



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

**Item No. 15.2.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 24, 2019**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For Commissioner Natalie Borden, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners

**DATE:** September 9, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Requested Amendment to By-Law P-100: Respecting the Board of Police Commissioners

**ORIGIN**

Motion from the June 17, 2019 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:

**Appointment of Chief of Police**

8. (1) The Board shall provide civilian governance in regards to strategic policy planning and policy driven budget planning for police service delivery within the communities serviced by the Halifax Regional Police and shall carry out an advisory role in respect of police matters within the communities serviced by the Provincial Police Service.

.....

(2) (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;

.....

(f) ensure compliance with Nova Scotia Police Act code of conduct;

.....

(j) ensure that community needs and values are reflected in policing goals and methods;

**Recommendation on next page**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report examining a requested amendment to Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law Number P-100: Respecting the Board Of Police Commissioners, with the requested amendment being to change section 8 (2)(f) to read “ensure compliance with Nova Scotia Police Act code of conduct; and the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics.”

## **BACKGROUND**

In March of 2019, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission released the Halifax, Nova Scotia: Street Checks Report. The Report was received by the Board of Police Commissioners and contained a number of recommendations.

At their June 17, 2019 meeting, the Board of Police Commissioners received a request for consideration form (Attachment A) submitted by Commissioner Smith.

## **DISCUSSION**

At the June 17, 2019 meeting, it was noted that while By-law P-100 incorporates reference to the *NS Police Act* code of conduct, it does not reference the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics. The concern expressed by the Board is that it is not currently within the mandate of the Board to ensure compliance with the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics.

Following a discussion of the request for consideration form, the Board approved the motion as set out in Attachment A.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

None identified.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any financial implications would be identified in a future staff report.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners are open to the public. The agenda, reports, and minutes of the Committee are posted online at Halifax.ca.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None identified by the Board of Police Commissioners.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A** – Request for Consideration Form submitted by Commissioner Smith

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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, 902.490.6732

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## Item No. 9.2.2

<b>Request for Consideration</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Notice of Motion</b>
<p><b>Council or Committee:</b> Board Of Police Commissioners:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Date of Meeting:</b></p> <p><b>Subject: Changes to Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law Number P-100: Respecting The Board Of Police Commissioners</b></p>		
<p><b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b></p> <p>That the Board of Police Commissioners request changes to Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law Number P-100: Respecting The Board Of Police Commissioners, with changes to section (2) (f) that will now read "ensure compliance with Nova Scotia Police Act code of conduct; <b>and the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics</b>"</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> The Provincial Police Act states S(3) (1)                      (b) ensure the chief officer establishes programs and strategies to implement the priorities, objectives and goals respecting police services;                      (c) ensure that community needs and values are reflected in policing priorities, objectives, goals, programs and strategies;                      (d) ensure that police services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations</p> <p>Currently by-law P-100 does not reference the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics, which clearly states (B)1. <i>Halifax Regional Police is committed to endorsing a police environment which prohibits the practice of racially biased policing and values the diversity within communities in the Halifax Regional Municipality.</i> In order to fulfill our role as Commissioners and to align with our powers legislated to use by the Provincial Police Act, we must also be able to make sure that HRP police practices align with our values and governing by-law</p> <p><b>Outcome Sought:</b> To amend By-law P-100 and add "<b>and the Halifax Regional Police Code of Ethics</b>"</p>		
<p><i>Councillor Lindell Smith</i></p>		<p><i>District 8</i></p>