



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

File No.: 2006:0273:0939

An Inquest was held at the Coroners Court, in the municipality of Burnaby

In the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates March 31 - April 4, 2008

before Scott Fleming, Presiding Coroner,

into the death of LAM Yau Tong (Frankle) 51 Male Female (Last Name, First Name) (Age)

and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: 1 August, 2006 0123 Hours

Place of Death: Shell Road & Camble Road Richmond, B.C. (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Multiple Blunt Force Injuries DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Antecedent Cause If any: b) Motor Vehicle Accident DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating underlying cause last. c)

(2) Other Significant Conditions Contributing to Death:

Classification of Death: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 4th day of April AD, 2008

SCOTT FLEMING Providing Coroner's Printed Name

Providing Coroner's Signature





VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF

FILE No.: 2006:0273:0939

LAM

SURNAME

Yau Tong (Frankie)

GIVEN NAMES

PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST:

Presiding Coroner: Scott Fleming

Coroner Counsel: Steven Boorne

Court Reporting/Recording Agency: Verbatim Words West Ltd.

Participants/Counsel: Helen Roberts, Counsel for the Department of Justice for the RCMP
Catherine Kinahan, Counsel for the Vancouver Police Department
The Lam Family, on their own behalf

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded 24 exhibits. Seventeen witnesses were duly sworn in and testified.

PRESIDING CORONER'S COMMENTS:

The following is a brief summary of the circumstances of the death as set out in the evidence presented to the jury at the inquest. The following summary of the evidence as presented at the inquest is to assist the reader to more fully understand the Verdict and Recommendations of the jury. This summary not intended to be considered evidence nor is it intended in any way to replace the jury's verdict.

Mr. Lam was 51 years old, and the father of two boys. He died at approximately 0123 hours on August 1, 2006 when his Mercury Villager minivan ("Lam vehicle") was struck by a Hyundai Elantra, driven by Ms. ("Ms. 's vehicle"). Mr. Lam was returning home from work, and was alone in his vehicle.

At the time of the collision, Ms. 's vehicle was being pursued by a marked RCMP vehicle with lights and sirens operating. The pursuit had been initiated a short time earlier as Ms. 's vehicle entered the Sea Island on-ramp to southbound Hwy. 99. The pursuit along southbound Hwy. 99 reached an estimated speed of in excess of 160 km/h. Shortly after Ms. 's vehicle exited the highway at the Shell Road off-ramp, it traveled through the intersection of Cambie Road against a red light and struck the Lam vehicle. Mr. Lam died of his injuries at the scene.

The events giving rise to the pursuit began during the late evening hours of July 31, 2006. A Vancouver Police Department (VPD) member testified that at approximately 2350 hours, he and another member went to a residence in the south area of Vancouver where Ms. 's was known to be last residing. They had been sent to the residence to arrest Ms. ' on a charge of Breach of Undertaking. Ms. 's identity and most recent place of residence were known to the VPD.

While parked in the vicinity of the residence in an unmarked police vehicle, police members observed Ms. 's vehicle approach. She recognized the police vehicle, and began to drive off from the residence at a slow rate of speed. After an unsuccessful attempt at a traffic stop, Ms. 's vehicle pulled away from police and a pursuit was initiated at approximately Oak Street and West 67th Avenue. After failing to stop at a red light, and with speeds reaching 100 km/h, the VPD Sergeant who had assumed command of the pursuit ordered it terminated.





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Several VPD members who were on general patrol at various locations on the westside of Vancouver testified that they observed Ms. [redacted] vehicle on a number of occasions over the next thirty minutes. They had heard the earlier radio broadcasts involving the pursuit which had been terminated, and had also heard a general broadcast from VPD Central Dispatch to be on the watch for Ms. [redacted] vehicle. Two unmarked patrol vehicles attempted an unsuccessful "box and pin" maneuver involving Ms. [redacted] vehicle at approximately 0020 hours.

The VPD Sergeant who had authorized this first "box and pin" then broadcast a message to VPD members that they should allow Ms. [redacted] to return to her residence. The members who had been involved in the "box and pin" went to the [redacted] residence and set up containment, awaiting her return. They were joined at the residence by the two members who had been involved in the earlier terminated police pursuit. It was while these members were at the [redacted] residence awaiting her return that they first learned of the fatal motor vehicle collision which occurred at approximately 0122 hours.

