



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief Daniel Kinsella, Halifax Regional Police

DATE: September 7, 2022

SUBJECT: Halifax Regional Police Response to BoPC Motion 10.2.1, June 20, 2022: Staff report regarding police enforcement of the Protection of Property Act

Background:

At the June 20, 2022 Board of Commissioners Meeting, the following motion was passed:

“Chair of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners (the “Board”) direct the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police (“HRP”) and recommend that the Chief Superintendent of the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (“RCMP”) prepare staff reports to be received by the Board at an early as possible meeting. These reports should briefly outline all policies, procedures, and other operational guidance provided to officers regarding the enforcement of the Protection of Property Act specifically as it relates to responding to encampment sites for homeless individuals in municipal parks.”

This report provides Halifax Regional Police’s response to this motion, as requested.

Overall approach:

Halifax Regional Police has been a partner in the municipality’s approach to homeless encampments. Our focus has been and will continue to be public safety and addressing criminal offences. We continue to take a measured and supportive approach in relation to requests for assistance, as evidenced in the recent response to the request for municipal assistance in relation to Meagher Park.

HRP policies & operational guidance related to this issue:

Policy: HRP does not have a specific existing policy related to homeless encampments under the Protection of Property Act (PPA).

Operational Direction: Consistent direction has been provided to Patrol supervisors and frontline staff through watch commanders to reinforce the following points:

- Officers will respond to reports of criminal violations or any public safety concerns and ensure public safety and investigate any criminal offences. Individuals are not to be removed for the act of camping in a park for housing purposes.
- Watch Commanders are to be advised so that appropriate supports and communication with the municipal staff can be facilitated.