



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

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OPCC orders a review after police officer strikes person across the face during an arrest

Victoria - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) has ordered a review by a retired judge into the findings of a Discipline Proceeding relating to allegations of *Abuse of Authority* against a police officer with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD).

VPD Constable Arminder Gill was investigated under the *Police Act* in relation to an allegation that on November 13, 2019, he struck an individual's face with his hand following a search of the individual's pockets, wherein Constable Gill was stuck by a needle. Constable Gill was subsequently criminally charged and pled guilty to assault receiving a Conditional Discharge in relation to this matter.

The matter was investigated under the *Police Act* by the VPD and during a subsequent Discipline Proceeding, Constable Gill was found to have committed *Abuse of Authority* under the *Police Act*. The Discipline Authority recommended that the officer receive a verbal reprimand.

In his Notice of Review on the Record issued today, the Police Complaint Commissioner determined that the proposed discipline does not adequately address the seriousness of Constable Gill's conduct, and that the level of discipline proposed by the Discipline Authority does not sufficiently consider a number of aggravating factors.

The Honourable William Ehrcke Q.C., retired BC Supreme 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.

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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 member’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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