



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 13.3.1
Executive Standing Committee
November 27, 2023

TO: Chair and Members of Executive Standing Committee

-ORIGINAL SIGNED-

SUBMITTED BY:

Chioma Ogbanufe, Chair, African Descent Advisory Committee

DATE: November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: African Nova Scotian Representation in the Halifax Regional Police

ORIGIN

November 9, 2023 meeting of African Descent Advisory Committee motion (Item No. 9.2.2).

MOVED by Darryl Johnson, seconded by Andrew Howe

THAT the African Descent Advisory Committee recommends the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to request a staff report on:

1. The representation of people of African Nova Scotian descent in the Halifax Regional Police force;
2. The status of the all-African descent cadet class of 1993;
3. An understanding of education provided to all officers around systemic racism and all matters; and
4. That the staff report be provided to the African Nova Scotian Descent Advisory Committee for review and possible recommendation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 6 of the African Descent Advisory Committee Terms of Reference provides that:

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to People of African Descent as follows:

RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 2

- b) receive and review municipal policies, priorities and decisions using a critical race lens, for items directed to the Committee by Council or a Standing Committee of Council, or on its own initiative with direction from the Executive Standing Committee, and to make recommendations;
- c) advise on mechanisms to engage and empower People of African Descent to fully participate in the political process at the municipal level;
- d) provide information and resources about People of African Descent issues to Council, including the use of racial equity lens;

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to request a staff report on:

- 1. The representation of people of African Nova Scotian descent in the Halifax Regional Police force;
- 2. The status of the all-African descent cadet class of 1993;
- 3. An understanding of education provided to all officers around systemic racism and all matters; and
- 4. That the staff report be provided to the African Nova Scotian Descent Advisory Committee for review and possible recommendation.

BACKGROUND

On November 9, 2023 the African Descent Advisory Committee discussed the representation of people of African Nova Scotian descent in the Halifax Regional Police force, including the status of the all-African descent cadet class of 1993. The Committee is looking to gain an understanding of the representation of African Descent persons in the Halifax Regional Police force and the education provided to all officers around systemic racism and all matters in order to make possible recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee.

DISCUSSION

The African Descent Advisory Committee approved the recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The African Descent Advisory Committee is comprised of eleven citizen members and two Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Executive Standing Committee could choose not to approve the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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: Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.478.2408
