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18-01

No charge approved against Vancouver Police Dog Handler

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that no charges have been approved against a Vancouver Police Department officer who deployed his police service dog (PSD) during the arrest of a suspect in Vancouver on March 16, 2016. The suspect suffered serious injuries to his arm after being bitten by the PSD.

The incident was investigated by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO). The IIO subsequently submitted a Report to Crown Counsel for review by the BCPS.

Following an investigation, where the Chief Civilian Director of the IIO determines that an officer may have committed an offence, the IIO submits a report to the BCPS. The Chief Civilian Director does not make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved.

In this case the BCPS has concluded that the available evidence does not meet the charge assessment standard for approval of any charges against the police officer in connection with the incident.

A Clear Statement explaining the reasons for not approving charges will be made public following the conclusion of related legal proceedings involving the suspect arrested during the course of this incident. As the related charges are still before the court the BCPS will not be releasing any further information at this time.

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