

Request for Board of Police Commissioners Consideration

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| <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 working day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: November 2, 2022

Subject: Creation of governance subcommittee

Motion for Board of Police Commissioners to Consider:

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners create a governance subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") composed of no more than three (3) members of the Board of Police Commissioners, no fewer than one (1) of whom will be a Member of the Halifax Regional Council, as well as any number of members of the Halifax Regional Police, HRM, and the public as the Subcommittee deems necessary.
2. That the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners direct that the Subcommittee prepare a Terms of Reference governing its work to be reviewed by the Board of Police Commissioners at a future meeting.

Reason:

Under s 55(1) of the *Police Act*, the function of the Board of Police Commissioners 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.

In keeping with these functions, the Board has specific duties under s 55(3), including to:

- (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;
- (f) recommend policies, administrative and organizational direction for the effective management of the police department.

One of the Board's key roles is to provide policy necessary for an adequate, effective and efficient police department in keeping with s 55(1) of the *Police Act* and s 8(2)(g) of By-law P-100.¹

To date, the Board has largely been involved in the provision and review of HRP policies on a mostly *ad hoc* basis. For example, the Board has recently been involved in asking the Chief questions about the HRP's policies in regard to interactions with unhoused persons and extra-duty and off-duty employment. Over the last year, the Chief has also provided the Board with information regarding the HRP's ongoing policy refresh, as well as its plan to begin publicly releasing some of its policies online.

The creation of the Subcommittee will provide the Board with a more formalized means of participating the HRP's policy refresh process in keeping with its statutory duties. The Subcommittee is envisioned as meeting on a monthly basis together with members of HRP, HRM, and the public as needed. The Subcommittee would play a role in:

- Identifying possible priority areas for policies in need of refresh or development;
- Providing feedback on existing policy priorities identified by HRP;
- Providing feedback on proposed policy amendments and new draft policies; and
- Together with HRP, finalizing drafts of new or amended policies for the Board's review and approval.

The Subcommittee would have no specific decision-making jurisdiction. It would instead bring focus to the Board's work from the governance lens of the fiduciary, strategic, and generative responsibilities the Board has. Without restriction, the Subcommittee would offer the following benefits in the overall effort to enhance the work and the role of the Board:

- By restricting Board membership on the Subcommittee to three commissioners, the Subcommittee could work more informally as its meeting would not be bound by the normal meeting procedures under AO-1
- By permitting flexibility in terms of its membership, the Subcommittee could invite subject matter experts to provide feedback on specific priorities or policies as needed, thus furthering the Board's duties to "act as a conduit between the community and police service providers" and "ensure the department is managed by the chief officer according to best practices and operates effectively and efficiently"
- By providing a forum for more of the BOPC's work could be completed outside of meetings, the Subcommittee would likely improve BOPC meeting efficiency

Outcome Sought: Noted above

Commissioner Harry Critchley

October 26, 2022

¹ Katherine Salsman, Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners (Halifax: Halifax Regional Municipality, 2017): 5, <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committeescommissions/170619bopc913.pdf>.