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Mike Ferguson Situation Update #3

Legislative Changes Possible

Let's make sure that Mike's issue is addressed ... pump up the volume

email:
fergusonhelp@armiqr.net

The following letter has been released for publication by Patrick Cleary On October 7, the "Vancouver Sun" reported that Canada's Public Safety Minister, Stockwell Day, on Friday said that the Conservative Government may consider revising the RCMP Act to deal with the controversy over how the force investigates allegations against its own members. Day told reporters that the RCMP Act and OTHER LEGISLATION governing police use of force "over time, I think, need to be looked at, need to be improved and that's part of what we're doing."

Interestingly, one of the incidents referred to in the article that has lead to a call for legislative review is that of an altercation in Houston B.C. where a person was arrested after being caught with an open beer outside a hockey arena. The individual is said to have jokingly given the lone, rookie, arresting officer a friend's name instead of his own and was arrested for obstruction of justice. "Twenty minutes later [the individual] was shot dead, shot in the back of the head." In stark contrast to Mike's situation, no charges were brought against the officer.

I believe it is urgent for the the whole of the police community and the public to inform the Conservative Government that immediate steps need to be taken to ensure that any legislative changes include changes to the rules that lead to the tragic injustice evidenced in the case of the Crown versus Ferguson. In particular, any changes to legislation should exempt any police officer from the mandatory provisions of any legislation that exposes a police officer to the risk of receiving a mandatory four year jail sentence for using his own service revolver in defence of his person while on duty. This is especially so given that a firearm is the government's weapon of choice for the self-defence of all police officers - and rightly

so.

Please, all who read this message, contact Minister Day and Prime Minister Harper to demand that Mike Ferguson's situation be considered in the course of a legislative review and that Mike's situation be constructively dealt with in any changes to any and all applicable legislation.

Minister Day's address is as follows: Stockwell Day, MP, P.C.
House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

His e-mail address is: day.s@parl.gc.ca

Prime Minister Harper's address is: Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

His e-mail address is: pm@pm.gc.ca

In my view, it is the duty of every policeman, both serving and retired, to ensure that the injustice experienced by Mike Ferguson does not happen again. Please inform our government of the need for legislative changes that address Mike's truly tragic situation.

Respectfully,

Patrick Cleary, RCMP Regimental No. 32496 (retired) Richmond,
BC Canada

Thanks, Patrick

We'll pass the word and get this up on the discussion board once it is fully operational

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