



Item No. 3
Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality
May 1, 2024

TO: Chair Kent and Commissioners of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 25, 2024

SUBJECT: RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment 2024-25 Annual Performance Plan

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This is a staff-initiated report.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

By-Law P-100, *Respecting The Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality*, section 8(3)(c):

8 (3) The Board in accordance with the Police Act and HRM Bylaws may carry out any of the following roles and responsibilities as they relate to the Provincial Police Service:

(c) requiring the Officer in Charge to provide an annual report, by March 31 of each year, on the status of the implementation of HRM's objectives, priorities and goals relating to the Halifax Detachment's policing responsibilities within its prescribed territorial boundaries in the municipality during the previous fiscal year.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment 2024-25 Annual Performance Plan (See Attachment 1) is built around themes. They interlink, or closely align with our counterparts within the public safety space in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). The APP will be updated twice a year and each update will feature rotating stories and/ or metrics. Generally, there will be an end-of-year update and a mid-year update.

These themes are foundational to our performance plan (or strategic plan) and were developed through consultation with our police officers, employees and stakeholders, including elected officials, program managers, and key players in our communities. It is our plan to serve you. Following consultations, we analyzed our approach to policing and listened to ideas on how we could provide the best service. From those discussions, objectives were developed to provide a solid foundation for decision making and ensure we effectively allocate resources. The valuable input gathered from our discussions was used to create our strategic plan, with the goal of ensuring the municipality remains a safe and healthy place to live. Our APP also aligns with the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) Report and its call for a more modern and responsive Halifax RCMP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is outlined in Attachment 1.

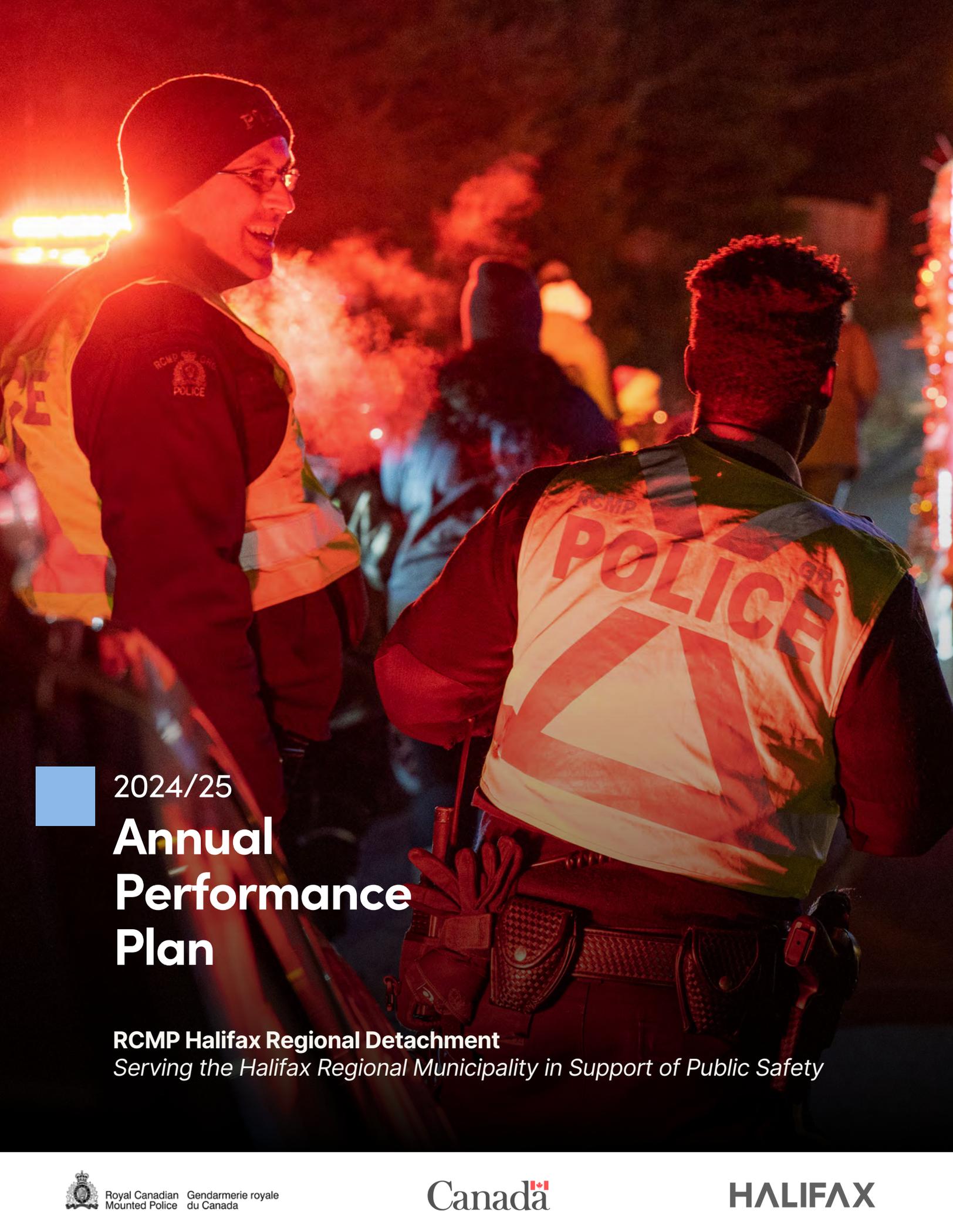
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 2024-25 Annual Performance Plan

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: C/Supt. Jeffrey Christie, OIC Halifax Regional Detachment 902.490.6880

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2024/25

Annual Performance Plan

RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment

Serving the Halifax Regional Municipality in Support of Public Safety



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada 

HALIFAX

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CAO LETTER TO CHAIR OF POLICE BOARD

Colleagues,

I'm pleased to submit the first update of the RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment (HRD) Annual Performance Plan to the Board of Police Commissioners.

