

Development of the Halifax Regional Municipality Public Safety Strategy

External Consultation: Strategy Validation

November 2022

DAVIS PIER

Today's Goals

How did we get here?

What do we plan to do?

How does the strategy shape the future?

What feedback do you have?

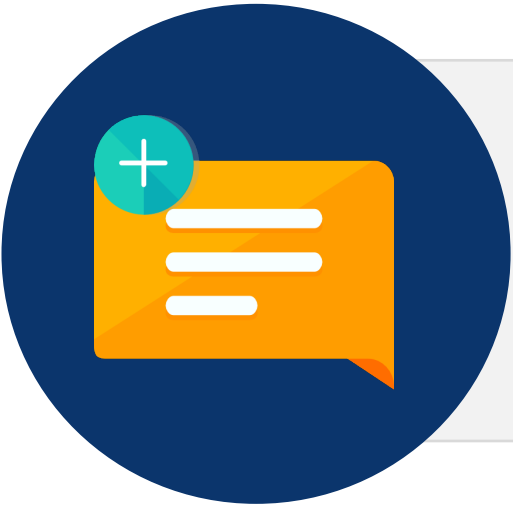
Introduction

- This work began with the goal of developing a new Public Safety Strategy
- We want to undertake actions that create meaningful change
- We want to **respond to the recent calls for alternative responses** and move towards community-led public safety



Defining Public Safety

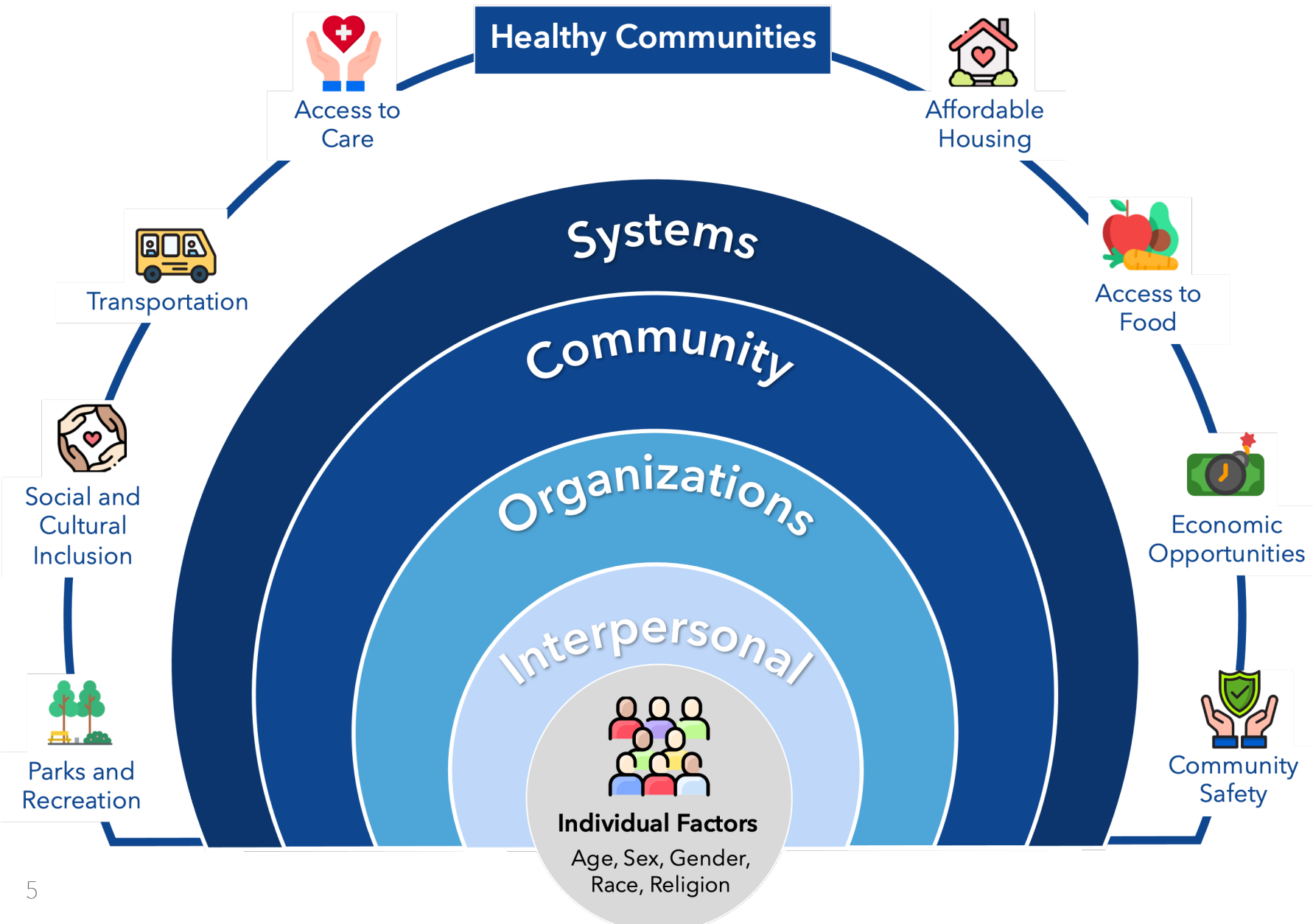
For the purpose of this strategy, we are defining Public Safety as:



