



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

October 20, 2014

14-23

Charge Approved Against Police Officer In Fatal Shooting

Victoria – The Criminal Justice Branch (CJB), Ministry of Justice, announced today that a charge of Second Degree Murder has been approved against a member of the Delta Police Department. The charge results from an on duty incident on November 8, 2012.

A Direct Indictment charging Constable Jordan MacWilliams in the death of Mehrdad Bayrami was filed this morning in British Columbia Supreme Court in New Westminster under court file number X78018-1. Constable MacWilliams has made an initial appearance on the matter. He was released on a Recognizance of Bail with terms and conditions, and is next scheduled to appear in court in New Westminster on December 18, 2014.

The charge under section 235(1) of the *Criminal Code* follows an investigation by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) into the shooting of Mr. Bayrami on a paved pathway near the Starlight Casino in New Westminster on November 8, 2012. The Chief Civilian Director of the IIO, Richard Rosenthal, forwarded a Report to Crown Counsel (RTCC) to the Criminal Justice Branch on July 15, 2013.

Where the Chief Civilian Director determines, following an investigation, that an officer may have committed an offence, the IIO submits an RTCC to CJB. The Chief Civilian Director does not make a recommendation on whether charges should be approved or what charges CJB should consider.

Following receipt of the RTCC and an initial charge assessment review in July 2013, CJB concluded that additional information was required from the IIO before a fully informed charge assessment review could be completed. On July 29, 2013 CJB requested additional information from the IIO.

Some of the information requested was not immediately available to the IIO and further investigative steps were needed. The additional information was subsequently provided to CJB by the IIO on July 18, 2014 and October 6, 2014.

Branch Vision

Courageous, Fair and Efficient – A Prosecution Service that has the Confidence of the Public.

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Following a complete review of the available evidence conducted by senior Crown counsel, CJB approved the charge which is now before the Court.

Given that this matter is currently the subject of an ongoing prosecution it would not be appropriate for CJB to release additional information or comment further at this time.

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www.justicebc.ca/en/cjis/index.html