I am committed to continuing to work closely with the Board and HRD to ensure effective, efficient provision of policing services across our region. This includes promoting alignment with the priorities set by Regional Council and collaboration with key municipal partners, namely Community Safety, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency and Halifax Regional Police.

Law enforcement agencies must adapt and innovate to address today's emerging challenges and fulfill their duty to protect and serve. As a growing municipality, we are committed to an evidence-based, community-focused and culturally sensitive approach to policing, with an emphasis on renewed integration with Halifax Regional Police.

By working together and following a clear course of action, we are poised to navigate the complexities of modern policing and realize our collective vision of safer, more vibrant communities.

Regards,

Cathie O'Toole
Chief Administrative Officer,
Halifax Regional Municipality

FOREWORD: OFFICER IN CHARGE

Good day,

I am pleased to share our first Halifax Regional Detachment Annual Performance Plan (APP). This living document was developed through various community consultations and internal discussions. It reflects a transparent and genuine effort to share the HRD employees' story in service to Haligonians.

This report is built around themes. They interlink, or closely align with our counterparts within the public safety space in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). The APP will be updated twice a year and each update will feature rotating stories and/ or metrics. Generally, there will be an end-of-year update and a mid-year update.

These themes are foundational to our performance plan (or strategic plan) and were developed through consultation with our police officers, employees and stakeholders, including elected officials, program managers, and key players in our communities. It is our plan to serve you. Following consultations, we analyzed our approach to policing and listened to ideas on how we could provide the best service. From those discussions, objectives were developed to provide a solid foundation for decision making and ensure we effectively allocate resources. The valuable input gathered from our discussions was used to create our strategic plan, with the goal of ensuring the municipality remains a safe and healthy place to live. Our APP also aligns with the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) Report and its call for a more modern and responsive Halifax RCMP.

This report is designed to share our strategic plan objectives and the results of our work in key areas of policing. By continuing to communicate our priorities and directing strategic focus to the areas of responsibility most important to our communities, we hope to maintain public support and remain accountable for service delivery.

While this story is primarily about your municipal RCMP, we also work every hour of every day with our colleagues in Halifax Regional Police (HRP), Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency and the municipality's Public Safety Office. I would be remiss in not paying respect to them, our first responder colleagues and municipal partners as well. To those employees serving within HRD, and our partners, thank you for your dedication and service. As we present this inaugural performance plan edition, and begin work on the 2024 mid-year report, all employees of your Halifax RCMP look forward to working together to build community safety throughout the Halifax region.

2023 was also noteworthy for the municipality's investment of four new police officer positions. These positions were deployed to the Watches Operations unit and support public safety throughout Cole Harbour, Tantallon and Lower Sackville and are a welcomed addition to the HRD team.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Christie

2024/25 Annual Performance Plan | 3

HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT TEAM

OFFICER IN CHARGE
Chief Superintendent
 Jeff Christie

ACTING SENIOR
OPERATIONS OFFICER
 Inspector
 Don Moser

MANAGEMENT AND
ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES
 Inspector
 Jeff Mitchell

OPERATIONS WEST
INSPECTOR
 Addie MacCallum

OPERATIONS EAST
INSPECTOR
 Cory Bushell

CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION INSPECTOR
 John Berger

RESPONSIBLE UNITS

- Human Resources
- Support Staff
- Professional Standards
- Finance
- Audit
- Exhibits
- Administrative Reporting
- Buildings and Vehicles
- Versadex

- Admin Tantallon
- Admin Sackville
- Admin Cole Harbour
- Watch 1 Operations
- Watch 2 Operations
- Watch 3 Operations
- Watch 4 Operations
- Police Dog Services
- Traffic Services

- North Central
- Musquodoboit Harbour
- Sheet Harbour
- Preston
- Community Action Response Team
- Street Crime Unit
- Court Section
- Records Sections
- Summary Offence Tickets Section
- Victim Services

- Human Resources
- Support Staff
- Professional Standards
- Finance
- Audit
- Exhibits
- Administrative Reporting
- Buildings and Vehicles
- Versadex

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 1

DELIVER STRONG CORE OPERATIONS

Inspector Addie MacCallum - Lower Sackville

DELIVERABLES

- deliver eight Comstat (operational briefings) meetings per year
- ensure stewardship of Watch resources and pressures
- lead effective proactive patrols and techniques for impaired drivers and road safety
- engage with local councillors to identify priorities



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Arriving in the summer of 2023, Insp. Addie MacCallum assumed his chair and began focusing on core operations and APP deliverables, including Comstat. HRD delivered five Computer Statistics (Comstat) meetings reviewing prolific offenders, crime trends, targets and significant events occurring in RCMP policing areas. Comstat meetings are the thread that binds and coordinates effective response to emerging issues and victimization across municipal RCMP areas. These meetings have strong participation from every part of the HRD police family including Community Action Response Team (CART), Traffic Services, Patrol and Criminal Investigative Division (CID). In addition, our partners including Department of National Defense, Correctional Service of Canada and any other agencies that may assist in investigations are in attendance. Comstat is a tool HRD has long used as it is renowned for its evidence-based approach.