One of the VPD patrol members who had been involved in the first "box and pin" again observed Ms. [redacted] s vehicle in the area of West 10th Avenue and Alma Street at approximately 0036 hours. The VPD Sergeant who had earlier authorized the first "box and pin" again directed that all police patrol members "give her some room 'cause I'm sure she's gonna go back to this address". The VPD patrol member continued to maintain a "very long eye" surveillance of the vehicle.

Other VPD patrol members testified that they observed Ms. [redacted] s vehicle at various locations on the westside of Vancouver. A member of the VPD Emergency Response Team (ERT) who was driving an unmarked SUV, as well as a member of the VPD Canine Unit, who was also driving an unmarked SUV, both observed Ms. [redacted] vehicle, and attempted a second unsuccessful "box and pin" maneuver in order to stop the vehicle. The VPD Sergeant then instructed both the VPD Canine Unit member and the ERT Unit member that had been involved in the second unsuccessful "box and pin" to go to the residence where Ms. [redacted] was known to last reside, and to also "set up" for her anticipated arrival.

At approximately 0115 hours, the VPD Canine Unit member was maintaining an "outer mobile containment position" near the [redacted] residence. He broadcast that he had observed Ms. [redacted] s vehicle travelling southbound on Oak Street at West 70th Avenue, heading southbound over the Oak Street Bridge. The VPD Canine Unit member then decided to follow Ms. [redacted] ; vehicle over the Oak Street Bridge and into Richmond. Two other unmarked ERT SUV Units in the area also decided to follow the VPD Canine Unit member into Richmond.

One of the ERT Units subsequently became lost, and the member testified that he was not involved in the events leading up to the fatal collision at Shell Road and Cambie Road. Neither of the ERT Units contacted RCMP Richmond dispatch nor VPD Central Dispatch to advise that they were entering the Richmond RCMP jurisdiction. One of the two ERT Unit members, as well as the VPD Canine Unit member, were each aware that Ms. [redacted] vehicle had been involved in the terminated VPD police pursuit which occurred approximately one hour earlier.

The VPD Canine Unit member advised VPD Central Dispatch on channel 4 at approximately 0112 hours that he had observed Ms. [redacted] s vehicle, and was following it into Richmond. He asked that VPD Central Dispatch advise RCMP Richmond Dispatch that he was entering Richmond, and the circumstances leading up to him doing



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so. After not hearing a broadcast from Richmond Dispatch advising that Ms. [redacted] s vehicle was in Richmond, he decided to himself broadcast Ms. [redacted] vehicle description and location on the Richmond channel.

The VPD Canine Unit member testified that at this point in time he was aware of the following facts: Ms. [redacted] was driving in a normal manner when he saw her approaching the Oak Street Bridge and while on the bridge; that containment of Ms. [redacted] s residence had been set up by the VPD; that there had been an earlier VPD pursuit in Vancouver which had been terminated due to high speeds; that the underlying offence for which Ms. [redacted] was wanted was a Breach of Undertaking; that he had heard the earlier broadcasts from the VPD Sergeant instructing that the patrol members "just let her go home".

The VPD Canine Unit member testified as to his further involvement in following Ms. [redacted] vehicle in Richmond as she traveled a circuitous path along several roadways and parking lots, leading up to the initiation of the pursuit by the Richmond RCMP at the Sea Island on-ramp to southbound Hwy. 99. The unmarked VPD ERT Unit was also involved in the attempt to locate, follow and stop Ms. [redacted] vehicle in Richmond.

Detailed maps and aerial photographs of the Richmond area were used to assist the various police members in describing the paths which they followed around Richmond. A voice recording and transcript of all relevant transmissions between police members in the Richmond RCMP, UBC RCMP and VPD police jurisdictions, as well as their respective dispatchers, prepared by ECOMM 911 (Emergency Communications Centre for Southwest British Columbia) was played in court.