Reducing risks and enhancing protective factors for individuals and communities and creating effective responses to harms where they occur.

Enhancing protective factors: Services and programs that lead to more resilient communities and individuals (e.g., youth programming, neighbourhood planning, community well-being, etc.)

Community-Led Public Safety Ecosystem



Community-Led Public Safety lives within a larger ecosystem

Healthy and safe communities require access to a number of supports across a robust, multi-sector public safety ecosystem

This Strategy will focus on the Public Safety Offices role in the ecosystem – while recognizing the multiple players involved in building healthy and safe communities

Our Approach



Review

Review existing reports, frameworks & recommendations

Step 1



Draft Strategy

Refine based on priorities and develop a draft Strategy

Step 2



Consultations

Consult with municipal business units, police, Councillors, public, and stakeholders

Step 3



Approval

Seek approval from Regional Council on final draft and budget

Step 4

Starting With Document Review

Why did we begin with what we heard?

- Wanted to start by listening
- Over 3,000 individuals and over 40 organizations were consulted for these reports
- Community and stakeholder voices had been heard and represented
- Consultations identified where efforts should be focused
- Our goal was to build concrete actions from the consistently identified issues

Report Examples

- Defunding The Police: Defining the Way Forward for HRM
- Halifax, Nova Scotia: Street Checks Report (Wortley Report)
- Anti-Black and Anti-Asian Racism Consultation Report
- Drug and Alcohol Strategy Consultations
- Safe Spaces for Women Consultation Report
- And over 2 dozen others

Prioritizing Recommendations

To support the development of the strategy, the recommendations that were identified across the first stage of work was prioritized across four key areas



Actionable

Prioritizing initiatives that are in the span of control of the public safety office and Halifax Regional Municipality



Equitable

Developing initiatives that allow for equitable access to programs, including considering class, race, socio-economic status, geography, culture, etc.



Intersectional

Recognizing how factors such as gender, socio-economic status, and race can become compounding factors that impact how programs and services are experienced



Sustainable

Prioritizing programs and services that can create long-term impacts for the community and the goal of building community led public safety

Strategic Actions and Impacts

Strategic Priorities



PRIORITIES

Draft strategy developed using the above mentioned approach

Grounded in **seven** key strategic priorities intended to help guide objectives

- 1. Applying a public safety lens to municipal services:** Public Safety Office continues to provide advice and expertise on how to recognize and address public safety issues and opportunities for municipal business units
- 2. Creating safe and inclusive spaces:** Ensuring that these spaces are physically safe and secure, welcoming to the diversity of people in Halifax, and staffed by people who have the resources necessary to provide inclusive supports and responses to members of the public, is a core priority in this *Strategy*
- 3. Building resilience through trauma informed responses to harm:** Ensuring that resources are in place to support individuals and communities who have experienced trauma such as violence, gender-based violence, racism, hate, and disasters
- 4. Preventing harm through alternative responses for street involved persons:** New services, approaches and partnerships across communities and governments to address issues experienced by individuals experiencing homelessness or unstable housing

Strategic Priorities



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- 5. Building a broader spectrum for emergency and non-emergency responses:** Establishing a wider spectrum of response options in HRM – in partnership with the community and provincial government where appropriate – that would ensure the most appropriate responder is available to respond to emergency and non-emergency situations. Taking pressure off emergency services and reduce risks associated with inappropriate responses to social issues and harms
- 6. Preventing and responding to harmful patterns of alcohol and drug use:** Establishing new cost-effective, evidence-based services, while collaboratively leveraging the expertise of community service providers, will be necessary to enhance preventative and responsive harm-reduction approaches
- 7. Building Community Led Public Safety infrastructure to support the ecosystem:** Building capacity within the Public Safety Office that allows for increase and expansion of their existing role and capacity for training, program development, multi-sector partnerships, and research and evaluation capabilities

