

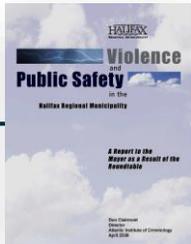
Re: Item No. 15.1.8
HALIFAX

**Public Safety
Strategy
Renewal**

February 2023

Key milestones

2008 Mayor's
RoundTable on Violence
in the HRM



2014 RoundTable
Review

2018 Inaugural Public
Safety Strategy



2023 Renewed Public
Safety Strategy

Public Safety Office

- Overseeing the implementation of the municipality's Public Safety Strategy
- Providing advice and evidence-informed approaches to create community safety and wellbeing
- Collaborating and partnering with internal and external organizations and communities
- Developed and implementing two programs (Community Mobilization Teams and Safe City and Safe Public Spaces) along with leading design and implementation of Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund



Municipal Mandate: Develop and Maintain Safe Communities

- Under the HRM charter, the municipality has a legislative responsibility to develop and maintain safe and viable communities
- There are three ways the municipality fulfills this mandate:
 - **Upstream:** Enhancing protective factors that build resilience
 - **Midstream:** Reducing risks factors that make harms more likely
 - **Downstream:** Responding to harms where they occur
- Lack of a broad spectrum of **downstream** response options, especially given increasingly complex safety wellbeing concerns arising from barriers to access for health, supportive housing and income supports.
- While widely recognized that police are not always the best service to address complex, non-criminal safety concerns, they are the *defacto* response due to a lack of alternatives.

Public Safety Strategy Renewal

- In 2021, Regional Council directed the Public Safety Office (PSO) to develop a new Public Safety Strategy (Strategy) and reimagine public safety
- PSO was directed to **respond to the recent calls to broaden the spectrum of response** and move towards community-led public safety
- The new draft Strategy builds on the work of the first Public Safety Strategy, which helped provide a wide-ranging framework for the municipality to act on
- The actions do not include direct discussion of core policing and fire services, yet the municipality has a key role in maintaining these functions

Strategy Development Approach



Review

Review existing reports, frameworks & recommendations



Draft Strategy

Refine based on priorities and develop a draft Strategy



Consult/Inform

Consult with business units, police, Councillors, public, and stakeholders



Approval

Seek Council approval of final draft and budget

Guiding Principles

The draft Strategy is founded in four key principles that will be applied to the actions within the Strategy and guide implementation of the new initiatives



Actionable



Equitable



Intersectional



Sustainable

Strategic Priorities

Strategy grounded in 7 key strategic priorities



Provide expert **advice** to promote public safety



Enhance **supports** for people experiencing **homelessness**



Create safer and more inclusive **spaces**



Broaden spectrum of emergency and crisis **response**



Reduce harms associated with **alcohol and drugs**



Promote **healing** from trauma



Create a **Centre** of Responsibility for collective impact (CoR)

Action areas

1. Community-Led Public Safety Leadership

Priority Outcomes

<p>1.1 Enhance Community Mobilization Teams</p>	 Expert Advice	 Healing Trauma		
<p>1.2 Enhance Safe City and Public Spaces Program</p>	 Expert Advice	 Safe Space	 Healing Trauma	 CoR
<p>1.3 Advance Indigenous-Led Community Safety</p>	 Expert Advice	 Safe Space	 Healing Trauma	
<p>1.4 Establish Public Safety Training Capacity</p>	 Safe Space	 Healing Trauma	 Response Options	
<p>1.5 Enhance Research and Advisory Capacity</p>	 Expert Advice	 CoR		
<p>1.6 Promote Investment in Municipal Infrastructure</p>	 Expert Advice	 Safe Space		

