

Dalhousie University – Halifax Regional Municipality Task Force On Response Planning for Unsanctioned Street Gatherings

Overview

The Dalhousie University – Halifax Regional Municipality Task Force on response planning for unsanctioned street gatherings (Task Force) is designed to facilitate collaboration and coordinated planning from key stakeholders involved in proactive initiatives, and immediate response and safety initiatives to mitigate the impacts of unsanctioned street gatherings in the Halifax South end. The Task force represents one of a range of important actions taken in partnership of stakeholders involved in addressing this complex challenge, informed by a broader [Collective Impact Planning Process](#) underway to identify both short- and long-term strategies to address unsanctioned street gatherings.

Objectives

The Task Force will aim to:

- Plan and implement both a coordinated communication and education campaign to increase awareness in our community of consequences of hosting or participating in an unsanctioned gathering, as well as immediate, timely response communications;
- Further foster a coordinated approach related to Dal Security and police response (when warranted) to respond to immediate safety, enforcement, and community health needs during anticipated unsanctioned street gatherings;
- Identify appropriate response and accountability mechanisms across our respective areas of jurisdiction to deter hosting or attending gatherings, address neighbourhood infrastructure that is conducive to these events, and encourage all stakeholders to be involved in mitigating this challenge.

Task Force Structure

The Task Force will consist of representatives from key operational stakeholders and will be co- led by representatives from Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Regional Police and Dalhousie University. The Task Force may initiate ad-hoc or standing working groups including other members of our respective teams to collaborate on and coordinate key initiatives, for example, but not limited to:

- Education and Communications: Plan coordinated communications where warranted, awareness, door knocking, and other initiatives;
- Security and Public Safety Response: Foster a coordinated communications approach related to events and initiatives involving joint response during and in response to anticipated unsanctioned street gatherings, including establishing formal communication channels between operations centres. Each partner will undertake their own operational planning for areas within their responsibility (e.g. HRP with enforcement planning and police response; Dal with planning events on campus);

- Others, as warranted.

Membership

Task Force

Halifax Regional Municipality Managing Director, Government Relations and External Affairs on behalf of the CAO (co-chair) – Paul Johnston (Conor O’Dea, acting)

Dalhousie Vice-Provost Student Affairs on behalf of the President (co-chair) – Dr. Rick Ezekiel

Halifax Regional Police Superintendent of Police Patrol on behalf of the Chief (co-chair) – Supt Derrick Boyd

Emergency Health Services Executive Director, Provincial Operations – Charbel Daniel

Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Assistant Chiefs – Scott Ramey and Brad Connor

Dalhousie Director Government Relations – Laura Hynes Jenkins

Chair of Education and Communications working group – Melissa MacKay

Community members – Kristian Curran and Caitlin Lees

Education and Communications Working Group

Halifax Regional Municipality Corporate Communications

Halifax Regional Police Public Information Office

Dalhousie Communications, Marketing & Creative Services

Dalhousie Student Affairs (inaugural chair)

Dalhousie Community Engagement

Note: working group chair will operate on a rotating basis and will be reviewed annually.

Ad-hoc Security and Public Safety Collaborative Response Group

In the lead up to anticipated events, the Task Force will stand up an ad-hoc Joint Response Coordination group who will collaborate in the immediate lead up, during and following an event to support a collaborative response. The group will be called by the Task force co-chairs and will utilize a joint-response structure. It will invite participation from:

Halifax Regional Police Patrol and Public Information Office

Dalhousie Security Services and Communications, Marketing & Creative Services

Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency

Emergency Health Services

Halifax Transit

Others, as needed

Meeting Frequency and Structure

The Task Force will aim to meet four (4) times per year to develop high-level strategies and initiatives to address forthcoming unsanctioned street gatherings. Frequency can be adjusted as required.

Standing working groups will meet in between taskforce meetings to plan strategies identified by the Task Force, and/or recommendations for the Task Force.

Ad-hoc groups will meet as needed to support security and public safety response around defined events.