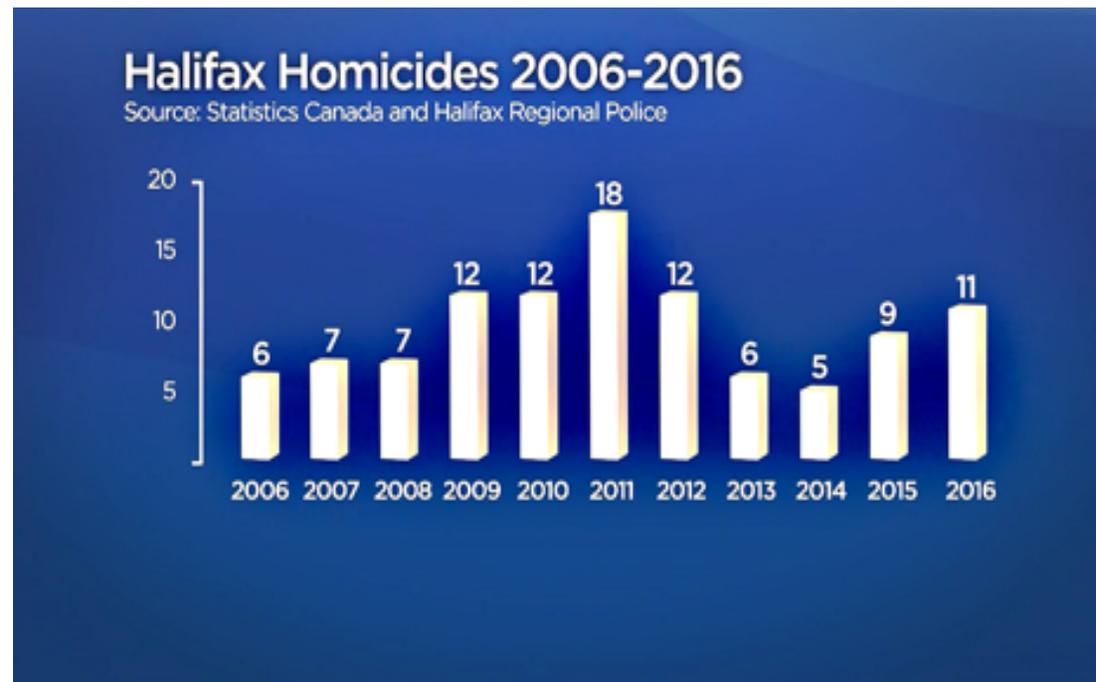


# Our Goals

- The Ceasefire model was developed at the University of Chicago by Dr. Gary Slutkin in year 2000. Now called Cure Violence.
- As a public health, anti-violence program, it has four goals:
  1. Stop the spread of violence in communities
  2. Use methods and strategies associated with disease control including detecting and interrupting conflicts
  3. Identify and Treat the highest risk individuals
  4. Changing social norms

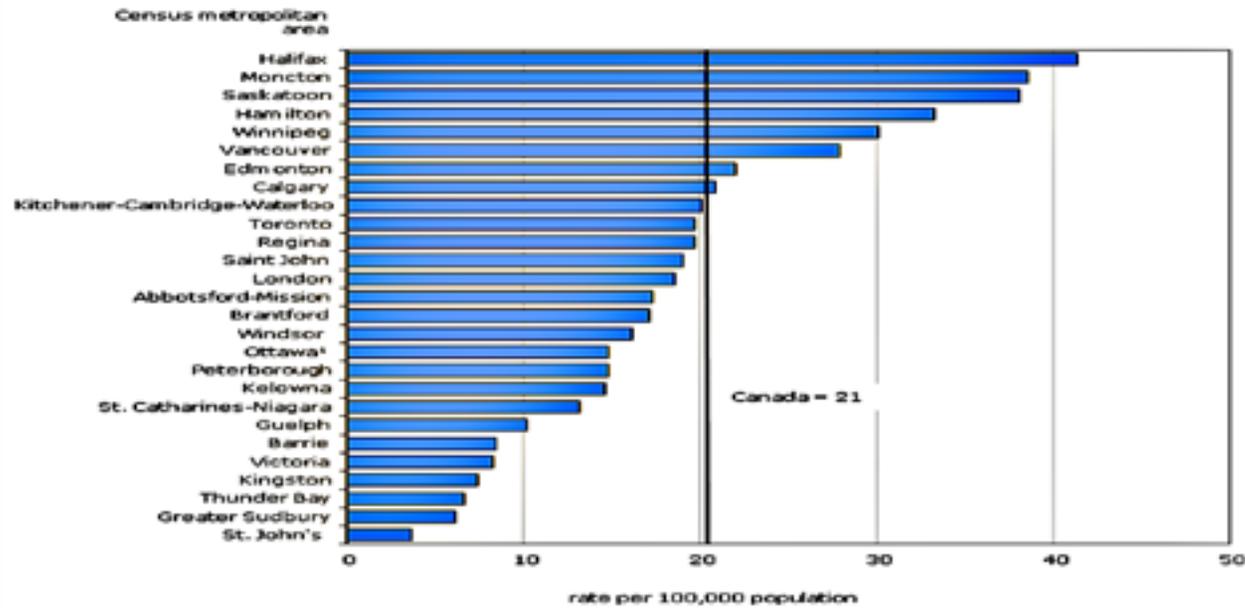


# Our History



# Our History

Victims of police-reported violent crime with a firearm present, by census metropolitan area, Canada, 2012



