



SCOTT GREEN
CHIEF CONSTABLE

SAANICH POLICE

....keeping Saanich safe since 1906

RECEIVED

DEC 02 2019

CHIEF CORONER

November 28, 2019

Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner
Province of British Columbia
Office of the Chief Coroner
P.O. Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe,

Re: **Verdict at Inquest into the death of:
GRAHAM, Bradley Gregory Martins
BCCS Case File #2016-1004-0041**

I am writing in response to your letter, dated November 18, 2019. Specifically, you have requested that the Saanich Police Department consider and respond to recommendation #13 of the inquest jury, namely, *"To increase resources for intelligence gathering to reduce drug traffic into Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre."* In response to recommendation #13, I offer the following.

Illicit Drug Use Prevention is one of the thirteen Key Strategic Priorities of the Saanich Police Department, as described in our 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan. We recognize that it is crucial for police to increase our understanding of trends in illicit drug use and work collaboratively with our community partners to prevent the distribution of illicit drugs and reduce the harms associated with use. Our strategies included reducing demand through education and referrals to treatment and other forms of community support. In accordance with the priorities identified by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police, our enforcement efforts are targeted towards production and distribution of illicit drugs.

To support each of the thirteen Key Strategic Priorities, the Saanich Police Department has an Annual Work Plan with sets out the specific activities we will engage in to deliver on the commitments we make in the Strategic Plan. For 2019, three of the Detective Division's Annual Work Plan initiatives relate directly to the recommendation of the inquest jury:

Initiative 2019: D-16 (Collaborate with VIRCC re enforcement of drug trafficking into the institution) was developed in response to a reported increase in the volume of illicit drugs entering the institution. Activities have included regular meetings between the Saanich Police Street Crime Unit and VIRCC staff, as well as education for institution staff on detection and intervention. This collaboration is continuing



with a goal of increasing the amount of drug intercepted and reducing the drug supply available to inmates.

Initiative 2019: D-21 (Establish VIRCC intelligence and training working group) is an initiative of the Saanich Police Department Intelligence Sergeant to enhance intelligence collection and information sharing between the two organizations, again with the goal of reducing drug distribution to the institution. In support of this initiative, VIRCC management identified the need to create a dedicated intelligence officer position, which was realized during quarter three in 2019.

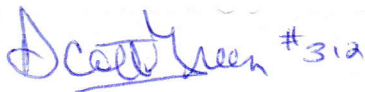
Initiative 2019: D-22 (Internal review of confidential informant handling practices and procedures) was developed in response to an identified need to increase the amount of intelligence available through confidential informants. This is a critical source of intelligence as it relates to illicit drug distribution, and under the direction of the Intelligence Sergeant, the Saanich Police are currently undertaking training to enhance our capacity in this area.

The jury has specifically recommended that the Saanich Police increase resources for intelligence gathering. The Saanich Police Department currently has a twelve-officer Street Crime Unit, made up of two sergeants and ten constables, whose mandate includes proactively targeting illicit drug distribution. One half of this team works full-time to develop intelligence to identify and apprehend drug traffickers. The Street Crime Unit works closely with the Sergeant in charge of our Intelligence Section, who is responsible for developing information and intelligence which is used to support the operational objectives of the Street Crime Unit.

In our current budget environment and faced with numerous competing priorities, it will not be possible for the Saanich Police to increase the human resources specifically dedicated to intelligence gathering. However, the Saanich Police Department is actively engaged in many activities that address the priority identified by the inquest jury, and we remain committed to working with our community partners for a safer community and to prevent tragedies such as the death of Bradley Graham.

I trust that this response will satisfy the requirement for a written response to the jury's recommendation, but please let me know if you require any further information in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Green, M.O.M., MPA
Chief Constable
Saanich Police Department