

June 14, 2018

VIA E-MAIL: [Patti.Marfleet@vancouverpoliceboard.ca](mailto:Patti.Marfleet@vancouverpoliceboard.ca)

His Worship Mayor Gregor Robertson  
Chair, Vancouver Police Board  
3rd Floor, City Hall  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson:

**Re: Service or Policy Complaint – Vancouver Police Department  
OPCC File No. 2018-14863**

On June 14, 2018, the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) received a complaint from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Civil Liberties Association with respect to the inadequacy and inappropriateness of the Vancouver Police Department's training programs, policies, and internal procedures on the practice of "street checks" or police stops - the practice of stopping an individual not due to an investigation or occurrence, questioning them and obtaining their identifying information, and (with certain exceptions) recording the individual's personal information in the PRIME-BC database.

We are attaching a copy of the complaint which identifies the contact person with each organization and their contact information.

The OPCC has determined there are no public trust aspects to this complaint.

As you are aware, a service or policy complaint may include a complaint regarding the general direction and management or operation of a municipal police department. It may also include a complaint about the inadequacy or inappropriateness of a municipal police department's policies or internal procedures, training programs or resources, staffing or resource allocation, or the department's ability to respond to requests for assistance.

Upon receiving a copy of the complaint, pursuant to section 171(1) of the *Police Act*, the board, having authority over the municipal police department to which the complaint relates, must promptly do one or more of the following:

- (a) Request that the chief constable of that municipal police department investigate and report on the complaint;

- (b) Initiate a study concerning the complaint;
- (c) Initiate an investigation into the complaint;
- (d) Dismiss the complaint with reasons; and/or
- (e) Take any other course of action the board considers necessary to respond adequately to the complaint.

Pursuant to section 171(3) of the Act, within 20 business days after doing any of the things described in subsection (1)(a) to (e), the board must notify the Complainant, the Director of Police Services and the Police Complaint Commissioner regarding the course of action being taken. The Police Complaint Commissioner may request a status report from the board regarding the progress of an investigation or a study concerning a complaint under Division 5.

The police board must send an explanation for actions taken by the board under section 171 (1) and if applicable, a detailed summary of the results of any investigation or study initiated to the Complainant, the Director of Police Services and the Police Complaint Commissioner. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the board's actions, explanations, or results from the investigation or the summary of those results, that person may, within 20 business days of receiving the explanation or summary, request the Police Complaint Commissioner to review the matter.

Should you have any questions regarding the above or with respect to the *Police Act* process, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 356-7458 or by email at [info@opcc.bc.ca](mailto:info@opcc.bc.ca).

Yours truly,



Andrea Spindler  
Acting Deputy Police Complaint Commissioner

Attachment

cc: Chief Constable Adam Palmer  
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs  
Mr. Josh Paterson, Executive Director, BC Civil Liberties Association