



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

December 8, 2020

Statement from the Office of Police Complaint Commissioner regarding criminal charges involving Vancouver Police officers

VICTORIA - Criminal charges against two Vancouver Police officers have been approved by the B.C. Prosecution Service following a referral by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC).

After being made aware of a use of force incident involving Vancouver Police officers and a member of the public, Mr. Jamiel Moore-Williams, the OPCC determined that an investigation into the force used by police was required. The RCMP were appointed to conduct this investigation and carried out a criminal investigation into this matter. The RCMP completed their investigation but did not refer the matter to the B.C. Prosecution Service for consideration of criminal charges.

On February 10, 2020, upon review of the RCMP investigation, the Police Complaint Commissioner considered that one or more officers may have committed criminal offences and referred the matter directly to the B.C. Prosecution Service under section 111 of the *Police Act*.

Additionally, a disciplinary-conduct investigation under the *Police Act* will take place but is suspended pending the outcome of the criminal proceedings. In order to protect the integrity of those proceedings the OPCC will not provide further comment while they are underway.

About the OPCC

- The Police Complaint Commissioner is the civilian, Officer of the Legislature overseeing complaints, investigations and discipline involving municipal police in British Columbia operating independently of governments and the police themselves.
- The Police Complaint Commissioner may accept complaints from the public or independently order investigations into allegations of police misconduct.

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- The Police Complaint Commissioner may also refer certain decisions to retired judges for adjudication, call public hearings, refer matters to Crown Counsel for consideration of prosecution and make recommendations to police boards or to government regarding policies, practices or systemic issues that may contribute to the misconduct.

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