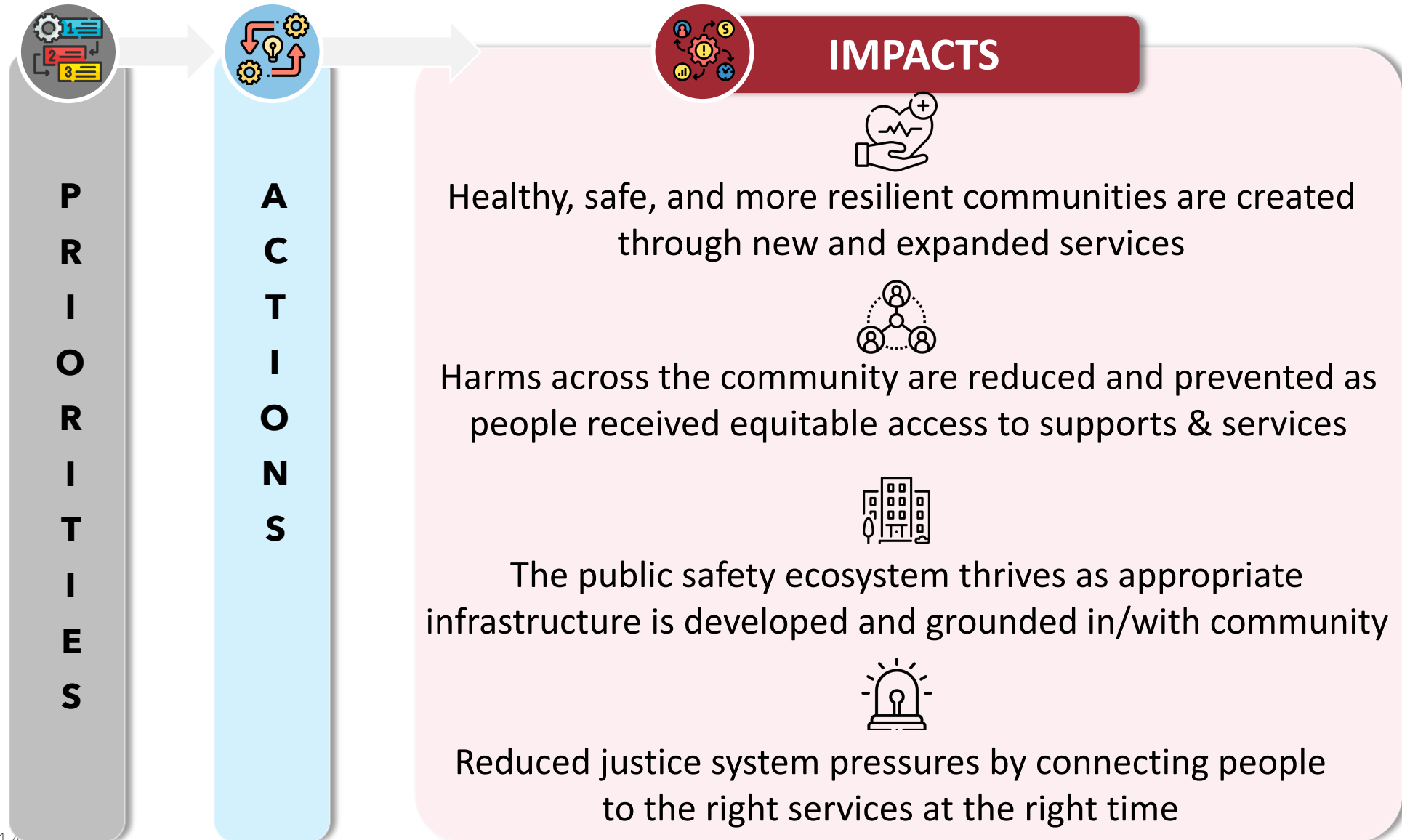
How Will The Strategic Priorities Be Realized



How Will The Strategic Priorities Be Realized



What Will The Impacts For Public Safety Be



Feedback and Next Steps

How to provide feedback following this session

1. Online Survey
2. Provide a written response
3. Email at Pegah.Memarpour@davispier.ca

How will we use this information

- A *What We Heard* summary will be developed and attached to the strategy document for review by Regional Council

What are the next steps

- We will be completing our sessions and finalizing the strategy for Regional Council