Watch Commanders are senior NCOs, typically with decades of police experience. They manage human resources based on pressures within the municipality by conducting continuous risk assessments to ensure adequate public safety response is maintained. Watch resources are deployed in response to significant public safety events and dependent on community needs. A proper risk assessment ensures there is adequate coverage in all HRD-policed communities, 24 hours a day, to respond to community needs. With the support of Regional Council and the Board of Police Commissioners, we are boosting our capacity in the form of four Watch members and two Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) investigators to ensure public safety.

We continue to lead effective, proactive patrols and use techniques to prevent impaired driving and ensure road safety. Each Watch has a dedicated Traffic Services member, whose main focus is road safety and impaired driving. In addition to general duty, Watch members include one Corporal and four Constable positions. Members continue to focus on monthly road safety priorities, including distracted driving, cell phones, seatbelts, intersection safety, school bus safety, aggressive driving, ATV patrols, etc., through traffic stops and proactive check stops. HRD continues to track patrols and proactive activities from an evidence-based approach to determine efforts and effectiveness.

Management regularly engage with municipal councillors to identify and discuss areas of concern. As a result of this engagement, local area councillors play a significant role in helping shape the public safety response by HRD. Working closely with these municipal leaders enables HRD to provide a better police response to community issues given the large land mass that RCMP are responsible for.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2

CREATE AND SUSTAIN PARTNERSHIPS

Inspector Cory Bushell - Cole Harbour

DELIVERABLES

- support reconciliation with African Nova Scotians and other people of African descent
- pilot a Preston file review
- contribute to the municipality's homelessness strategy and response
- support the municipal Public Safety Office

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Insp. Cory Bushell has brought strong partnership and networking to his new role. Assuming his function in summer 2023, Cory prioritized connections with various stakeholders by engaging with community groups. HRD is committed to supporting reconciliation with African Nova Scotian (ANS) communities. To help accomplish this, the Community Program Officer (CPO) will realign under the CART. The CPO will build and strengthen relationships with African Nova Scotian communities, such as: Beechville; Lucasville; Hammonds Plains; the Cobequid Road area; Lake Loon; Cherry Brook; North Preston; and East Preston. All CART and Victim Services members are to receive the African Canadian Experience (ACE) training upon hiring.

HRD will pilot a Preston file review to ensure accountability, identify areas of concern and to establish greater transparency. A subject matter expert (SME) police liaison has been hired to assist in the coordination of this review. Community advocates will be identified to assist in the review process. Using a bias-free assessment tool, the committee will conduct a review by July 31, 2024, with the aim of creating and implementing recommendations by December 31, 2024. The goal of this file review is to look at a sample size of RCMP responses from a lens of bias-free policing and quality of service.

HRD will support the municipality's homelessness strategy. In November 2023, HRD staff travelled to Vancouver, BC, with municipal partners to learn best policing practices around homelessness. Following this trip, HRD has been participating in municipal partner collaboration and strategy meetings to identify priorities. A pilot project has begun whereby a CART officer has been assigned to the municipality's Public Safety Office, liaising with stakeholders to foster relationships with residents. This pilot project was in place until the end of March 2024.

HRD will continue to support the municipality's Public Safety Office and partners by maintaining regular contact with all team members. This important collaboration with key stakeholders and partners will ensure decisions are made in line with enhancing the public safety of our residents.



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 3 OVERSEE HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS AND PRIORITIES

Acting Senior Operations Officer Inspector Don Moser

DELIVERABLES

- lead a district wildfire review, including identified themes
- deliver a minimum of one Councillor Comstat a year
- create a district Emergency Operations Centre
- coordinate and strengthen service delivery between support units in Cole Harbour, including Traffic Services, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Street Crime Enforcement Unit (SCEU) and Community Policing
- support the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) on priority safety matters

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Insp. Moser joined the Halifax team bringing a wealth of experience to the RCMP specialized units province wide, as well as extensive municipal experience as a member of the Halifax Regional Police (HRP). He assumed the lead role in reviewing the May 2023 Tantallon wildfires from a policing perspective. Debriefs were held and feedback solicited from members of all four Watches and SCEU members who were involved in wildfire response, to identify gaps and best practices. To date, some external partners remain to be interviewed and the final report is pending.

Ensuring the municipality is aware of key crime trends is a priority for the RCMP. Accordingly, HRD hosted the annual Councillor Comstat meeting at the NS RCMP headquarters building in October 2023. A number of municipal councillors attended the full-day event which included a detailed analysis of crime trends in RCMP policed areas, a discussion on priorities and planning, a tour of RCMP headquarters and an informal meeting with numerous NS RCMP senior team members. Discussions also included an update on the Nova Scotia RCMP's upcoming apology to African Nova Scotians and all people of African descent for the historical use of street checks.