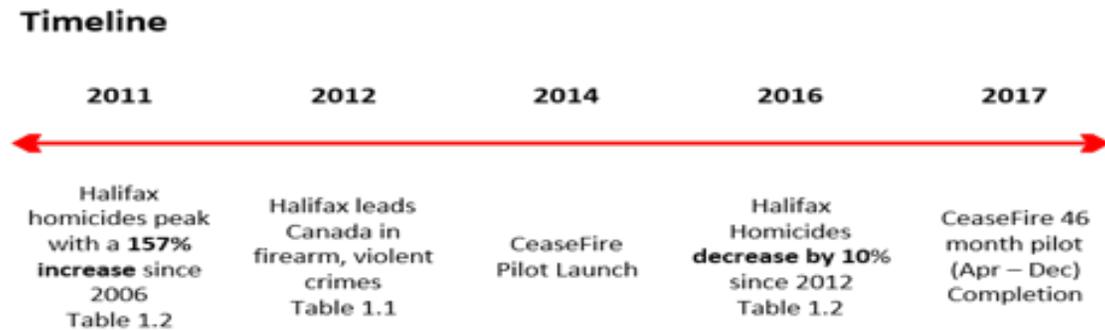
1. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.



# Our History

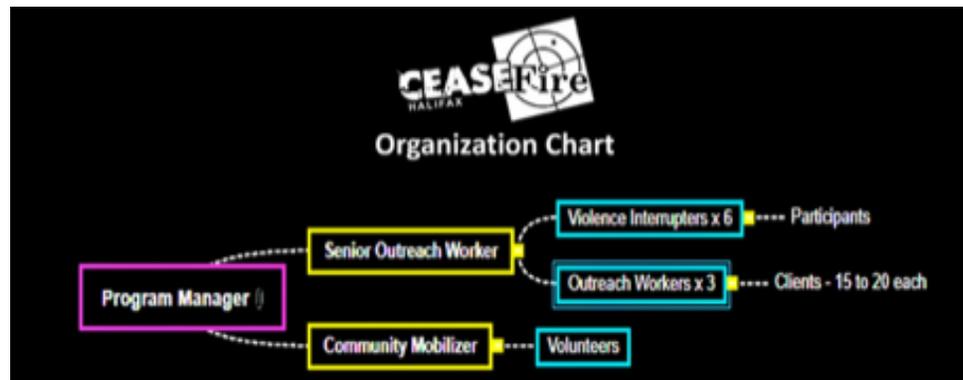


- After a string of shootings in 2011 of which occurred in the North Preston area, leaders within the African Nova Scotian community decided to take action.
- Led by Yvonne Atwell, Executive Director of the Community Justice Society, Crime Prevention social worker Robert Wright, and the late lawyer Rocky Jones, collaboration **with all three levels of government facilitated** a group visit to Chicago's Cure Violence organization to get a first-hand look at their operation



# Our Success

- The successful HRM implementation of a disease based approach to reducing violence and gang related activities beginning in 2014 ends December 31 2017
- The Ceasefire pilot guided by the [Community Justice Society \(CJS\)](#) has reduced gun violence in HRM from 17% to 56% against the base year of 2012 of its implementation and has built a foundation for change



# Our Dilemma

- The Ceasefire pilot Federal funding ends December 31, 2017.
- The Nova Scotia Department of Justice has been exceptionally supportive and provided bridge funding to March 31, 2018
- The Service will end April 1, 2018 unless we can create a consortium of partners to fund Ceasefire



# Ted Upshaw, HRM Public Safety Advisor

(Former CJS Board Member)

- If our CeaseFire program ceases to exist come April 2018 there is the distinct probability of a spike in recidivism. Without the support offered by our field staff, many youth and adults who have used the program to better their lives and work towards getting a second chance may be more likely to revert back to a time when they felt violence was the only solution to getting ahead.



# ‘We will not let this die,’ Halifax Mayor says of Ceasefire Program

We are pursuing a sustainability solution for 3 years of funding to continue to :

1. **Build resident resilience:** Help people to reduce their sense of isolation, build resilience and improve their quality of life.
2. **Ensure Safe Places:** Reduce the opportunities for crime and social disorder at places where people live, work and play.
3. **Strengthen Communities:** Increase local participation and social interaction, and develop ways to deal with conflict in non-violent ways.
4. **Prevent and Reduce Crime:** Protect citizens, organizations, and institutions against threats to their well-being and prosperity.

CANADA May 15, 2016 2:39 pm Updated: May 16, 2016 9:45 am

## ‘We will not let this die,’ Halifax mayor says of Ceasefire Program

By **Natasha Pace**  
Reporter, Global News

Comments Facebook Twitter Email Print ...

PLAY VIDEO



WATCH ABOVE: A successful anti-violence program is in danger of losing its funding in Halifax. Ceasefire started on the streets of Chicago and has helped keep neighbourhoods in this region safe for years, but now the funding is coming to an end. Global's Natasha Pace reports.



# CeaseFire Sample Media Clippings

- <https://globalnews.ca/tag/ceasefire-halifax/>
- <http://www.metronews.ca/news/halifax/2016/08/28/north-preston-peace-event-by-ceasefire-halifax.html>
- [https://www.cpha.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/conferences/2017/final-program\\_e.pdf](https://www.cpha.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/conferences/2017/final-program_e.pdf)
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ceasefire-halifax-project-comfort-blankets-1.4062347>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ceasefire-halifax-violence-crime-drop-1.3509716>
- <http://www.news957.com/local/2012/05/15/hrm-brings-in-gun-violence-expert-for-workshop/>





QUESTIONS ?