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Investigation: DUNPHY – 2015-376186

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Date 2016-01-12

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HICKS, GREG	P	

**Greg Hicks - Re:**

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**From:** Jamie Zettler  
**To:** Greg Hicks  
**Date:** 2015/04/07 2:40 PM  
**Subject:** Re:

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Greg,

I have removed the second paragraph we can place this in the Q &A portion

Q are social media comments normally investigated?

A Due to increased use of social media, complaints to police which lead to investigations regarding activity on social media is dramatically on the rise. On a daily basis police receive complaints of non-criminal as well as criminal activity. All complaints are investigated through various police practices.

good to send out.

Jamie

>>> Greg Hicks 2015/04/07 2:29 PM >>>

On Friday, April 3rd, a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer assigned to the Protective Services Unit was advised of the existence of a social media comment, in the public domain, which was felt to be a concern as it was believed to be directed towards provincial politicians. On Sunday, April 5th., the officer attended a residence in Mitchell's Brook, near Mount Carmel, NL, to investigate the social media remarks.

Prior to attending the Mitchell's Brook residence the RNC officer conducted a routine risk assessment within the scope of his duties accessing police databases, discussions with other police personnel, and neighbourhood enquiries.

The officer assessed the risk as low, based on all information he received and as such determined that a multi-officer response was not warranted. This included contacting the RCMP detachment at Holyrood, which is the police service of jurisdiction for Mitchell's Brook. The risk assessment process is an ongoing police activity that occurs throughout all aspects of every investigation.

To date, the RCMP investigation indicates the investigating officer attended the Dunphy residence, spoke with Mr. Donald Dunphy at the door, the officer was identified as a police officer, and was invited into Mr. Dunphy's home by Mr. Dunphy. Once inside the residence, a discussion unfolded between the officer and Mr. Dunphy over a period of approximately 15 minutes. During this time period there was a sudden and dramatic change in the demeanor of the visit. The police officer was faced with Mr. Dunphy holding a long barrel firearm which was pointed at the officer. Evidence indicates the police officer responded to this threat with lethal force by drawing and discharging his service pistol. Mr. Dunphy was fatally shot and succumbed to his injuries immediately at the scene.

Examination of the scene by Forensic Identification investigators has lead to the seizure of a .22 caliber rifle

found on the floor of the residence next to Mr. Dunphy. The rifle was determined to be loaded. It has been seized and will be forwarded to a forensic laboratory for examination.

This matter remains under investigation by the RCMP.

The media are welcome to attend the Holyrood RCMP Detachment at 3:45 P.M. to meet with the below noted media contact on this matter.

Contact:

Sgt. Greg HICKS  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

-30-

>>> Jamie Zettler 2015/04/07 2:28 PM >>>

Greg

I need to see the final copy before it goes out

>>> Greg Hicks 2015/04/07 2:23 PM >>>

The suggestions from Chris and Supt ZETTLER are noted. I will get this out and plan a media conference for 1545 hrs.

>>> Chris Fitzgerald 2015/04/07 2:13 PM >>>

Sir,

Suggested Edits for consideration in bold.

C. F. (Chris) Fitzgerald, S/Sgt.  
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>>> Andrew Boland 2015/04/07 2:05 PM >>>

Attached FYI. This draft is still open to critical comment and amendment.

Thanks  
Andrew

On Friday, April 3rd, a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer assigned to the " ????? PROPER NAME ?????? was advised of the existence of a social media comment, in the public domain, which was felt to be a safety concern as it was believed to be directed towards provincial politicians. On Sunday, April 5th., the officer attended a residence in Mitchell's Brook, near Mount Carmel, NL, to investigate the social media remarks.

Due to increased use of social media, complaints to police which lead to investigations regarding activity on social media is dramatically on the rise. On a daily basis police receive complaints of non-criminal as well as criminal activity. All complaints are investigated through various police practices.

Prior to attending the Mitchell's Brook residence the RNC officer conducted a routine risk assessment within the scope of his duties accessing police databases, discussions with other police personnel, and neighbourhood enquiries.

The officer assessed the risk as low based on all information he received **and as such determined that a multi-officer response was not warranted.** This included contacting the RCMP detachment at Holyrood, which is the police service of jurisdiction for Mitchell's Brook. The risk assessment process is an ongoing police activity that occurs throughout all aspects of every investigation.

To date, the RCMP investigation indicates the investigating officer attended the Dunphy residence, spoke with Mr. Donald Dunphy at the door, the officer was identified as a police officer, and was invited into Mr. Dunphy's home by Mr. Dunphy. Once inside the residence, a discussion unfolded between the officer and Mr. Dunphy over a period of approximately 15 minutes. During this time period there was a sudden and **dramatic change in the demeanor of the visit.** The police officer was faced with Mr. Dunphy holding a long barrel firearm which was pointed at the officer. Evidence indicates the police officer responded to this threat with lethal force by drawing and discharging his service pistol. Mr. Dunphy was fatally shot and succumbed to his injuries immediately at the scene.

Examination of the scene by Forensic Identification investigators has lead to the seizure of a .22 caliber rifle found on the floor of the residence next to Mr. Dunphy. The rifle was determined to be loaded. It has been seized and will be forwarded to a forensic laboratory for examination.

This matter remains under investigation by the RCMP. **This is already stated above.....The RCMP is the police service of jurisdiction for Mitchell's Brook.**

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Anticipated Q and A

Q1 Did the RNC officer identify himself?

Investigation indicates the RNC officer did identify himself as a police officer prior to entering Mr. Dunphy's residence.

Q2 Why did the RNC Officer go to the residence on Easter Sunday when the tweet was received on Good Friday?

Police service unfolds around the province 24/7, 365. The officer that attended Mr. Dunphy's residence was within his scheduled shift.

Q3 Why did the RCMP not go with the RNC officer?

The RNC officer gathered pertinent information available to him. He contacted the RCMP Holyrood Detachment and discussed Mr. Dunphy with an RCMP supervisor. No issues of concern arose that would have required a different police presence. This is not an unusual practice. Both the RCMP and RNC often contact each other and advise that they will be going into each other's jurisdiction to complete enquiries and investigation.

Q4 What was the male mental health status?

Can not answer that question at this time. The investigation is ongoing

Q5 Was there a marihuana grow operation at the residence?

It is believed Mr. Dunphy was in possession of a Health Canada permit to grow and possess marijuana. However, this was not a factor associated to the police attendance to the residence.

Q6 Was the male under any influence of drugs or alcohol?

Toxicology results from the autopsy will take some time to be determined.