Insp. Moser will lead the creation of an HRD substantive Emergency Operations Centre capacity (EOC) to establish a detachment-level operations centre. This EOC would be activated during significant public safety events that are led, or supported by, HRD. The RCMP's EOC will be in support of the municipality's EOC and will act as a central police operational centre for HRD members and supporting units from throughout Nova Scotia.

HRD will support stronger operations by coordinating service delivery between support units in Cole Harbour, including Traffic Services, IPV team, SCEU and Community Policing. HRD will continue to work with the municipality's Public Safety Office to identify areas of enforcement in an effort to enhance public safety to the residents of the Halifax region.

As the Acting Superintendent Seniors Operations Officer, Insp. Moser will provide real-time support to the CAO on priority safety matters, such as significant events arising from natural disasters, criminal activity and others. HRD will liaise directly with the CAO's Office and her senior team to maintain continuous communication partnership effectively, to boost public safety outcomes in our region.



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 4 DELIVER AN EFFECTIVE SPECIALIZED SERVICE WITHIN HRM

Inspector John Berger - Plain Clothes

DELIVERABLES

- oversee operational planning for high-impact organized crime files and liaise with Criminal Operations
- develop and lead a systematic process for exhibit flow process and care within RCMP standards
- support CID with joint service and innovation, including the Sexual Assault Review Committee and trauma-informed practices
- support specialized police priorities such as cybercrime, human trafficking or unfolding for new crime trends victimizing our municipality

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Commissioned in 2023, Insp. John Berger represents the RCMP in the Joint Management Team and Integrated Specialized CID, which delivers specialized high-level policing functions with HRP colleagues. Several factors have a positive impact on operational efficiency, including ensuring members posted to CID have training skills and capacity to take on complex files. John has prioritized training to provide employees with the enhanced skills required to investigate the most serious crimes. Investing in training for employees not only better prepares them for the challenges but also demonstrates support for CID employees and commitment to employee satisfaction and morale.

In 2024, a reallocation of RCMP human resources within RCMP-HRP integrated CID will take place to increase capacity and strengthen oversight within the Sexual Assault Investigative Team (SAIT). This added capacity is necessary to support efforts in developing a Sexual Assault Review Committee within the municipality. The management team within CID has met with partner agencies and will implement a sexual assault file review plan. While the decision on which model will be adopted is not finalized RCMP continue to support a trauma-informed approach.

Due to the volume of exhibits, in 2022/23 a new stand-alone exhibit facility was created. In November 2023, HRD staff embarked on a multi-phase plan to review the exhibits procedures and move items to the new facility. This ensures better safeguarding of exhibits, as per established national guidelines. Nearing completion of phase one, the plan will also ensure employees are appropriately trained and provided clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for exhibit handling. A retired senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) will be brought back as a temporary public service employee to assist and provide oversight of the exhibit process.



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 5 BUILD INTERNAL CAPACITY AND STRENGTHEN WELLNESS

Inspector Jeff Mitchell - Management and Administration

DELIVERABLES

- deliver a minimum of two employee development initiatives per year
- champion wellness and related support for employees during significant events
- develop and maintain a tracking system for Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) matters and diary dates
- ensure effective stewardship of budget and human resources

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Insp. Mitchell joined the HRD team in October 2023 assuming the most complex portfolio within HRD. Jeff's focus is on employees, budget, business planning and capital assets. HRD held two significant Program Oriented Work Planning Meeting (POWPM) events in March and October 2023. Key topics included African Canadian reconciliation, municipal emergency measures, employee wellness, public service human resources, the critical incident program, municipal public safety, HRD's vision and many others. Keynote speakers included Deputy Commissioner Jodie Boudreau, Assistant Commissioner Dennis Daley and retired C/Supt Craig Gibson.

We strive to promote wellness for all employees. Wellness events were held at both POWPMs, with a particular focus on managing employee mental health, sleep patterns, burnout and post-traumatic stress disorder. Members of H Division wellness team presented on numerous topics associated to employee wellness. More importantly, employee wellness resources and supports were highlighted.

Senior management participates regularly in the biweekly BoPC meetings throughout the year. HRD is committed to working with our public safety partners, including HRP and the municipality's Public Safety Office, in an effort to promote public safety throughout the Halifax region. Senior managers submit reports on crime trends and operational matters and engage in meaningful discussion with the members of the BoPC. Members of the public and special interest groups also attend these meetings and are provided an opportunity to voice public safety concerns. Specific questions or tasks from the BoPC meetings are tracked on a weekly basis to ensure diary dates are met and deliverables are provided.

HRD is committed to ensuring effective stewardship of financial resources throughout all regions policed in the municipality. Expenditures are tracked by a dedicated finance team at Gottingen Street headquarters and regular reports are submitted to H Division RCMP headquarters and the Department of Justice. Funding requests are made in line with attention to current crime analysis, geographical needs, population growth and in an effort to promote and support the municipality's public safety strategy.



