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Item No. 10.2.1
Board of Police Commissioners
June 20, 2022

TO: Chair and Commissioners of Board of Police Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: - Original Signed -
Commissioner Lisa Blackburn, Board of Police Commissioner

DATE: June 15, 2022

SUBJECT: **Board of Police Commissioners Working Group on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police Terms of Reference**

ORIGIN

February 28, 2022 meeting of Board of Police Commissioners, Item 11.2.1.:

MOVED by Commissioner Blackburn, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners strike a subcommittee, made up of up to three Commissioners, to review the recommendations of the Board of Police Commissioners Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police report and determine the body responsible for their completion and return to a future Board of Police Commissioners meeting with a draft Terms of Reference and work plan.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

By-law P-100, the *Board Of Police Commissioners By-Law*, subsection 8(2)(b), (h), (j) and (k) provides:

8(2) The Board [of Police Commissioners] 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;

...

(h) carry out any studies or investigations respecting its civilian governance responsibilities;

...

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

(k) act as a conduit between the community and the police service providers.

RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 2

The *Board of Police Commissioners Policy Manual*, Policy re Board Roles and Responsibilities, subsection 6-Roles and Responsibilities-Board Committees, Panels and Liaison Functions provides:

1. The Board may create committees by resolution and adopt terms of reference. The terms of reference will define membership, extent of public involvement and participation, mandate, scope of activities, and require the committee to make recommendations to the Board.
2. Any Board member is eligible to attend a committee meeting.
3. The Board may delegate tasks and projects to the committees, including preparing of policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation.
4. Board committees may not speak or act for the Board.
5. Committee members shall deal directly with the Chair who will liaise with the Chiefs or his/her designate(s), when services are required from a staff member to assist the committee.
6. This policy does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the Chiefs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners:

1. Approve the Terms of Reference, as outlined in Attachment 1, for a Working Group on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police.
2. Approve the formation of the Working Group on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police, directing the Working Group to follow the Terms of Reference below:
 - a) Review the Committee on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police Report *Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM* and review the 36 recommendations;
 - b) Identify the governmental agency with responsibility for specific recommendations;
 - c) Recommend to the Board a course of action to further the implementation of specific recommendations by identified responsible agencies;
 - d) Recommend to the Board Terms of Reference for a subcommittee to work on recommendations concerning the implementation of those recommendations within the Board's jurisdiction; and
 - e) Provide a report containing these and any related recommendations for the Board of Police Commissioners to consider.
3. The Working Group on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police shall submit a written report to the Board of Police Commissioners.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Police Commissioners received a final report entitled "Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM" from the subcommittee on Defunding the Police at its' January 17, 2022 meeting. The subcommittee's report included 36 recommendations. At the Commission's February 28, 2022 meeting the Commission approved a motion that a subcommittee be struck to review the recommendations in the "Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM" report and to determine the body responsible for the completion of each recommendation.

For further information refer to the attached Terms of Reference dated June 15, 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be financial implications on the Municipal Clerk's Office as the Working Group's draft Terms of Reference identify that office as a support for the Working Group for meeting minutes purposes.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board of Police Commissioners could choose not to approve the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Board of Police Commissioners Working Group to Review the Define Defunding Police Report Terms of Reference

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.240.7164

Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

Terms of Reference – Working Group on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police

Background

Following the global movement calling for rethinking and reconstituting police and their role in public safety the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners sought to define defunding the police and understand how defunding would look in an HRM context. On September 21, 2020 the BoPC voted to commission El Jones, poet, professor and activist, to develop a proposal and recruit a committee to recommend a definition that the BoPC could consider. On January 17th, 2022 the subcommittee on Defunding the Police presented their final report to the Board of Police Commissioners. On February 28, 2022 the Board of Police Commissioners adopted a motion to form a working group to review the recommendations of the final report from Dr. Jones.

Purpose

The role of the working group will be to review the 36 recommendations stemming from the Board of Police Commissioners Subcommittee to Define Defunding Police final report and determine the government body responsible for their completion. The working group will also write a Terms of Reference for a subcommittee that will implement the recommendations.

Term

The start date for the work is **July 2022**. It is anticipated that a final report back to the BoPC will be September 2022.

Membership

- Up to three Board of Police Commissioners members

Role

The working group will

- Review the Committee on Recommendations to Define Defunding Police Report *Defunding the Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM* and review the 36 recommendations;
- Identify the governmental agency with responsibility for specific recommendations;
- Recommend to the Board a course of action to further the implementation of specific recommendations by identified responsible agencies.
- Recommend to the Board Terms of Reference for a subcommittee to work on recommendations concerning the implementation of those recommendations within the Board's jurisdiction; and
- Provide a report containing these and any related recommendations for the Board of Police Commissioners to consider.

Budget

The working group will be supported by the Municipal Clerk's office.

Report

The final report will include:

- Which recommendations should be considered by the Board of Police Commissioners , the Province of Nova Scotia and the Federal government.
- Terms of Reference for a subcommittee which will work on implementing the recommendations.

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