



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

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Review on Record into Vancouver Sergeant's demotion for Deceit initiated

VICTORIA - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) has arranged a Review on the Record into the demotion of a Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Sergeant found to have been deceitful in an investigation into an alleged misconduct involving the off duty conduct of VPD members and a complainant who was a Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service at the time.

Following an independent *Police Act* investigation led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Discipline Authority proposed that Sergeant Ajmer Sandhu receive a reduction in rank after finding that three allegations of deceit lodged against him were substantiated.

The allegations stem from a complaint over the behaviour of an officer at the Surrey BC Provincial Court.

The complainant alleged that an officer attempted to intimidate her in relation to an ongoing criminal prosecution. Sergeant Sandhu was among those who were present during the interaction at the courthouse.

Sergeant Sandhu was found to have been deceitful in his responses to queries from the RCMP as part of the *Police Act* investigation into the complaint. The Discipline Authority proposed that Sergeant Sandhu's rank be reduced to First Class Constable.

Sergeant Sandhu disputed the findings and requested that the OPCC hold a Public Hearing to review them.

In his Notice of Review issued today, the Police Complaint Commissioner found that the investigative record in Sergeant Sandhu's case was thorough and complete, and that a Public Hearing was neither necessary nor required in this case.

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The Commissioner instead arranged a Review on the Record of the disciplinary decision against Sergeant Sandhu.

The Honourable Carol Baird Ellan, retired Provincial Court Judge, will preside as the adjudicator of the Review on the Record, which has yet to be scheduled.

Updates on the review will be shared on the OPCC website.

The full notice of review is available here.

About the OPCC and Reviews on the Record:

- The Police Complaint Commissioner is a civilian, independent Officer of the Legislature overseeing complaints, investigations and discipline involving municipal police in British Columbia. For more on the OPCC, visit: <https://opcc.bc.ca/about-us/>
- Discipline Authorities are generally senior ranking police officers who are required under the *Police Act* to make determinations regarding the investigation and discipline of police officers alleged to have committed misconduct.
- Officers facing dismissal or a reduction in rank have the automatic right to a Public Hearing or, if the commissioner approves, a Review on the Record.
- The Commissioner can order a Review on the Record in lieu of a Public Hearing in cases where he is satisfied that it is unnecessary to cross-examine witnesses or receive additional evidence and when a Public Hearing is not required to preserve or restore public confidence.
- A Review on the Record is a form of adjudicative review in which the adjudicator, a Retired Judge, conducts a “paper review” of all evidence and materials from the investigation and discipline hearing. The adjudicator may also receive submissions from the respondent’s counsel, the Police Complaint Commissioner’s counsel, the complainant and the Discipline Authority before rendering his/her decision. More on the OPCC’s involvement in and processes for complaints involving police and misconduct allegations: <https://opcc.bc.ca/police-faq/>
- An adjudicator must determine whether there is misconduct and, if so, determine the corrective or disciplinary measures to be imposed. The adjudicator’s decision at a

Review on the Record is final and conclusive. In some cases, reviews can be focused solely on the issue of the discipline imposed.

Note to media: The OPCC is unable to comment on this review while it is underway. For general queries related to the OPCC's role and processes, please contact:

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