



103 Thorne Ave
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B3B 0A4

August 28, 2020

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Natalie Borden, Chair
Halifax Board of Police Commissioners
1875 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2H1

Dear Madam Chair:

Re: HRPA – Board of Police Commissioners

Thank you for your letter of August 17, 2020. I want you to know that Halifax Regional Police Association ("HRPA") is most interested in any action which will improve relations between HRPA and the Communities that HRP and HRP serve. Our actions and communications to date quite clearly demonstrate our desire to move forward in a positive and constructive manner.

In September 2015 Management Employee Relations meeting HRPA offered to assist with what we anticipated would be a topic of interest "street checks". At that time D/C Moore explained that our assistance would not be required as "the data reflected more on HRM entirety than HRP"

In May of 2019 HRPA, at its own expense, brought Justice Tulloch, to Halifax to present on the Ontario experience and lessons learned from his yearlong review of street checks. HRPA was careful to invite many state holders with diverse backgrounds to inform future discussions we had hoped to be part of. The BoPC was invited. While I am aware many discussions and meetings on the topic occurred post the event, I do not recall any invitations extended to HRPA.

During the COVID budget crisis HRPAs expressed its willingness to assist by finding efficiencies to lower the cost of policing, notwithstanding your objections to us being involved in the process, we did provide several suggestions that would have assisted in the cost saving exercise had they been given appropriate consideration.

On the 10th day of June 2020 I expressly sent to you, the Chief, the Board of Police Commissioners, the Mayor and Council a letter which expressed our desire to participate fully in any activities which could go to improve relationships between HRP, HRPAs and the entire community we serve.

Although the letter was some 10 weeks ago, I don't recall you ever acknowledged receipt of the letter. I only received acknowledgement from the Mayor and Councillors Wayne Mason and Bill Karsten. (see attached letter)

Since that time, you and the Commission have agreed to take steps to develop a process which will impose obligations upon our membership without the courtesy of discussing such issues with us.

You state that HRP and the RCMP want to ensure all of our citizens live without fear and worry, especially our Black citizens.

It is unfortunate that you failed to mention HRPAs as our actions to date and correspondence 10 weeks ago expressed this very sentiment.

In the third paragraph of your letter you say the following:

"In many other jurisdictions, police associations. Unions have communicated their commitment to addressing these issues by joining with the local police services and boards to jointly issue a statement. As the Chair, on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners, I would like to know what the HRPAs position is on these issues, and any plans you have developed to support it?"

I work closely with many of the Associations you refer to and I am aware their offers of assistance do not go unanswered and they participate with the understanding they are full and valued partners in any joint ventures.

I assure you that our position has not changed and HRPAs is most interested in participating in these sorts of matters. I would be pleased to arrange a meeting with the Executive of HRPAs and the entire Board of Police Commissioners to discuss

your plans and any statement you wish to issue. We are also more than willing to discuss the role HRPAs can play in these matters. Please be assured of our intention to assist in any manner we can, provided we are treated as full partners in these discussions.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me to arrange such a meeting.

Yours very truly,

Dean Stienburg,
President HRPAs



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June 10, 2020

His Worship Mayor Michael Savage
City Councillors
Board of Police Commissioners
Chief of Police

Re: Policing In 2020s

The Halifax Regional Police Association is very conscious of the public discussion concerning the role of the police in today's society. We are cognizant of the issue when we are working in our communities and when we see our community members reacting to policing in general.

The Halifax Regional Police Association is most proud of the Halifax Police and its role in our community. We believe that the Halifax Regional Police is one of the leading departments in Canada, and its members are always working in the best interests of the public as a whole.

Policing is difficult in these days when we are confronted with issues such as mental health, opioid drugs, homelessness and social insecurity. All of these things make our role as police officers more challenging every day.

We believe that there will be a social cry for examination of the role of police in our community and how we operate as a police force. The Halifax Regional Police Association would encourage this public discussion. In fact, we would promote it. Having an open community debate on the role of police within our community would be something which would help all segments of society.

We would encourage you, Mr. Mayor and Council to lead this debate in our community. We would also encourage you to assign a special panel to review and report on this role of policing in HRM on a go-forward basis.

In the event that there is such public discussion, managed through HRM, the Halifax Regional Police Association would welcome the discussion and would most certainly expect to have a leading role in that debate to explain the role of policing in the 2020s. from the perspective of

the Officer on the beat. We encourage this discussion and we would ask that in the event that you decide to have such a discussion that the HRPAs have a meaningful role in that debate.

You can expect our complete cooperation in helping to build a better and safer community.

We look forward to your response.

Yours very truly,

Sgt. Dean Stienburg
President
Halifax Regional Police Association