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 6 SUPPORT GOVERNANCE, THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND HRM ADMINISTRATION

Chief Superintendent Jeff Christie – Officer in Charge

DELIVERABLES

- regularly attend Police Board events
- support municipal examination of the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) report and options
- develop new reporting templates
- renew the RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment senior team footprint

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Chief Superintendent Christie joined the HRD team in December 2022 and is the senior RCMP officer providing strategic direction and accountability within the Halifax RCMP. Aligned with this role, he regularly attends BoPC meetings and supports the municipality's governance and policing needs.

The recently delivered Price Waterhouse Coopers report (PwC) was a comprehensive analysis of the current policing model within the Halifax region and identified possible opportunities for increased modernization. With the support of Special Advisor Mr. Harvey, a former member of the HRD team who retains an extensive background in planning, municipal governance and the original foundations, we developed various ideas and options which have been shared with the municipality for consideration. The RCMP recognizes public safety in an increasingly complex and demanding world requiring a collaborative approach with a spectrum of stakeholders.

The new HRD leadership team has placed an emphasis on business planning to communicate public safety priorities and objectives. This performance plan is our future forward commitment to policing in the Halifax region in a transparent and engaged manner, fully respecting the municipality's upcoming policing model decision.

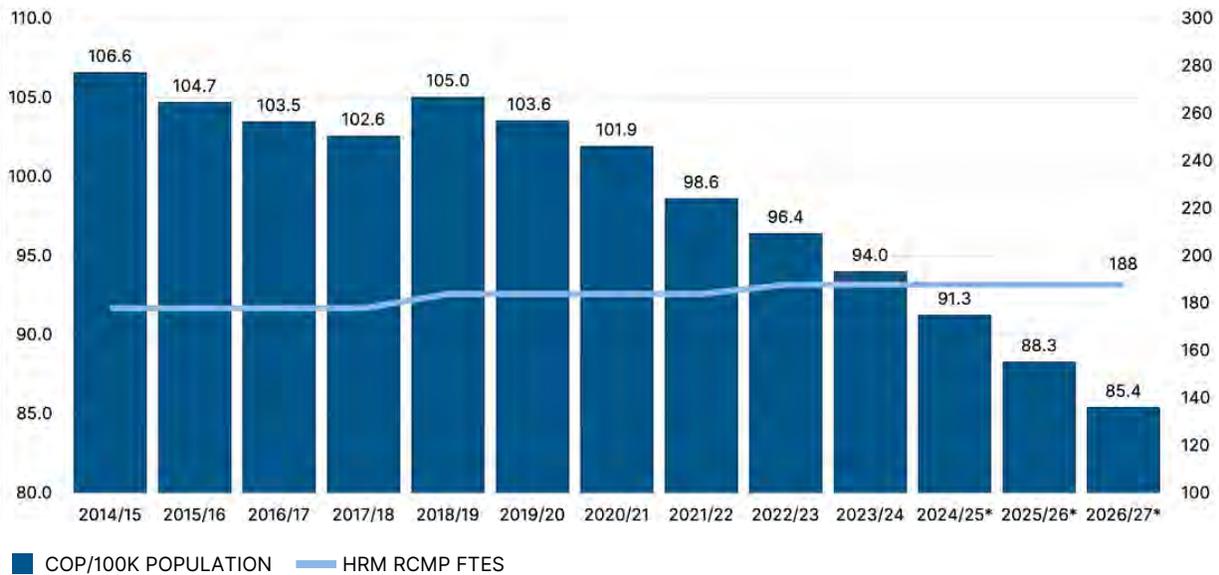
HRD management is committed to progress and emphasis on team development, renewing relationships and adding capacity to achieve a sustainable footprint for 2025 and beyond.



CALLS FOR SERVICE AND GENERAL OCCURRENCE STATISTICS

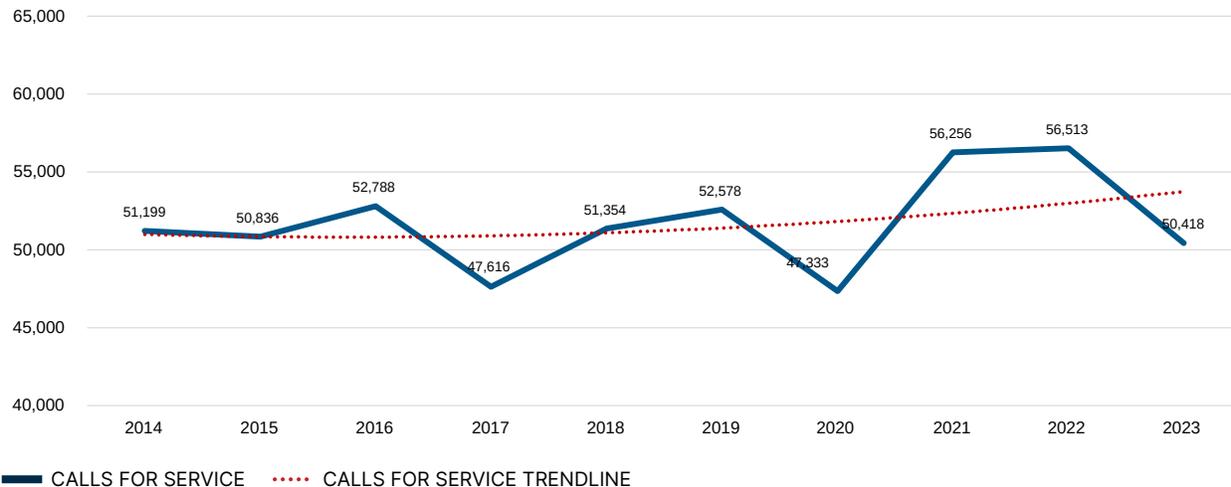
As shown in the chart below, the estimated population being policed by Halifax Regional Detachment has increased 20 per cent between 2014/15 and 2023/2024. HRD's police officer Full Time Employees (FTEs) increased by 6 per cent, resulting in a 12 per cent decrease in their Cop-to-Pop ratio, from 106.6 to 94.0. Assuming an average annual population increase of 3.2 per cent, if HRD's FTEs were to remain at 188 through to and including 2026/27, the Cop-to-Pop ratio would drop to 85.4 police per 100,000 population, a decrease of 20 per cent from 106.6 in 2014/2015. HRD is appreciative of the municipality's investment of four new police officer positions in 2023.

