



OFFICE OF THE
POLICE COMPLAINT COMMISSIONER

British Columbia, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

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OPCC orders a review into the conduct of a Surrey Police officer

Victoria - The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner has ordered a review by a retired judge into the findings of a Discipline Proceeding relating to allegations of *Discreditable Conduct* and *Corrupt Practice* against a member of the Surrey Police Service (SPS).

SPS Constable Rajbir Thaper was investigated under the *Police Act* in relation to an off-duty incident where he was issued an Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) for failing a breath test on an Approved Screening Device (ASD). During the traffic stop, Constable Thaper attempted to use his position as a police officer to obtain preferential treatment from the investigating members and was found to have been driving with an expired driver's license.

The matter was investigated by the SPS and during a subsequent Discipline Proceeding, Constable Thaper was found to have committed two allegations of *Discreditable Conduct* and one allegation of *Corrupt Practice*. The Discipline Authority recommended that Constable Thaper receive a five-day suspension without pay for driving while impaired and three-day suspension without pay for seeking preferential treatment, to be served concurrently, and a written reprimand for driving with an expired driver's license.

In his Notice of Review on the Record issued today, the Police Complaint Commissioner has determined that the proposed discipline does not adequately address the seriousness of Constable Thaper's conduct and that the level of discipline proposed by the Discipline Authority does not sufficiently consider several aggravating factors. The Police Complaint Commissioner has further determined that a Review on the Record is necessary in the public interest.

The Honourable Elizabeth Arnold-Bailey, retired BC Supreme Court Justice, will preside as the adjudicator of the Review on the Record, which has yet to be scheduled.

Clayton Pecknold
Police Complaint Commissioner

5th Floor, 947 Fort Street
PO Box 9895 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9T8
Tel: (250) 356-7458 Fax: (250) 356-6503

Toll Free 1 877-999-8707 # Website: www.opcc.bc.ca

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 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.

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:

Andrea Spindler, Deputy Police Complaint Commissioner, media@opcc.bc.ca

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