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Mountie under investigation over his conduct in Surrey Six case now is charged with theft, quits RCMP

BY ELAINE O'CONNOR, THE PROVINCE MAY 2, 2013 2:06 PM



An aerial view of the Balmoral Tower apartment block where the Surrey Six murders occurred in 2007.

Photograph by: Arlen Redekop, PROVINCE

An RCMP officer who was under investigation for having a relationship with a potential witness in the Surrey Six case has left the force following a charge of theft.

Derek Brassington was charged with theft under \$5,000 related to an off-duty incident in Burnaby on March 30.

The charge was sworn Wednesday after approval by special prosecutor Christopher Considine following an investigation by the Burnaby RCMP.

The former RCMP sergeant is due in Vancouver Provincial Court on May 7.

RCMP brass announced Brassington's departure from the force on Thursday.

"This morning Mr. Brassington's discharge documents were received and signed by the Commanding Officer. Mr. Brassington voluntarily submitted these documents," RCMP Chief Supt. Brian Cantera said in a statement.

"While we have been clear that the RCMP was seeking his involuntary dismissal, the opportunity to discharge him from the organization this morning was one which eliminated further delays, costs and uncertainty," Cantera continued.

"Mr. Brassington's career with the RCMP has ended. As a private citizen he will no longer be subject to any disciplinary actions under the RCMP Act and we will not be commenting further about his employment."

Brassington has been charged with obstruction of justice and breach of trust in relation to his alleged conduct with a witness during the investigation of the Surrey Six murder case.

A special prosecutor approved seven charges against him in June 2011. Brassington is due in B.C. Supreme Court on those charges this fall.

Three other RCMP officers will face charges in connection with that investigation, ranging from breach of trust to compromising the safety of a witness: Sgt. David Attew, Cpl. Paul Johnston and Cpl. Danny Michaud.

The officers were suspended in 2010 after an investigation.

The October 2007 Surrey Six gangland hit in Surrey's Balmoral Tower apartment building left four gang associates dead — Edward Narong, 22, Corey Lal, 21, Michael Lal, 26, and Ryan Bartolomeo, 19 — and claimed two innocent victims — Chris Mohan, 22, a building resident on his way to play basketball, and Ed Schellenberg, 55, a tradesman who was repairing the gas fireplace in the targeted suite at the time.

Three men accused of the crime — Cody Haevischer, Matthew Johnston, Michael Le — will face trial on murder charges in B.C. Supreme Court in New Westminster this fall.

Co-accused Jamie Bacon will have a separate trial in Vancouver, at a yet- to-be-determined date.

A fifth man, Sophon Sek, is charged with manslaughter and is to make his next appearance in Surrey Provincial Court next January.

Dennis Karbovanec pleaded guilty to three counts of second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder and was sentenced to life in prison.