A Richmond RCMP patrol member in the area responded to the VPD Canine Unit member's broadcast for assistance, asking for further clarification of what the driver of the vehicle was wanted for. The VPD Canine Unit member told the RCMP member that the driver was wanted for "breach, initiate pursuit and dangerous driving from earlier on". The RCMP patrol member asked what the VPD wanted to be done, to which the VPD Canine Unit member responded that he wished her stopped, "if you can".

The RCMP patrol member was not advised by the VPD Canine Unit member of the fact that the VPD had already set up containment at the known residence of Ms. [redacted] nor that the VPD members had earlier been instructed by their Sergeant to "back off" and to allow Ms. [redacted] to return to her residence. The VPD Canine Unit member testified that in his view this type of information exchange was the responsibility of VPD Central Dispatch, and that he did not pass along this additional information due to the fact that he was engaged in other activities at the time, and was reluctant to occupy valuable air time on the radio.

The VPD Canine Unit member testified that it was a relatively rare event for VPD Units to go into Richmond. At times the Canine or ERT units would be called upon by Richmond RCMP to assist, but in cases in which a vehicle wanted by VPD entered Richmond, the usual practice would be for the VPD to "hand over" the matter to Richmond RCMP.

The testimony of the VPD members that were involved in following Ms. [redacted] vehicle in Richmond, and the RCMP member that later became involved in both following her and the subsequent pursuit, was difficult to fully reconcile. Some minor and predictable variations in observations and recollections were present in the testimony of the members. However, there was a significant difference in the version of events which immediately preceded the initiation of the RCMP pursuit.



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The VPD Canine Unit member testified that as the two police vehicles were entering the Sea Island Way on-ramp to southbound Hwy. 99 behind the _____ vehicle, the RCMP member who was in a marked vehicle behind him motioned for the VPD Canine unit vehicle to "move aside", which he did. However, the RCMP member testified that when he was directly behind Ms. _____ vehicle on the Sea Island Way on-ramp to southbound Hwy. 99, a black unmarked SUV, which he later learned to be the VPD Canine Unit, suddenly appeared out of no where, and very quickly passed by him on the right shoulder of the single lane on-ramp. It then pulled back onto the on-ramp ahead of him as it accelerated to catch up with Ms. _____ vehicle.

The RCMP member testified that he was very surprised by this maneuver, and had never seen anything like it before. He immediately thought that this action suggested that the VPD must "really want this vehicle stopped", and that they were not happy with what the RCMP member was doing, and were in fact challenging his actions and conduct. Knowing that RCMP policy did not allow for an unmarked police vehicle to be the lead pursuit vehicle, he activated his lights and sirens and initiated a pursuit and broadcast this fact to RCMP Richmond Dispatch. At this point the unmarked SUV that had just pulled past him pulled off to the right, allowing the RCMP vehicle to become the lead pursuit vehicle.

The pursuit proceeded southbound on Hwy. 99 at speeds of up to 160 km/h. Ms. _____'s vehicle then took the Shell Road exit and proceeded northbound on Shell Road. As Ms. _____ vehicle entered the intersection against a red light, the RCMP member saw a puff of smoke and other signs of a collision. Upon reaching the intersection he observed that both Ms. _____'s vehicle and the Lam vehicle had been involved in a collision with obvious serious damage and injury.

When the RCMP member first encountered Ms. _____ vehicle in Richmond he observed that it was being followed by three dark unmarked SUV's along No. 3 Road. This fact, as well as his recollection of an earlier pursuit in Vancouver which had been mentioned in an earlier broadcast he had overheard, led him to believe that this was likely the same vehicle that had been involved in the earlier pursuit, and that this was a serious matter.

Although the RCMP member was aware that the driver of the vehicle was to be arrested on a charge of Breach of Undertaking, he testified that he did not "process" the fact that the identity of the driver was positively known. He also did not know that containment had been set up in Vancouver at Ms. _____'s residence in order to await her return home, or that it had been confirmed that the vehicle was not stolen. The RCMP member testified that all of this information would have been helpful to him in determining whether to initiate a pursuit, had he known it.

The RCMP member testified that during the short pursuit which followed after the activation of lights and sirens, it was his understanding that his radio broadcasts were being monitored by a supervisor in accordance with RCMP policy. He understood that a supervising NCO was required to come onto the radio and assume command of the pursuit as a "pursuit supervisor". However, during the pursuit he never heard any broadcasts from an NCO.

