

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2015-011

Halifax Regional Police Service

April 7, 2015

Ronald J. MacDonald, QC

Director

July 22, 2015

Facts

On the evening of April 7, 2015, SiRT was contacted by the Halifax Regional Police Service (HRPS) with information received from a member of the public that suggested a possible domestic assault may have been committed by one of their officers. As a result SiRT commenced an investigation into the matter on April 8, 2015. That investigation was completed on May 15, 2015.

The investigation resulted in SiRT interviewing seven civilian witnesses, as well as the Affected Party, a 44-year-old woman who had been in a dating relationship with the officer. Other evidence related to the matter was collected and reviewed.

On May 1, 2015, two charges of assault were laid against Cst. Jason Murray, 43, of Lower Sackville, a member of the HRPS. Both assaults were alleged to have occurred in Lower Sackville, the first between October 1 and November 30, 2013, and the second between April 1 and July 31, 2014. His next appearance in Provincial Court is in Dartmouth on July 27, 2015.

Relevant Legal Issues

An assault is committed whenever a person intentionally applies force against another person without their consent.

Where reasonable grounds exist to believe a criminal offence has been committed, the Director may charge the police officer. Any offence must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt before the accused can be found guilty.

Conclusion

This summary is being released in accordance with the provisions of the *Police Act* which requires a public summary of an investigation to be released within three months of the completion of an investigation. The charges against Cst. Murray were previously the subject of a media release issued by SiRT on May 1, 2015. While this investigation led to the conclusion that there were sufficient grounds to lay charges of assault, as this matter is currently before the courts, in accordance with SiRT policy this report will not discuss the facts of that matter in any further detail. To do otherwise might compromise the fair trial interests of the accused.

The Serious Incident Response Team Regulations under the *Police Act* state that the Director may choose to provide a supplemental summary of the investigation at the conclusion of the prosecution.