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Memorandum

Date: September 7, 2018
To: Board of Police Commissioners
From: Kymberly Franklin, Senior Legal Counsel
Re: Update on Street Checks research by Professor Scot Wortley

Since the last written update to this Board, Professor Wortley has visited Halifax for a week in May. During this visit, we focused on focus groups and meetings with the RCMP and HRP. We meet with all levels of policing in separate focus groups. For HRP this included the crime analyst, detectives in major crimes, sergeants, patrol officers and Chief Blais. All meetings were viewed as informative and the participants were very cooperative.

We also met with RCMP visiting several detachments including Sackville, Tantallon, North Preston and Cole Harbour. Again, all meetings were well attended and informative.

In July, Professor Wortley visited Halifax for another week of focus group meetings. During the 11 community meetings held since the commencement of this research, it was found that there was not a prominent youth presence for input. As a result, the focus groups scheduled in July were targeted specifically toward youth to ascertain their very unique perspective. Group meetings were held in Uniacke Square, Mulgrave Park, East Preston and North Preston. All meetings were well attended and informative. In addition, we met with the community group 902 Man Up.

During all of the trips to Halifax Professor Wortley has been working closely with Chris Giacomantonio at HRP to attain and compile data sets for examining the 11 years worth of data collected. The data from the RCMP is included as well. Professor Wortley continues to work with this data as it is a very large amount of data to interpret.

Going forward we have launched an online survey on September 6, 2018, seeking additional information from community on their experiences with street checks and the police. The survey may be completed by anyone who has knowledge of or direct experience with these issues. It was decided that there were likely many people who could not attend community meetings therefore the online survey is a chance to acquire more targeted information. It will be running for approximately 3 months and be found at: <https://humanrights.novascotia.ca/survey>.

The preliminary report will be completed in November and we will be setting up meetings with stakeholders for a final consultation. The final report will be released publicly in early January. There will be additional information made public around this final release, once we are closer to that time.

KF