

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2016-027

Halifax Regional Police

October 6, 2016

Ronald J. MacDonald, QC

Director

October 20, 2016

Facts

SiRT was contacted by the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) on October 6, 2016, who passed along information they received about a former member of the HRP, the Subject Officer. The information alleged the Subject Officer had committed an assault against his wife, an Affected Person (AP1), in May of 2016. That Subject Officer later retired from the HRP. As the information included an allegation of domestic violence against a police officer, SiRT assumed responsibility for investigating the allegations on October 6. The investigation was completed on October 19, 2016. SiRT's mandate includes investigating incidents involving former police officers which occurred prior to their retirement.

The investigation included the interview of AP1, now separated from the Subject Officer, and her three children. The investigation also received information about an alleged assault by the officer against AP2, the 15-year-old daughter of AP1. That assault is alleged to have occurred on April 22, 2016. The investigation included a review of the scene of the incidents, which was the family home, located in Bridgetown, Annapolis County.

On October 21, two charges of assault will be laid against Stewart Travis, a 52-year-old retired member of the HRP. One charge alleges that Mr. Travis committed an assault against AP2 on April 22, 2016, while the other alleges he committed an assault against AP1 on May 26, 2016. Both are alleged to have been committed in Bridgetown. Mr. Travis is scheduled to appear in Court in Annapolis Royal on November 24, 2016.

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 investigation has led to the conclusion that there are sufficient grounds to lay the two charges of assault. However, 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.