

Requesting a Community Policing Office Fall River

Over the past four years I have listened to our communities from Grand Lake to Fall River to Waverley, speak about speeding, traffic concerns and the lack of an RCMP presence. The BOPC has approved this request to come to Regional Council at budget deliberations. If you have any comments in support or otherwise please do email me at deaglec@halifax.ca and if you so choose you may also send any comments to the clerks office at clerks@halifax.ca

From the RCMP Report to the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC)

Request

RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment (HRD) requests support to establish a community policing office in the community of Fall River, requiring six (6) FTE positions to staff.

Background / Context

According to Halifax Partnership's Halifax Index 2024, the population in HRM grew 4.1% between 2022- 2023 with almost 80% of the growth derived from international migration ranking Halifax 4th in population growth in Canada when compared with other major cities. HRM is growing rapidly with an expected increase in population from approximately 477k in 2023 to 568k by 2033.

The Fall River policing area is expected to grow approximately 31% by 2033 with a number of developments envisioned, including single family dwellings and townhome/condo units, as well as a long-term care facility; there is also the potential opportunity for the rezoning of the Aerotech Business Park to provide economic development for warehousing, logistics, and distribution businesses. These initiatives are in the planning stages but would increase traffic given public transit is not available at this time. There are concerns the development planning is outpacing school and road infrastructure.

A community policing office in Fall River is an option to enhance service, enhance visibility and respond to community needs to ensure residents and community businesses have an integrated and modern public safety approach. This also reflects a growing population and predicted external service delivery needs. The community policing office would provide police presence, access, and the ability to collaborate and problem-solve on issues of concern that are related to public safety in the area. The HRD's intended outcome is to build trust and increase the community's confidence in their police, giving greater local control and flexibility to address concerns.

Optimistically, it would be possible to co-locate with another service provider and/or leverage existing or planned HRM infrastructure that is visible and centrally situated,

establishing the RCMP HRD and community as a vital centre of collaboration and integration within the HRM public safety ecosystem.

The community policing office would serve as the hub for six (6) additional resources consisting of 1 supervisor and 5 constables, with constables assigned to a watch and performing core policing duties. Table X indicates the ten most prevalent types of calls for service received by HRD within the Fall River area.

Given that the Lower Sackville Office is located a distance from Fall River, this location will provide better alignment between strategic and operational outcomes in the community as the residents would have direct input into the development of crime prevention programs and initiatives applicable to their neighbourhood. The location will positively increase the profile of policing services within the community and enable better response, while offering space for the RCMP and community members to collaborate, problem-solve and develop proactive strategies to manage local public safety issues and concerns.

Table 7

Fall River Top 10 Calls for Service January 1st, 2024 to July 31st, 2024	
Call Type	Calls for Service
Traffic Stop	848
Proactive Assignment	722
Driving Complaint	349
Assist Other Agency	313
Assist Citizen	210
MVC- Property Damage	185
Airport Alarm- Pre-Board	171
False Alarm- Commercial	99
Suspicious Person	85
False Alarm- Residential	54

Table 8