The Watch Commander Staff Sergeant in charge of the Richmond RCMP "B" watch testified as to his involvement in the events leading up the police pursuit and subsequent fatal collision. The Watch Commander testified that due to the fact that he had both operational and administrative responsibilities, he was not always immediately available to respond to all radio calls. He relies on RCMP Richmond Dispatch to contact him, usually by radio, if there is an event which requires his attention.



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A review of the transcript of radio broadcasts confirmed that there were two unanswered broadcasts from RCMP Richmond Dispatch asking if the Watch Commander "was copying" broadcasts immediately prior to the RCMP member initiating the pursuit. When the Watch Commander did become aware of the pursuit, the only transmission he made was one in which he said "Call Freeway" approximately one minute before the collision.

The Watch Commander testified that he was not sure what was happening with the pursuit of Ms. [redacted] vehicle, and that he had no background information which would have allowed him to make the decision to assume control of the pursuit. He was not aware that unmarked VPD units had been following Ms. [redacted] s vehicle around Richmond for some time. He was not aware of the earlier terminated VPD police pursuit, or the fact that containment of Ms. [redacted] residence had been set up and that the VPD members had been instructed to await her arrival home. Finally, the Watch Commander did not know on what charges Ms. [redacted] was to be arrested.

The Watch Commander testified that he did not assume command of the pursuit because he did not have sufficient information to allow him to do so. He was in the process of trying to get two pieces of critical information: the nature of the offence, and the identity of the driver. He testified that he was unable to "break in" to the radio communications to obtain this information. Without this information, he testified that he was not able or required to assume command of the pursuit.

Testimony was heard from an RCMP Accident Reconstruction Analyst who introduced photographic evidence of the accident scene and vehicle damage. Mr. Lam was wearing a two-piece seat belt in which the shoulder portion of the belt is automatically engaged by closing the vehicle door, and the lap belt portion is manually engaged by the driver. The expert determined that the lap portion of the belt was not in use at the time of the collision, and that the shoulder belt alone was an insufficient restraint, thereby allowing Mr. Lam to slip out of the seat and be ejected from the vehicle through the door which had been breached in the collision.

Testimony from an ambulance paramedic described the emergency measures taken by police and ambulance members at the scene, and the pronouncement of Mr. Lam's death. The witness described the injuries suffered by Mr. Lam and Ms. [redacted] Ms. [redacted] was described as being combative, hallucinating and under the apparent influence of drugs. A history was taken at the scene in which Ms. [redacted] admitted to taking "two hits of cocaine" earlier that evening.

Testimony from the pathologist that conducted the autopsy of Mr. Lam confirmed that death was attributable to multiple blunt force injuries as a result of the motor vehicle collision. Toxicological testing determined that there were no prescription or illicit drugs, nor evidence of alcohol, in Mr. Lam's bloodstream.

Testimony from Ms. [redacted] was taken by live video transmission from the correctional facility at which she was incarcerated. Ms. [redacted] testified that she had been sentenced to four and one-half years in prison after pleading guilty to dangerous driving causing death. Ms. [redacted] testified that she had a recollection of being followed around town by several unmarked cars. She was under the influence of crack cocaine, and became soared as to who was following her, and for what reason. She said that as a result she panicked, and sped away.

Two police members testified as to the policy issues and considerations which come into play when determining police pursuit policy. A VPD member from the Policy, Research and Planning Section described the VPD



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experience and practice with respect to police pursuit policy. The Acting Chief from the Victoria Police Department testified as to recent changes in police pursuit policy in Victoria.

The VPD witness also discussed an Operational Bulletin dated March 16, 2006 from a Deputy Chief Constable entitled "Patrol Tactics When a Pursuit is Terminated". Several other VPD members involved in following Ms. Gehring's vehicle also testified as to their understanding of what the Operational Bulletin meant as a matter of police practice.

The Operational Bulletin directed that members that respond to a pursuit incident are to advise if the suspect vehicle is spotted, "but do not follow the vehicle". The Bulletin was meant to address concerns of the Police Pursuit Review Board in which there had been several incidents in which "members involved in vehicle pursuits have continued to follow suspects after the pursuits have been terminated. The terminology members are using are terms such as "keeping a long-eye" on the vehicle or "spot check". Some of the other practices are paralleling a suspect vehicle or following a suspect vehicle from a distance."

