



### VERDICT AT CORONERS INQUEST

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST PURSUANT TO SECTION 38 OF THE CORONERS ACT, [SBC 2007] C 15, INTO THE DEATH OF

**Gray**

SURNAME

**Myles Thomas**

GIVEN NAMES

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

in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates: 17 April – 1 May 2023

before: Larry Marzinzik, Presiding Coroner.

into the death of Gray (Last Name) Myles Thomas (First Name) 33 (Middle Name) (Age)  Male  Female

The following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: 13 August 2015 (Date) 16:21 (time)

Place of Death: 8375 Joffre Avenue (Location) Burnaby, BC (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death:

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Cardio pulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual and restraint (involving the application of OC spray, multiple blunt force injuries, neck compression, dorsal handcuffing, and forcible prone positioning); in an individual exhibiting features of acute behavioural disturbance.

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 1 day of May AD, 2023

LARRY MARZINZIK  
Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

  
Presiding Coroner's Signature



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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: Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department**

1. To expedite the implementation of the use of body cameras (with audio recording capabilities) for all patrol officers.
2. To review and enhance the crisis de-escalation and containment training that VPD officers receive, specifically adding more frequent in-person/blended-learning training on:
  - a. How to make ongoing health and safety assessments of, and reduce risk to, a subject exhibiting a mental health disturbance;
  - b. How to implement a "step back and reassess" methodology; and
  - c. How to ensure effective communication and coordination among officers, to determine leadership in multi-officer responses.

#### **To: President and Chief Executive Officer, Provincial Health Services Authority**

3. To review the policy pertaining to the retention of relevant toxicology samples and consider retention of samples until the completion of all investigations.