

Former Kelowna Mountie handed suspended sentence for kicking man during arrest

CANADIAN PRESS MAY 2, 2013 12:10 PM



Former Kelowna RCMP Const. Geoff Mantler

Photograph by: Global Okanagan, Screen Grab

KELOWNA - A judge in Kelowna has handed a former Mountie a suspended sentence and 18 months probation for assaulting a suspect.

Geoff Mantler pleaded guilty to assault causing bodily harm for kicking Buddy Tavares in the face during an arrest in the Okanagan city two years ago.

The arrest, which was caught on video by a bystander, showed Mantler kicking the man who was on his knees was about to lay on the ground.

The sentence reflects the Crown request for Mantler's punishment.

Mantler's lawyer was seeking a conditional discharge.

The sentence means Mantler, who resigned from the force after the allegation, will have to report to a probation officer for the next 18 months.

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