



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS for the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DRAFT MINUTES December 3, 2025

PRESENT:

Commissioner Greg O'Malley, Chair
Commissioner Becky Kent, Vice Chair
Commissioner Tony Mancini
Commissioner Virginia Hinch
Commissioner Yemi Akindoju
Commissioner Vincent Beswick-Escanlar
Commissioner Brian Carter

STAFF:

Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant
Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants

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 1:12 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

Commissioners noted special community announcements and acknowledgements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 12, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Hinch, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the minutes of November 12, 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

As provided for in section 10 (5) of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures for Meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners*, Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar requested that Information Item 2, Memorandum from the Commissioner of Public Safety dated September 17, 2025 re: Annual report on HRM police services targeted recruitment strategies for underrepresented groups REVISED, be brought forward at the next Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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 – November 12, 2025

7.1 Cybercrime Presentation

The following was before the Board:

- Staff presentation dated December 3, 2025

Sean Greenough, Halifax Regional Police Criminal Investigative Division and Constable Karren Jensen, Royal Canadian Mounted Police H Division Cyber Crime Unit gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

7.2 Commissioner Kent - Update on Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Fall 2025 Conference

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**Board of Police Commissioners
Draft Minutes
December 3, 2025**

Commissioner Kent provided an update on the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Fall 2025 Conference. Kent and Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

7.3 Commissioner Kent - Halifax Board of Police Commissioners - Police Governance Excellence Award

The following was before the Board:

- Request for Consideration form from Commissioner Kent

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Waive section 15 of Administrative Policy One, requiring a staff report from the Chief of Police or Policy Advisor to the Board;**
- 2. Approve the creation of the “Halifax Board of Police Commissioners – Police Governance Excellence Award,” as outlined in the accompanying proposal;**
- 3. Direct the Chair of the Board to establish a subcommittee to oversee the development, implementation, and administration of the annual nomination, evaluation, and presentation process for the award beginning in the next calendar year; and**
- 4. Request that HRM Corporate Communications collaborate with the Board to develop a communications plan to promote the award and publicly recognize recipients.**

Martin Ward, K.C., General Counsel responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

As provided for in section 81 of Administrative Policy One, *Respecting the Procedures for Meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Waive section 15 of Administrative Policy One, requiring a staff report from the Chief of Police or Policy Advisor to the Board;**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Commissioner Kent, seconded by Commissioner Hinch

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 2. Approve the creation of the “Halifax Board of Police Commissioners – Police Governance Excellence Award,” as outlined in the accompanying proposal;**
- 3. Direct the Chair of the Board to establish a subcommittee to oversee the development, implementation, and administration of the annual nomination, evaluation, and presentation process for the award beginning in the next calendar year; and**
- 4. Request that HRM Corporate Communications collaborate with the Board to develop a communications plan to promote the award and publicly recognize recipients.**

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**Board of Police Commissioners
Draft Minutes
December 3, 2025**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence – None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentations – None

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FOWRAD – NONE

10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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

Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police spoke to key operational updates including major investigations, charges, recruitment, employee recognition, impaired driving prevention and community events.

Chief Superintendent John Duff, Officer in Charge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment spoke to key operational updates, including community engagement sessions, major investigations, seizures, charges and impaired driving prevention.

Chief MacLean and Chief Superintendent Duff responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.2 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Rachel Boehm, Executive Director of Community Safety spoke to the Care Team pilot program and upcoming learning sessions on youth safety, youth housing and homelessness, cyber bullying, and supportive living options. Boehm responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.3 STAFF

10.3.1 Annual report on HRP actions to enhance psychological safety and trauma supports Information Report

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated October 20, 2025
- Staff presentation dated December 3, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Mancini, seconded by Commissioner Kent

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Municipality receive the staff report dated October 20, 2025, and an accompanying staff presentation, as information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Superintendent Stephanie Johnson, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation. Superintendent Johnson, Chief Don MacLean, Halifax Regional Police and Britt Wilson, Executive Director of Human Resources responded to questions of clarification from the Board.

10.3.2 Board of Police Commissioners Policy on Use of Force

The following was before the Board:

- Staff report dated November 20, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Beswick-Escanlar, seconded by Commissioner Carter

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**Board of Police Commissioners
Draft Minutes
December 3, 2025**

THAT the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality:

- 1. Adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Use of Force for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 20, 2025; and**
- 2. Request a presentation from Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment detailing what data is collected when a use of force incident occurs, how that data informs policy and standard operating procedures, and what organizations the data is shared with and for what purpose.**

Josh Bates, Policing Policy Strategist spoke to the Board of Police Commissioners Policy on Use of Force and responded to questions of clarification.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. MOTIONS – NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

13. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

14. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 14, 2026

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Krista Vining
Team Lead, Legislative Assistants