HRM RCMP FTES PER 100K POPULATION ("COP TO POP"), 2014/15 TO 2026/27, WITH FTES FROZEN AT 188



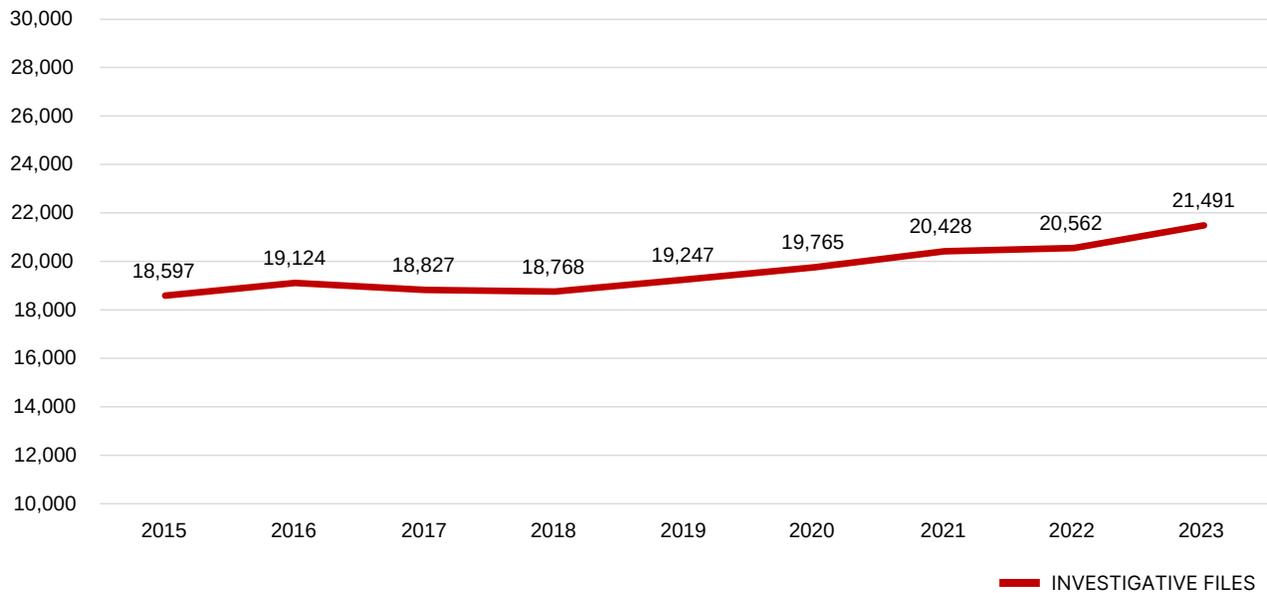
Calls for Service show cyclical changes over the 10-year period with a decrease in 2023; however, the overall call volume continues to increase.

CALLS FOR SERVICE JANUARY 1ST, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2023