Action areas

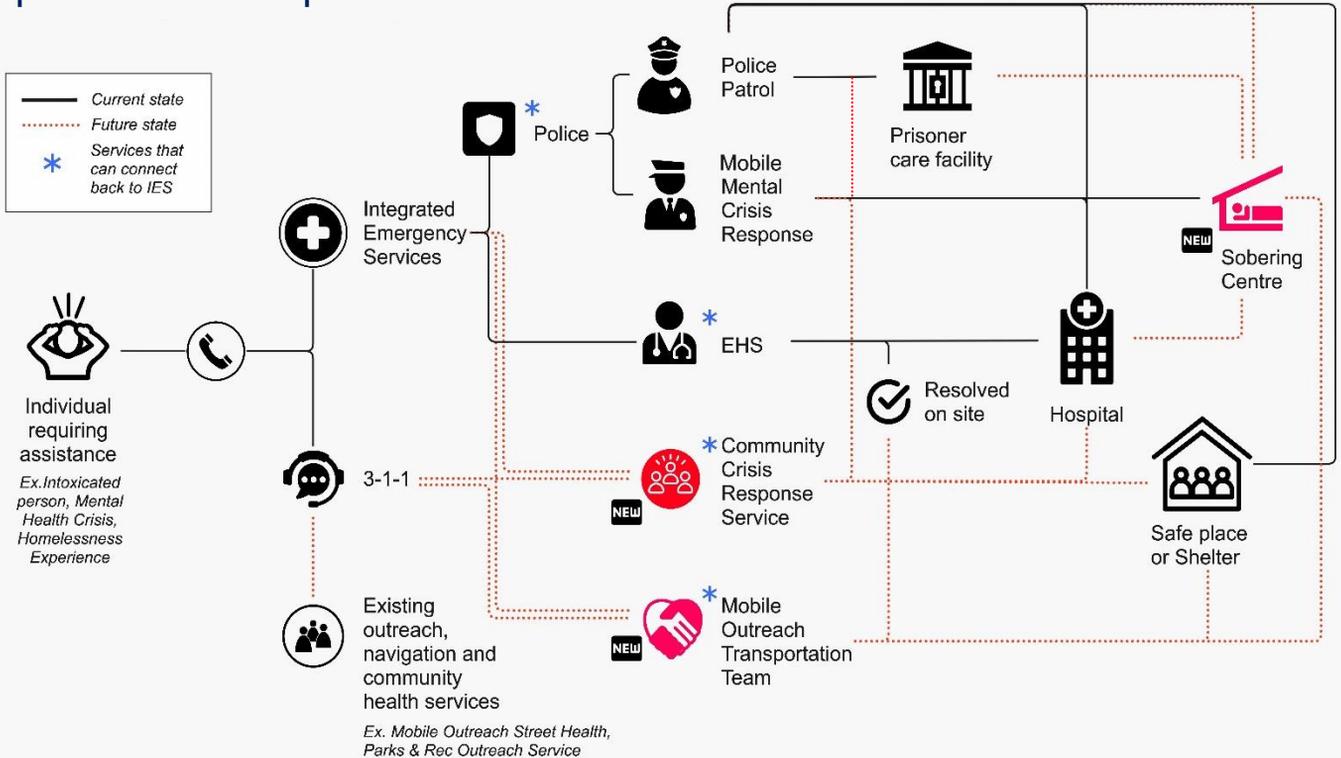
2. Broader Spectrum of Responses To Social Issues and Harms

- 2.1 Develop a Community Crisis Response Service Model
- 2.2 Establish a Drug and Alcohol Policy Working Group
- 2.3 Establish a Sobering Centre in HRM
- 2.4 Establish a Mobile Outreach Team
- 2.5 Address Trauma of Youth Violence

Priority Outcomes

 Homeless Support	 Response Options		
 Expert Advice	 Safe Space	 Homeless Support	 Reduce Harm
 Safe Space	 Homeless Supports	 Response Options	 CoR
 Safe Space	 Homeless Supports	 Response Options	 Reduce Harm
 Expert Advice	 Safe Space	 Healing Trauma	 CoR

Illustrative Example of a Broader Spectrum of Response



Action areas

3. Centre of Responsibility for Collective Impact

3.1 Develop a Centre of Responsibility

3.2 Establish New Community Voice and Advisory Structure

3.3 Assess Existing HRM Programs and Services for Migration

Priority Outcomes



Expert Advice



CoR



Expert Advice



CoR



Expert Advice



CoR

Impacts

PSO will measure impacts of strategic actions against four impact areas



Community safety and wellbeing

Healthy, safe, and more resilient communities are created through new and expanded services



Ecosystem development

The public safety ecosystem thrives as appropriate infrastructure is developed and grounded collective impact approach with community



Harm reduction and prevention Harms across the community are reduced and prevented as people received equitable access to supports & services



Reduced justice system pressures

By connecting people to the right services at the right time, the burden on police response in the municipality is lessened

Financial Impact

Additional Public Safety Budget Required	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Compensation and Benefits	305,500	678,800	690,700
Grant Funded - Compensation and Benefits	415,500	430,800	438,400
Grant Funded - Non-compensation related expenses	609,100	585,500	79,600
Mobile Outreach and Transportation Service	-	450,000	450,000
Training Program	30,000	30,000	45,000
Drug Policy Working Group	-	-	15,000
Staff related costs	25,600	27,800	27,000
Total Expenditures	1,385,700	2,202,900	1,745,700
Grant from Public Safety Canada	(1,024,600)	(1,016,300)	(518,000)
Net Budget Required	361,100	1,186,600	1,227,700

Recommendations

1. Approve the attached document, Public Safety Strategy for use as a strategy framework for municipal decision-making regarding public safety.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide an annual progress report to Regional Council.
3. Allocate \$361,100 for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to begin work to establish a Centre of Responsibility for Public Safety as outlined in the Public Safety Strategy.