



VERDICT AT INQUEST

File No.: 2007:270:0809

An Inquest was held at Coroner's Court, in the municipality of Burnaby in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates December 13-17, 2010 before Owen Court, Presiding Coroner, into the death of BOYD, Paul Glenn 39 Male into the death of BOYD, Paul Glenn 39 Male into the death of BOYD, Paul Glenn 39 Male into the death of BOYD, Paul Glenn 39 Male and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: August 13, 2007

Place of Death: Granville Street and 16th Avenue Vancouver, BC (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Gunshot Wounds of the Chest and Abdomen

DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Antecedent Cause if any: b)

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

17th day of December AD, 2010

OWEN COURT

Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Presiding Coroner's Signature



VERDICT AT INQUEST

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

FILE No.: 2007.270.0809

BOYD

SURNAME

PAUL GLENN

GIVEN NAMES

PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST:

Presiding Coroner:	Owen Court
Inquest Counsel:	Rodrick MacKenzie
Court Recorder:	Vivian Kariya, Verbatim Transcripts
Participants/Counsel:	Bronson Toy, Counsel for the Vancouver Police Department David Pilley, Counsel for Dr. Margaret Duke

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded six exhibits. Twenty five witnesses were duly sworn 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 is not intended to be considered evidence nor is it intended in any way to replace the jury's verdict.

The jury heard evidence that on the evening of August 13, 2007, members of the Vancouver Police Department were called to a disturbance at a restaurant near Granville Street and West 12th Avenue. It is understood that Paul Boyd, a 39 year-old man suffering from Bipolar Disorder and associated paranoia, had entered the restaurant and alarmed those present by shouting at customers and staff. Prior to the arrival of police, Mr. Boyd left the restaurant and walked southbound on Granville Street. He was followed by a witness who called 911 and relayed Mr. Boyd's position to the call taker.

Minutes later, Mr. Boyd approached a man seated on a bench on Granville Street, near 16th Avenue. Mr. Boyd began yelling nonsensically at this individual, thereby coming to the attention of many passersby and residents of a nearby apartment building.

Two police officers arrived and encountered Mr. Boyd, who approached their police car in a non-aggressive manner, but was seen to have a hammer in his hand. Once he saw the hammer, one of the officers drew his firearm, pointed it at Mr. Boyd and demanded that he drop the hammer and lay on the ground. Mr. Boyd immediately complied. As a second officer approached Mr. Boyd to handcuff him, Mr. Boyd immediately leapt to his feet, produced a bicycle chain with a lock attached and swung it at the officer, striking the officer's head.

A second police vehicle carrying two other officers arrived at or about this time, one of whom immediately attempted to use empty handed strikes and blows with his police baton in order to gain control of Mr. Boyd, to no avail. Mr. Boyd also struck this officer with the chain.

The other officer who had arrived in the second vehicle drew his firearm and over the next 81 seconds, fired nine times, striking Mr. Boyd eight times. Four other officers arrived at various stages during the 81 seconds. Of the eight officers involved in this incident in total, only one discharged his weapon.

The jury heard evidence that Mr. Boyd was crawling toward the officer when he sustained the fatal gunshot wound, including the expert evidence of a forensic pathologist who testified that the bullet trajectory was consistent with Mr. Boyd's upper body being parallel to the ground when the bullet struck him. The forensic pathologist also testified that of the eight bullets that struck Mr. Boyd, this was the only one sufficient to cause immediate death.



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Pursuant to Section 38 of the Coroners 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: The Honourable Colin Hansen
Minister of Health
1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8**

1. We recommend mandatory utilization of extended leave, as defined in the Mental Health Act, for a person(s) suffering from a serious mental illness to ensure the person's well-being, mental health, and safety of the public.
2. We recommend funding by the Ministry of Health to provide additional dedicated teams such as "CAR 87" for mental health emergencies on a 24 hour basis.
3. We recommend the establishment of 24-hour community based walk-in clinics for the mentally ill.

Presiding Coroner's Comment: The jury heard evidence that Mr. Boyd may have benefitted from increased medical supervision and more readily available access to medical care in the community.

**To: David Guscott
President & CEO, E-Comm 911
3301 E. Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 5J3**

4. We recommend a review of E-Comm's internal communication structure and co-ordination of incoming calls.
5. We recommend that E-Comm implement a more effective means of coordinating information between E-Comm and Emergency Services.

Presiding Coroner's Comment: The jury heard several 911 recordings related to this incident. The jury also heard evidence that information provided by a 911 caller is relayed through numerous persons before it is provided to police officers and other first responders.

**To: Dr. David N. Ostrow
President & CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health
11th Floor, 601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2**

**Jim Chu
Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department
312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2**



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- 6. We recommend the establishment of a joint databank between the mental health department and the Vancouver Police Department of people with mental health issues.

Presiding Coroner's Comment: *The jury heard evidence that police officers often encounter individuals with known mental health issues and that this information may not be available to the officers at the first response level.*

**To: Jim Chu
Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department
312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2T2**

- 7. We recommend a review of all significant police incidents for assessing the effectiveness of police training.
- 8. We recommend increased mandatory training for police officers interacting with persons suffering from mental health issues with emphasis on effective de-escalation tactics.
- 9. We recommend intermediate weapons made available to all VPD officers

Presiding Coroner's Comment: *The jury heard evidence that VPD patrol officers regularly encounter individuals with mental health issues while in the performance of their duties.*

The jury also heard expert evidence in the area of use of force by police personnel and the need for police officers to assess a threatening situation on an ongoing basis and de-escalate the level of force used as the threat against themselves or others is reduced.

The jury heard evidence that not all VPD officers are trained in the use of and/or provided with intermediate weapons such as Tasers and "beanbag" shotguns.