



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT PLANNING & RESEARCH SECTION

Date: March 28, 2007
To: Executive Committee
From: Volker Helmuth, Director
Subject: Coroner's Jury Recommendations – Thomas Alcorn

P&R 2007-022

In the fall of 2006 the Planning and Research Section conducted an audit to determine if there were any Coroner's Jury Recommendations that had been sent to the VPD, but were not responded to. The audit revealed 3 historical files where no VPD response was sent. One such file was the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Thomas Alcorn.

Thomas Alcorn was shot and killed by a member of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) in December 1999, during an incident where Alcorn, armed with a pair of scissors and a knife, tried to attack the member. Prior to shooting Alcorn, members attempted to disarm him by discharging pepper spray and using batons.

A Coroner's Inquest into Alcorn's death was held and the Jury made a recommendation that the VPD should have more non-lethal force options available to them. This recommendation was made in 1998, prior to the VPD implementing a Less Lethal Weapons Program in 2000, and therefore, this recommendation has long since been addressed by the VPD.

Recommendation:

I recommended that a reply be prepared and sent to the Coroner, providing details of the VPD's Less Lethal Weapons Program.

Volker Helmuth, Director
Planning & Research Section