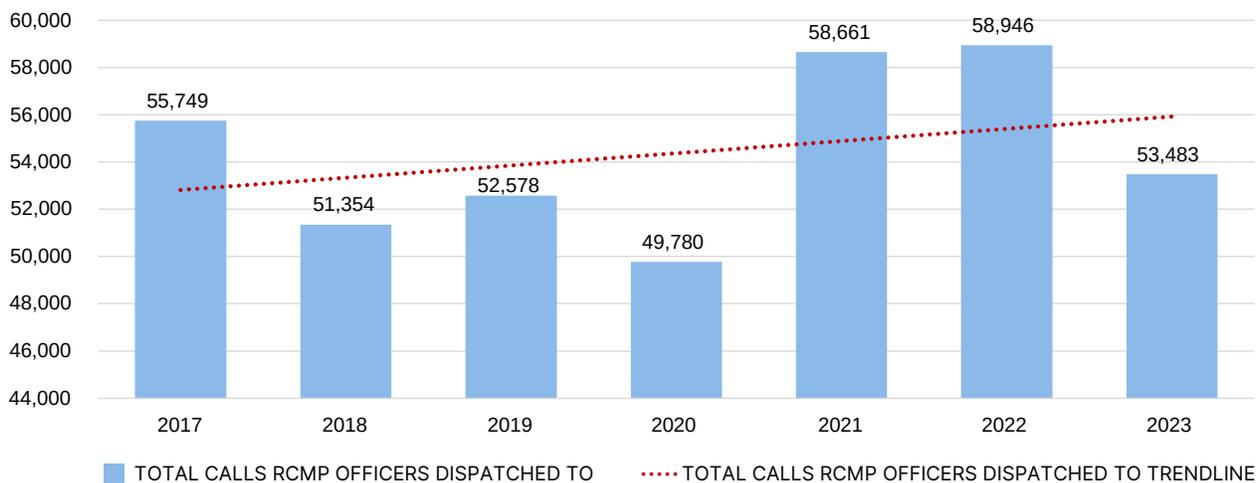
When a Call for Service, either from Integrated Emergency Services (IES) dispatch or during an officer initiated proactive activity, requires further investigation or documentation, a file is created. Analysis reveals an upward trend. Factoring in the increasing number of Priority 1 calls, which often requires a multiple-unit response, as well as the increasing amount of time spent on each call, results in a decreased availability of police resources.

**INVESTIGATED FILES
JANUARY 1ST, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2023**



From 2017 to 2023, on average, Halifax Regional Detachment officers were dispatched to 17 per cent of calls received by Integrated Emergency Services (IES). Data as depicted show an increasing trendline. *Note: IES dispatches to HRD, HRP, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency and refers calls to Emergency Health Services (EHS).*

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS RCMP OFFICERS DISPATCHED TO
JANUARY 1ST, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2023**



CRIME AND TRAFFIC STATISTICS

THE TABLE BELOW REFLECTS COMMON OFFENCE TYPE STATISTICS FOR HRD:

OCCURRENCE TYPE	2021	2022	2023	% CHANGE 2022-2023
Homicide	2	2	2	0.00%
Attempted Murder	8	5	4	-20.00%
Robbery	15	27	31	14.81%
High Risk Domestic Violence	173	214	235	9.81%
Sexual Assaults	89	109	101	-7.34%
Total Assaults	811	921	925	0.43%
Mental Health Occurrences	1,083	1,134	1,285	13.32%
Break & Enter Residence	102	95	91	-4.21%
Break & Enter Business	57	71	85	19.72%
Break & Enter Other	53	42	48	14.29%
Total Break & Enter	212	208	224	7.69%
Theft Motor Vehicle	103	127	126	-0.79%
Theft > 5000	45	63	76	20.63%
Theft < 5000	1,183	1,533	1,478	-3.59%
Frauds	484	510	576	12.94%
Offensive Weapons	43	71	93	30.99%

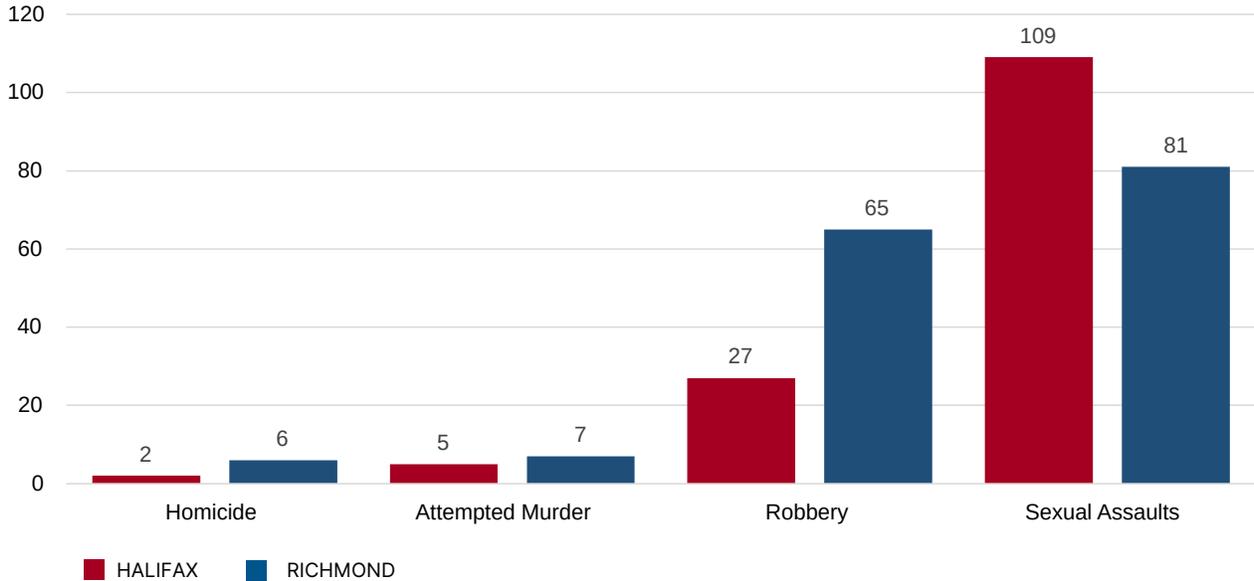
Firearm Seizures	162	178	262	47.19%
Driving Complaints	4,411	4,282	3,907	-8.76%
Speeding Tickets	1,746	1,828	1,199	-34.41%
Cell Phone Tickets	172	349	166	-52.44%
Aggressive Driving Tickets	1,243	1,003	534	-46.76%
Total Tickets	5,437	5,364	4,176	-22.15%
Impaired Driving Suspension	216	317	325	2.52%
Impaired Driving Charge	299	292	276	-5.48%
Criminal Code Traffic Violations	411	322	401	24.53%
Traffic Collision Fatalities	9	7	4	-42.86%
Traffic Collision Injuries	262	291	292	0.34%
Total Traffic Collisions	1,686	1,743	1,921	10.21%

