

# SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT  
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2019-030

Referral from

RCMP – Halifax District

September 18, 2019

Pat Curran  
Interim Director  
January 3, 2020

SiRT began its investigation at about 5:45 pm on September 18, 2019, upon receiving a referral from the Halifax District Royal Canadian Mounted Police (HD-RCMP).<sup>4</sup> The referral was in relation to the actions during that afternoon of D/Cst. Joseph Adrian Farrow, an off-duty Halifax Regional Police Officer. SiRT concluded its investigation on September 19, 2019.

### **Facts**

On September 18, 2019 Halifax Regional Police (HRP) received a call for assistance in removing an uninvited and unwanted visitor from a home in an area of suburban Halifax served by HD-RCMP. The unwanted visitor was D/Cst. Farrow, who was known to the complainant. HRP referred the request for assistance to HD-RCMP. In responding to the call, HD-RCMP came to believe that the actions of D/Cst. Farrow were criminal in nature and contacted SiRT.

During its investigation, SiRT reviewed statements from the complainant and eight witness police officers. Other evidence relevant to the matter was collected.

Based on evidence gathered during the course of the investigation, reasonable and probable grounds existed to lay charges against D/Cst. Farrow.

On September 19, 2019, SiRT laid one charge of being unlawfully in a dwelling house and one charge of sexual assault against D/Cst. Farrow, who was arraigned in court that day. The offences were alleged to have occurred on September 18, 2019.

On December 19, 2019, the Crown withdrew the original charges against D/Cst. Farrow and proceeded on a new charge of assault (S.266 CC). D/Cst. Farrow pleaded guilty to the new charge and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 3, 2020.

### **Relevant Legal Issues**

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

### **Conclusion**

This matter is currently before the courts. In accordance with SiRT policy, this report will not discuss the facts of the matter in any further detail. 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.