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Mayor plans to address recent gun violence with police

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Mayor Peter Kelly says he'll be contacting both of HRM's police forces' top cops today to discuss the recent spate of gun violence.

Kelly told Metro yesterday he plans to speak with Halifax Regional Police Chief Frank Beazley and Halifax RCMP Supt. Darrell Beaton at some point today about the forces' investigation into six shootings in the region over the past two weeks.

"(The shootings) are certainly of concern," Kelly said. "I will be reaching both (Beazley and Beaton) and having discussions as to what some of the concerns seem to be and what we can do collectively to address these areas of concern."

Two more shootings in Uniacke Square last weekend brought HRM's two-week shooting total to six since March 22. Just after 6:30 p.m. on Friday, gunfire was heard near Uniacke Street. Two men in their 20s arrived at QEII Health Sciences Centre with serious gun shot wounds.

Around 10 p.m. the following night, shots were fired near Olympic Court and Sunrise Walk. HRP arrested several people, all later released, and no victims were found.

Police say the two shootings are related and they have a strong idea on suspects, but there have been no arrests.

There have also been no arrests in the four other recent shootings, including two in North Preston, one in Cherry Brook and one in Spryfield.

Kelly said HRM will try to find a solution for this recent gunfire spree through working with the affected communities, but wouldn't comment on any specifics until he talks with Beazley and Beaton.

"For us, it's trying to work with the communities to find a way to alleviate this use (of guns)," Kelly said. "The federal government, the province and the municipality, in concert with the police forces, need to find other avenues of opportunity to address and reduce the use of guns."

for Metro Halifax



Peter Kelly