



March 12, 2021

21-05

Assault charges approved against RCMP officers following Richmond arrest

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that charges of assault have been approved against two RCMP officers in connection with their involvement in the arrest of an individual suspected to be in possession of stolen property on October 10, 2019 in Richmond.

An information charging Cst. Mathew McGuire and Cst. John Tsonos with assault contrary to section 266 of the *Criminal Code* was sworn on March 12, 2021 under Richmond Provincial Court file number 65432-1. The first appearance on this matter is scheduled for April 19, 2021.

The charges were approved by an experienced Crown Counsel with no prior or current connection with the officers. The charge assessment guidelines applied by the BC Prosecution Service in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BC Prosecution Service Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

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

BCPS guidelines for assessing allegations against Peace Officers are also established in policy and are available at:

www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/pol-1.pdf

As this matter is now before the court the BCPS will not be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time.

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