

# CRIME STATISTICS PROPOSAL

Modernizing how HRP and RCMP Report to the Board

# Purpose of the Board

## Functions of board, Section 55, Police Act, Chapter 31 of the Acts of 2004

55 (1) The function of a board 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, but the board shall not exercise jurisdiction relating to
  - *(c) complaints, discipline or personnel conduct except in respect of the chief officer of the municipal police department;*
  - *(d) a specific prosecution or investigation; or*
  - *(e) the actual day-to-day direction of the police department.*
- (2) With the approval of the Minister, the council, by by-law, may prescribe
  - *(a) the additional or more specific roles and responsibilities of a board; and*
  - *(b) the rules and regulations governing proceedings of a board, and the board has sole jurisdiction over the matters so delegated to it.*

# Purpose of the Board

- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a board shall
  - *(a) determine, in consultation with the chief officer, priorities, objectives and goals respecting police services in the community;*
  - *(b) ensure the chief officer establishes programs and strategies to implement the priorities, objectives and goals respecting police services; 28 police 2004, c. 31  
NOVEMBER 20, 2014*
  - *(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;*
  - *(g) review with the chief officer information provided by the chief officer respecting complaints and internal discipline;*
  - *(h) ensure a strategic plan and business plan is in place; and*
  - *(i) ensure the department is managed by the chief officer according to best practices and operates effectively and efficiently*

# Facts About Crime Statistics

- Policing statistics have limited value due to many factors and their value is increasingly limited
- Monthly comparison does not allow enough time to identify trends
- Trends in statistics can be influenced by multiple factors (e.g., reporting rates)
- They can only show one measure (e.g., drug busts may be down but the volume of drugs recovered may have increased)
- The nature of policing has evolved and much of the work being done is not captured in statistics (e.g., non-crime calls)
- How do we report on what is important to the functions of the board and of interest due to changes in the policing environment
- When the statistics are made public, it may create a false impression of crime in HRM

# Crime/Professional Standards Statistics and the Board

- Statistics have been presented to the board in many ways in the past, starting before integration
- Dashboard with chart and details of community engagement activities undertaken by HRP and RCMP
- Monthly reporting on professional standards from HRP
- Perception that they are being presented for information only
  - *What concrete actions are undertaken as a result?*
- Is the community engagement piece included in the dashboard as a public relations exercise?
- As the nature of policing has changed and evolved, it is time to evolve the reporting as well
- Dashboard information is public information, which impacts the content
- It is important for HRP and RCMP to report together so the board can see the complete picture of policing in HRM
- Quarterly crime statistics are reported to the board and are made public so often of interest to the media
  - *Is there a specific requirement for this?*

# Proposal for Modernization

- Reporting from RCMP and HRP should focus on current activities and be relevant to the areas the board has governance over and responsibility for
- Based on this, the items for consideration are as follows:
  - *RCMP and HRP transition away from monthly crime statistic and professional standards reporting*
  - *Evaluate the reasons and value of quarterly crime statistics reporting for the Board and for the media*
  - *Chief's Report from HRP focus on the Strategic and Business Plan updates and progress, and aligns with reporting on business plan deliverables*
  - *Information Report from RCMP focus on Annual Performance Plan updates and progress*
  - *Board members will determine the monthly topics of interest for HRP and RCMP to present*
  - *Allow time for monthly reporting on emerging areas/topics (e.g., drug audit) as required and identified by the board*

# Additional Considerations

- Resources required to produce statistics are considerable, so we want to ensure we are getting value for the work being done
- Resources can be redirected to more impactful areas, including policy management
- Board members should be directing the information that they receive from HRP and RCMP
- Proposal presented are for discussion and consideration by the board
- Once agreement is reached, plan for any changes would be developed and approved by the board

# DISCUSSION