The extent to which the VPD members followed this Operational Bulletin during their interactions with Ms. vehicle in Vancouver was an issue upon which the jury heard evidence from the various VPD members who came into contact with Ms. vehicle while it was in Vancouver.

The Acting Chief of the Victoria Police Department provided testimony regarding a recent police shooting death which arose out of a police pursuit in Victoria. As a result of a subsequent review of police pursuit policy, a significantly more restrictive policy was adopted by the Victoria Police Department.

The Acting Chief described to the jury the various considerations and policy issues which were considered by the Victoria Police Department in arriving at a new police pursuit policy which significantly increased the threshold of crime for which a pursuit could be initiated. This new pursuit policy went beyond the current provincial regulatory standard by describing significantly more serious crimes for which a police pursuit could be initiated.

Under the new Victoria Police Department Pursuit Policy, there are no police pursuits for Motor Vehicle Act offences or property crime offences. Control of pursuits is specifically assigned to one of the two Sergeants who are on the road 24 hours per day, and whose sole responsibility is to supervise and assist the front line patrol officers on the road.

In the final analysis, each of the two witnesses recognized that setting the threshold at which a police pursuit can be initiated requires a reasoned balancing of two competing interests: a duty to protect the public from harm by apprehending those involved in criminal activity, balanced against the need to not subject the general public to unreasonable risk of injury arising from a police pursuit.



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Pursuant to Section 38 of the Coroner's Act, the following recommendations are forwarded to the Chief Coroner of the Province of British Columbia for distribution to the appropriate agency:

JURY RECOMMENDATIONS:

To: Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Honourable John van Dongen
P.O. Box 9053
Stn. Provincial Government
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Commander "E" Division, RCMP
Attention: G. Bass
"E" Division - RCMP
5255 Heather Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 1K6

Attorney General of British Columbia
Honourable Wally Oppal
Stn. Provincial Government
P.O. Box 9044
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Chief Constable - Vancouver Police Department
Attention: Jim Chu
2120 Cambie Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 4N6

British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police
Attention: Gord Tomlinson
o/o North Vancouver RCMP
147 E. 14th Street
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7M 1P2



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1. We recommend that the level of the event that triggers a pursuit be raised. Specifically, we recommend that pursuits should be considered as equivalent to a high level use of force/high risk option, and should only be employed when other options have been exhausted, or are not available.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence from two police pursuit policy witnesses as to the different considerations which come into play in determining what types of criminal offences are sufficiently serious to justify initiating a police pursuit. They heard evidence of significantly different pursuit policy practices in place at the VPD and the Victoria Police Department, and the experience of each police jurisdiction to date in the application of those varying policies.

2. We recommend that in both urban and suburban detachments the administrative and supervisory duties of an NCO be split, and performed by separate police officers.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence from the Richmond RCMP Watch Commander that he must perform both administrative and supervisory functions, and as such, is often not available to respond to urgent operational issues that may arise.

3. We recommend that police officers on regular duty, particularly ERT and Canine Units, entering a police jurisdiction other than their own, must immediately contact Dispatch for that jurisdiction, and place themselves under the supervision of the field officer in that jurisdiction. As well, Police Units frequently operating in other jurisdictions should be required to familiarize themselves with the policies and procedures of those jurisdictions.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence that three unmarked VPD police SUV units entered Richmond while following Ms. Gehring's vehicle over the Oak Street Bridge. Only the VPD Canine Unit requested that VPD Central Dispatch contact RCMP Richmond Dispatch to advise them of his presence. Command responsibility for the VPD vehicles while in Richmond was not clear. Evidence was also heard of a different pursuit policy in the RCMP Richmond jurisdiction, and the fact that VPD members were not familiar with that policy, or any significant differences to VPD pursuit policy.



