



MEDIA STATEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BRANCH

June 25, 2013

13-15

Special Prosecutor Appointed to Review Shooting of Paul Boyd

Victoria - The Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Justice (the “Branch”) today confirmed that Mark Jetté has been appointed as a Special Prosecutor in relation to an incident on August 13, 2007 in which Paul Boyd was shot and killed by a member of the Vancouver Police Department. A Special Prosecutor is someone who works outside of the Branch. Mr. Jetté, a senior Vancouver lawyer, was appointed on June 24, 2013 by Assistant Deputy Attorney General, M. Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, QC.

Mr. Boyd was shot on August 13, 2007 during an incident involving members of the Vancouver Police Department who had responded to a number of 911 calls. On November 9, 2009, after reviewing an investigative report submitted by the Vancouver Police Department, the Branch announced that no criminal charges would be approved in Mr. Boyd's death. Based on the evidence that was available at the time, the Branch concluded that there was no substantial likelihood of a conviction. The Branch confirmed this decision in 2011, following a Coroner's inquest that was conducted into Mr. Boyd's death.

On May 29, 2012, then Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond announced that new video and witness information which had surfaced in the Boyd case would be investigated by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

ASIRT has now completed its investigation. The investigation consisted of not only an assessment of the new evidence, but an overall renewed investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Boyd. Numerous potential witnesses were interviewed or re-interviewed during the ASIRT investigation. The investigative report from ASIRT was received by the Branch on June 25, 2013. The Special Prosecutor was appointed after the Branch was advised by ASIRT that its investigative report would be forthcoming.

Given that the Criminal Justice Branch had reviewed the original investigative report from the Vancouver Police Department and concluded that no charges would be approved, Ms DeWitt-Van Oosten concluded that it was necessary to appoint a Special Prosecutor to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of criminal justice in reviewing the investigative report which has been submitted by ASIRT.

Branch Vision

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

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Mr Jetté's mandate includes:

- Conducting an independent charge assessment of ASIRT's investigative report and such other material as he deems necessary and making the charging decision as considered appropriate;
- Offering such legal advice as is necessary to ASIRT in the event that further investigation by them is required;
- Providing a written report to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General with the result of the Special Prosecutor's review; and
- If a prosecution is warranted, conducting the prosecution.

No further information can be released at this time, and no additional public comment will be made by the Branch or the Special Prosecutor until such time as Mr Jetté's charge assessment has been completed.

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