Notes: The chart above excludes all unfounded files reported, meaning through police investigation it was determined that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted. Sexual Assaults category is specific to sexual assaults and excludes all other sexual offences. Mental Health Occurrences is related to the total number of forms attached to files (IPTA and EDP). And Driving Complaints include ATV and Impaired Driving Complaints. Speeding Tickets include stunting. Aggressive Driving includes improper passing, fail to yield, following too closely, etc.

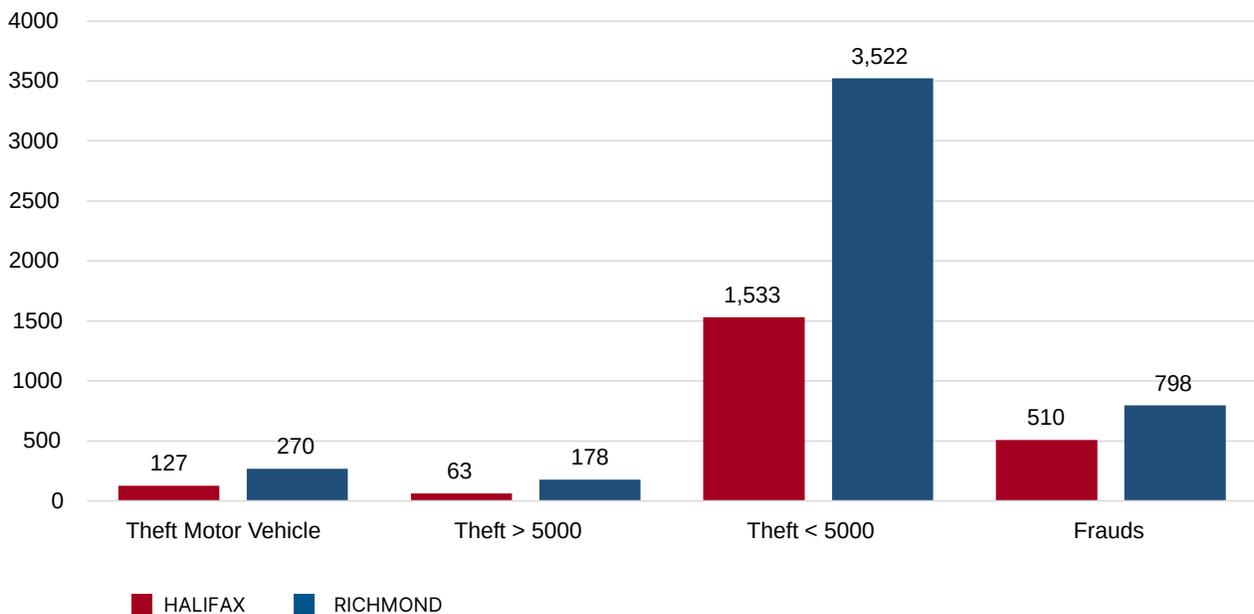
CRIME STATISTICS COMPARISON

In 2022, RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment served a population size of 188,864 and Richmond, British Columbia RCMP served a similar population of 209,900.

2022 PERSONS CRIMES HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT & RCMP RICHMOND, BC



2022 PROPERTY CRIMES HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT & RCMP RICHMOND, BC



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Note: In future editions of this document, HRD will rotate different statistics for illustrative purposes.



OUR STORY: HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a complex challenge that requires a compassionate and multi-faceted approach. HRD is committed to supporting the municipality and other partners in their approach. The municipality currently estimates the number of people experiencing homelessness within our communities will double by summer 2024.

HRD is committed to promoting public safety in collaboration with partners. This includes actively engaging with the community, building positive relationships with community members, local organizations and service providers, resulting in a safer environment for everyone. Open and ongoing communication is crucial in understanding and addressing the evolving needs of the community and those experiencing homelessness.

To that end, HRD embedded one of our CART police officers within the municipal team working to support the unhoused within our municipality. This 60-day deployment provided key municipal decision makers with the officer's on-the-ground perspective of challenges faced by the encampment residents, local businesses, local community and the police as it relates to the Lower Sackville encampment. This enhanced approach opened a key communication channel between the vulnerable and those with the power to affect change.

HRD is also mindful that our unhoused population is vulnerable to predators. In early January 2024, investigators charged a man for suspected criminal activity at the public property at Cobequid Road.

Homelessness is a new demand on police services within HRD. We recognize the importance of fostering a sense of belonging for everyone and providing support to those in need. Our front-line police officers, and particularly the members of CART, are committed to regular, deliberate and positive engagement with those most vulnerable.

