


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Council to receive violence report

By AMY PUGSLEY FRASER City Hall Reporter

Regional councillors will roll up their sleeves this week to deal with dozens of recommendations in a report on city violence.

Dalhousie University criminologist Don Clairmont will table his 650-page report in a Tuesday morning committee session at Halifax city hall.

The Atlantic Institute of Criminology director spent 1,500 hours compiling the \$68,000 report, which includes 64 recommendations.

Much of the information comes from last year's roundtable on violence, as well as a series of community meetings, stakeholder discussions, a 1,200-person phone poll and 2,350 written surveys.

In his report, released earlier this year, Mr. Clairmont recommends developing a full-time public safety co-ordinator, improving race relations and broadening the responsibilities of Halifax's police forces as first steps to curbing violent crime.

Mayor Peter Kelly, who initiated the roundtable, said Sunday he's hopeful that the document will be forwarded to regional police and other city departments for implementation. The strategy must include the provincial and federal governments because the report's recommendations are broad, he said.

"Since the report has been received, it's been in various stages of discussion with . . . departments. But nothing has been drawn up yet."

No money was set aside in city hall's 2008-09 budget to enact the report's recommendations.

However, the city did add 24 new officers for north-end and east-end Dartmouth as well as the Fairview and Spryfield areas of Halifax. The province has also approved 14 new RCMP officers for the municipality.

Mr. Clairmont recommends hiring a full-time public safety co-ordinator who will report to the mayor. Mr. Clairmont said the city should also appoint a safety advisory committee made up of councillors, police and representatives from minority and volunteer organizations.

He also suggested that Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP establish community safety officers in high-crime communities.

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