



September 12, 2019

19-15

Charge approved against Vancouver Police officer after motor vehicle collision

Victoria - The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that a charge of driving without due care and attention, contrary to s. 144(1)(a) of the Motor Vehicle Act has been approved against Vancouver Police Constable John Pankratz. The charge relates to a police pursuit of an alleged suspect fleeing a crime scene on a bicycle. A collision between the police vehicle driven by Cst. Pankratz and the bicycle resulted in injuries to the suspect. The incident occurred on September 12, 2018, in Vancouver.

An information charging Cst. Pankratz with this offence was sworn September 12, 2019 in Vancouver Provincial Court, file number 256664. Cst. Pankratz has a first appearance scheduled for October 7, 2019 in Vancouver Provincial Court at 222 Main St.

As a consequence of the injuries suffered by the pedestrians the incident was investigated by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO). Following the investigation the Chief Civilian Director of the IIO determined that there were reasonable grounds to believe the officer driving the vehicle involved had committed an offence, and submitted a report to the BCPS. The Charge assessment was conducted by Crown Counsel with no connection to or working relationship with Cst. Pankratz.

The Charge Assessment Guidelines applied by the Prosecution Service in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are set out in the Prosecution Service Policy Manual and are available online at:

www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

As this matter is now before the court the BCPS is unable to release additional information or comment further.

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