



December 10, 2021

21-15

Special Prosecutor approves public mischief charge following Surrey investigation

Victoria – The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) announced today that Special Prosecutor Richard Fowler QC has approved a charge of public mischief against Surrey Mayor Douglas McCallum, following an investigation initiated by a complaint from Mr. McCallum regarding events that allegedly occurred on or about September 4, 2021 at or near Surrey.

An information charging Mr. McCallum with one count of public mischief contrary to section 140(2) of the *Criminal Code* was sworn on December 10, 2021 under Surrey Provincial Court file number 247139-1. The first appearance on this matter is scheduled for January 25, 2022 in Surrey Provincial Court.

On September 20, 2021 the BCPS announced that Mr. Fowler had been appointed Special Prosecutor to provide legal assistance and advice to the RCMP during the investigation of the complaint. Mr. Fowler was given a mandate to provide legal advice to the RCMP investigators as may be necessary, conduct any related charge assessment, and assume conduct of the prosecution if charges were approved. The appointment of a Special Prosecutor is intended to avoid any potential for real or perceived improper influence in the administration of justice. The BC RCMP Major Crime Section – Special Projects Unit took conduct of the Surrey RCMP investigation to ensure there was no potential for real or perceived conflict of interest or improper influence.

The charge assessment guidelines applied by the Special Prosecutor and the BCPS in reviewing all Reports to Crown Counsel are established in the BCPS Crown Counsel Policy Manual and are available online at:

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

As this matter is now before the court neither the Special Prosecutor nor the BCPS will be releasing additional information or commenting further at this time.

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