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21-13

## Assault charges approved against Vancouver police officers

**Victoria** – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that charges of assault and assault causing bodily harm have been approved against three Vancouver police officers in connection with their involvement in the arrest of a suspect on May 24, 2017, in Vancouver. The case was investigated by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), which subsequently submitted a Report to Crown Counsel in February 2019.

The charge assessment process in this case was significantly delayed due to the complexity of the issues, the volume of initial disclosure, BCPS requests for further information, and subsequent receipt of additional disclosure.

On September 23, 2021 Vancouver Provincial Court information #263643-1 was sworn charging Cst. Brandon Blue with assault causing bodily harm and charging Cst. Beau Spencer and Cst. Gregory Jackson with assault. The first appearance on this matter is scheduled for October 25, 2021 in Vancouver Provincial Court.

The charges were approved by an experienced Crown Counsel with no prior or current connection with the officers. The charge assessment guidelines applied by the BC Prosecution Service in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BC Prosecution Service Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at: [www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines](http://www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines)

The guidelines for assessing allegations against Peace Officers are also laid out in the BCPS Crown Counsel Policy Manual and available at: [www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/pol-1.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/pol-1.pdf)

As this matter is now before the court the BCPS will not be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time.

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