

Request for Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Motion
Council or Committee: Halifax Board of Police Commissioners:		
Date of Meeting: March 21, 2022		
Subject: Staff report regarding ongoing HRP policies and procedures review		
Motion for Committee to Consider:		
That the Chair of the Board of the Police Commissioners direct the chief officer of the Halifax Regional Police to draft a staff report providing details regarding their ongoing policies and procedures review.		
1. Legal authority		
Under subsection 55(1) of the <i>Police Act</i> , the function of a board is to provide: (a) civilian governance on behalf of the council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the municipality; and (b) the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate, effective and efficient police department		
Without limiting the generality of the functions noted in subsection 55(1), under subsection 55(3) the Board has the following specific duties: ... (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; (e) act as a conduit between the community and the police service providers.		
Section 52 reads: On behalf of the board, the board chair or the chair's delegate may give advice or direction, in writing, to the chief officer on any matter within the jurisdiction of the board under this Act, but not to other members of the police department and, for greater certainty, no other member of the board shall give advice or direction to a member of the police department.		
2. What is being requested		
This motion is requesting a staff report that will provide information to the Board regarding the HRP's ongoing policy review. The Board first learned about the HRP's policy review on July 9, 2020 after Commissioner Lisa Blackburn brought a motion directing the HRP to "make available to the public, via the website, their policies including but not limited to: information on Conduct of Service Members, Conflict of Interest, Complaints and Use of Force policies." At that time, Chief Dan Kinsella explained that many of the HRP's policies were so out of date that the entire 1,700 page manual needed an		

“overhaul.” Since then, the Board has received some information regarding the HRP’s policy review, but some information remains outstanding.

Accordingly, the staff report requested should include the following information:

- What policies are being reviewed;
- Who is doing the review;
- How the review is being conducted (e.g., literature reviews, research, consultation, comparisons with other departments); and
- When the review is expected to be completed.

3. Rationale

Under the *Police Act*, under paragraph 55(1)(b), the function of the Board is to provide “the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate, effective and efficient police department.” Further, under paragraphs 55(3)(c) and (d), the Board has duties to “ensure that community needs and values are reflected in policing priorities, objectives, goals, programs and strategies” and “ensure that police services are delivered in a manner consistent with community values, needs and expectations.”

Thus far, the Board has played a limited role in the HRP’s policy review. Going forward, the Board could play a more involved role such as by:

- Requiring that, as policies are reviewed and updated, they first be brought to the Board for approval before being ratified; and/or
- “[Acting] as a conduit between the community and the police service providers” in keeping with the Board’s duty under paragraph 55(3)(e) by inviting subject matter experts from the HRM to become involved in aspects of the policy view to ensure policies are evidence-based and in keeping with best practices.

Before the Board can decide whether or not to adopt any of these more expansive roles, it requires more information regarding the scope, objectives, and timeline for the HRP’s ongoing review. The staff report will hopefully provide this information in order to inform the Board’s decision-making going forward.

Outcome Sought: The Board of Police Commissioners will receive a staff report from HRP providing details regarding their ongoing policies and procedures review.

Commissioner Harry Critchley

Submitted March 16, 2022