



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DRAFT MINUTES June 4, 2025

PRESENT: Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair
Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar

REGRETS: Commissioner Yemi Akindoju

STAFF: Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety
Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Board of Police Commissioners at a future meeting.

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 21, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the minutes of May 21, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality, further to section 42(1)(d) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners* approve the extension of the time allotted for the presentation in Item 8.3.1 Restructuring Crisis Response Models Into Civilian-led Teams – Megan Rowe from five to ten minutes.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 8.3.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Restructuring Crisis Response Models Into Civilian-led Teams – Megan Rowe

The following was before the Board:

- Request for presentation dated April 2, 2025
- Correspondence from Megan Rowe
- Presentation dated June 4, 2025

Megan Rowe, Same Day Counsellor, Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

10.1 HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE/ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT CHIEF UPDATES

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment spoke to recent public town hall meeting in Beechville Lakeside Timberlea, a recent break and enter at the Maritime Business College and cyber attacks targeting senior citizens. Duff responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

Deputy Chief Dean Simmonds, Halifax Regional Police (HRP) spoke to HRP's response to recent major incidents and ongoing investigations, distracted driving awareness and noted the month of June was Pride Month. Simmonds responded to questions of clarification from the Board regarding the role of HRP's Victim Services Unit following a recent homicide, the number of firearms seized over the past year, the ongoing investigation of a recent incident at Mount Saint Vincent University and HRP's approach to the issue of distracted driving.

Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety spoke to the services provided by Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Mobilization Team.

10.2 STAFF

10.2.1 RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment Intimate Partner Violence Program Overview – Presentation

The following was before the Board:

- Presentation dated June 4, 2025

Corporal Jessica Welke, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment gave a presentation.

Welke and Superintendent Jeff Mitchell, Management & Administration Services Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.2.2 RCMP Federal Policing Program Overview – Presentation

The following was before the Board:

- Presentation dated June 4, 2025

Superintendent Dave Chubbs, H Division Federal Policing Officer gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.2.3 Formal Adoption of BoPC Policy on Matters of Immediate Strategic Significance (Critical Point)

The following was before the Board:

- Board of Police Commissioners report dated May 29, 2025 with attached staff report dated April 29, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality adopt the policy entitled Matters of Immediate Strategic Significance (Critical Point), for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated April 29, 2025.

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist and Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.4 Formal Adoption of BoPC Policy on Armoured Rescue Vehicle

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated May 29, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality adopt the policy entitled Armoured Rescue Vehicle, for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 29, 2025.

Commissioner O'Malley stepped down from the Chair and Commissioner Kent assumed the Chair.

Commissioner O'Malley proposed that the motion be amended after "May 29, 2025" to add:

"with the following changes to the policy:

1. Include this definition for Critical Incident Commander (CIC) in section 4:

Critical Incident Commander (CIC) means an HRP sworn officer who has successfully completed the Canadian Police College's Critical Incident Commanders Level II course and maintains valid accreditation. The CIC's role is to command, assess, coordinate, and manage critical incident program resources in response to a Critical Incident.

2. Change section 6.4 to read as follows:

The chief officer shall ensure that the operational deployment of the ARV requires the approval and on scene oversight of a qualified Critical Incident Commander. Any request for deployment shall be recorded and include the date, time, location, and reason for the deployment.

3. Include new section 6.13 to read as follows:

The Chief Officer will make available a copy of the Chief's relevant policy document to the Chair, as well as any updates or revisions to that policy, as they become officially released or issued."

As provided for in section 50 (2) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality adopt the policy entitled Armoured Rescue Vehicle, for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 29, 2025, with the following changes to the policy:

1. Include this definition for Critical Incident Commander (CIC) in section 4:

Critical Incident Commander (CIC) means an HRP sworn officer who has successfully completed the Canadian Police College's Critical Incident Commanders Level II course and maintains valid accreditation. The CIC's role is to command, assess, coordinate, and manage critical incident program resources in response to a Critical Incident.

2. Change section 6.4 to read as follows:

The chief officer shall ensure that the operational deployment of the ARV requires the approval and on scene oversight of a qualified Critical Incident Commander. Any request for deployment shall be recorded and include the date, time, location, and reason for the deployment.

3. Include new section 6.13 to read as follows:

The Chief Officer will make available a copy of the Chief's relevant policy document to the Chair, as well as any updates or revisions to that policy, as they become officially released or issued.

Commissioner O'Malley resumed the Chair.

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist, Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety, Deputy Chief Dean Simmonds, Halifax Regional Police and Superintendent Greg Robertson, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2.5 Board of Police Commissioners Policy on Policing Encampments

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated May 27, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Mancini

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy Policing Encampments for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 27, 2025.

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist, Bill Moore, Commissioner of Public Safety and Deputy Chief Dean Simmonds, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 MEMBERS OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

10.3.1 Commissioner Hinch - Staff Report for Use of Emergency Alerts

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Board of Police Commissioners at a future meeting.

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The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Councillor Hinch

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT That the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality direct the Chief Officer of the Halifax Regional Police and recommend that the Officer in Charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment prepare staff reports outlining their policies governing the use of Emergency Public Alerts, detailing the number and nature of incidents for which such alerts were issued in the past 24 months, and the number and general nature of incidents in the past 24 months where an alert could have been issued in keeping with the governing policies, but was not.

That the staff reports could be in camera if required to accommodate any operational security concerns.

Deputy Chief Dean Simmonds, Halifax Regional Police and Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

12.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – May 21, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of May 21, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 3, 2025

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant