



OFFICE OF THE  
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

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British Columbia, Canada

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
November 12, 2013

OPCC 2010-5401  
PH:2013-05

### POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER ORDERS A PUBLIC HEARING

**Victoria** - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner today announced a Public Hearing into allegations of police misconduct arising from an incident on June 9, 2010, involving Constable Taylor Robinson of the Vancouver Police Department and Ms. Sandy Davidsen.

The incident took place on a busy Downtown Eastside sidewalk where it is alleged that Constable Robinson pushed Ms. Davidsen from behind causing her to fall to the ground. Ms. Davidsen further alleged that the officers walked away without offering an apology or any assistance. The incident was captured on video tape, and the Vancouver Police Department received a criminal complaint of assault from members of the public that day. The tape was seized and the matter was “informally” investigated.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) was not notified of this incident until June 28, 2010 when Ms. Davidsen filed a *Police Act* complaint with the OPCC. The video of the incident was provided to the OPCC by the Vancouver Professional Standards section on July 9, 2010.

The *Police Act* investigation was suspended pending the outcome of a criminal charge of assault recommended by the external investigation agency, and approved by the Criminal Justice Branch.

The Criminal Justice Branch entered a stay of proceedings in relation to the charge and the *Police Act* process recommenced. It took 14 months for the discipline proceeding to complete, which involved one day of evidence. The delay in completing the proceeding was unnecessary and unacceptable.

Having reviewed the investigation, discipline proceedings and determinations to date, Police Complaint Commissioner, Stan T. Lowe, has determined that a public hearing is necessary in the public interest. The manner in which the disciplinary proceeding was conducted raised issues of procedural fairness and accountability to both Ms. Davidsen and Constable Robinson.

Furthermore, the Commissioner has determined that there is a reasonable basis to believe the Discipline Authority was incorrect in his determination of the disciplinary or corrective measures proposed in relation to this incident. The Commissioner is of the view that an arguable case can be made that the disciplinary or corrective measures proposed are inappropriate or inadequate.

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Police Complaint Commissioner

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Upon the recommendation of the Associate Chief Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court, former BC Court of Appeal Justice Wally Oppal, Q.C., is appointed to preside as Adjudicator in these proceedings, pursuant to section 142(2) of the *Police Act*.

A date for the Public Hearing will be determined in the future.

Details may be found in the Notice of Public Hearing located at [www.opcc.bc.ca](http://www.opcc.bc.ca)

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