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To: Commander "E" Division, RCMP
Address as above

Chief Constable - Vancouver Police Department
Address as above

Chief Constable - New Westminster Police Service
Attention: Lorne Zapotichny
555 Columbia Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 1B2

Chief Constable - West Vancouver Police Department
Attention: Kash Heed
1330 Marine Drive
West Vancouver, B.C.
V7T 1B5

ECOMM 911
3301 E. Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5K 5J3

- 4. We recommend that all supervisory and/or field officers within the jurisdictions served by ECOMM be required to spend a shift in the ECOMM Dispatch Centre so as to more fully understand ECOMM policies and procedures.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence about the centralized operation of ECOMM dispatch, and the fact that supervisory and/or field officers often do not understand the way in which dispatch is handled or how information is transferred between various police jurisdictions.

To: Justice Institute of British Columbia
715 McBride Blvd
New Westminster, B.C.
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Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Address as above



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Commander "E" Division, RCMP
Address as above

Attorney General of British Columbia
Address as above

Chief Constable - Vancouver Police Department
Address as above

- 5. We recommend that training in the concept and practices of "boxing and pinning" be more closely related to real world conditions. As well, "boxing and pinning" should specifically exclude the use of civilian vehicles as one of the vehicles being used in the procedure.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence of two unsuccessful "box and pin" maneuvers that were attempted by VPD members in an attempt to stop Ms. : vehicle. Although training is provided in these procedures, it appears that it was seen by the jury to not accurately reflect actual conditions expected to be encountered when attempting the maneuver on city streets with varying amounts of traffic. One police witness did mention the possible role of a civilian vehicle as being one of the vehicles used to "pin" a suspect vehicle, although it was unclear whether that was intended to happen in this case.

To: Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Address as above

Commander "E" Division, RCMP
Address as above

Attorney General of British Columbia
Address as above

Chief Constable - Vancouver Police Department
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- 6. We recommend that it be incumbent on a shift supervisor to ensure that all staff under their supervision be made aware of the content of any documents setting out new policies or procedures.



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Background Information

The jury heard evidence from a VPD policy witness about the Operational Bulletin dated March 16, 2006 issued by a Deputy Chief Constable regarding police "Patrol Practices When a Pursuit is Terminated". There was evidence that this Operational Bulletin may not be readily accessible to VPD members wishing to review Pursuit Policy, and that it was "hit and miss" as to whether the important changes in police pursuit policy and practice set out in the Operational Bulletin would be known by all members in the VPD.

- 7. We recommend that in any critical event, including police pursuits, where policies or procedures have not been adhered to, that the officer(s) involved be required to review the policy documents and procedures relevant to their actions.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence that this practice does not presently exist in either the VPD or Richmond RCMP as a matter of policy.

- 8. We recommend that emergency services vehicles, which as part of their duties are required to travel to other police jurisdictions, be equipped with mapping GPS units.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence that at least one VPD unit became completely lost when entering Richmond, and that the other VPD units involved in following Ms. [redacted] vehicle had considerable difficulty in determining where they were, and broadcasting accurate information as to their location and that of the suspect vehicle.

- 9. We recommend that police officers be trained in, and required to employ, precise and specific terminology in all radio communications.

Background Information

The jury heard tape recordings, and reviewed transcripts of police broadcast transmissions relating to these events. It cannot be determined what specific events or concerns relate to this general recommendation.





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To: Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Address as above

Commander "B" Division, RCMP Address as above

Attorney General of British Columbia Address as above

Chief Constable - Vancouver Police Department Address as above

ECOMM Address as above

- 10. We recommend that Dispatchers for a police jurisdiction have a specific field supervisor identified for each shift to whom they must convey pertinent information about any incident(s) occurring within, or entering into, their police jurisdiction via a dedicated police radio frequency.

Background Information

The jury heard evidence that the RCMP Richmond Dispatcher had been told what had taken place in Vancouver with respect to Ms. vehicle shortly after it entered Richmond. Two broadcasts were made to the Watch Commander asking if he "was copying" information. Testimony determined that this information was not being heard or acted on by the Watch Commander, so that when the pursuit was initiated, there was no background information known by the Watch Commander at the time he was to assume command of the pursuit. In the final result, the Watch Commander did not assume command and the RCMP pursuit proceeded without oversight or command responsibility being assumed by a supervisor, as required by RCMP policy.

Signature of Scott Fleming, Coroner, Province of British Columbia

