



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT
COMMISSIONER

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British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

June 23, 2020

OPCC File: 2017-13521

OPCC disagrees with penalties in Abbotsford officer domestic violence case, orders review

VICTORIA – The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) has ordered a review of an Abbotsford Police Department decision regarding the misconduct of an officer accused of intimate partner violence.

The officer, admitted to five allegations of misconduct under the *Police Act*. The allegations are related to the assault and harassment of the officer's estranged spouse over several months.

The disciplinary conduct investigation found the officer committed misconduct under the *Police Act* in five instances which included the assault, installation of GPS tracking devices, harassing behaviours and inappropriate use of police databases. In a separate criminal investigation by the Vancouver Police Department the officer was charged and convicted of assault in relation to the matter.

The Abbotsford Police Discipline Authority considering the *Police Act* matter, recommended that the officer receive a suspension without pay of between one and five days for each of these allegations of misconduct, for a total suspension of 16 days without pay.

In his Notice of Review issued today, the Police Complaint Commissioner found the proposed penalties did not reflect the serious, sustained and deliberate nature of this behaviour which spanned a number of months. The Commissioner noted that while the Discipline Authority correctly underscored the seriousness of domestic violence and the public's expectation that those "sworn to protect the vulnerable from intimate partner violence must not engage in it themselves," those principles were not sufficiently reflected in the proposed penalties.

The name of the officer has been withheld to protect the identity of the victim.

The Honourable David Pendleton Retired Provincial Court Judge, will preside as the adjudicator of the Review on the Record, which has yet to be scheduled.

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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.
- 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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