



13 October 2009

Stan T. Lowe, Police Complaint Commissioner
The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner British Columbia
#320 – 1111 Melville Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 3V6

BY FAX: (604) 660-1223

Dear Mr. Lowe:

RE: VPD Complaint regarding the shooting of Eugene Anthony Knight

I am writing on behalf of the BC Civil Liberties Association to initiate a complaint under the *Police Act* against the relevant member(s) of the Vancouver Police Department involved in the death of Eugene Anthony Knight on September 18th, 2009.

Based on media reports, it is my understanding that Mr. Knight was shot and killed by Vancouver Police officers responding to a 911 call by an agitated woman who claimed a knife-wielding man was threatening to kill her. After three police officers had forced their way into the apartment of Mr. Knight they apparently encountered Mr. Knight holding a knife to the throat of his wife. The couple's 13-year old daughter was also present in the small apartment. A police officer reportedly ordered Mr. Knight to drop the knife. It is unclear if Mr. Knight complied. Subsequently, an officer fired his Taser at Mr. Knight, but by the officer's account this measure did not subdue Mr. Knight. The officer(s) proceeded to shoot Mr. Knight. Witnesses report the first shot was followed by a "three-quarter-second pause" subsequently followed by five or six rapid shots. It is unclear how the Taser was ineffective and what circumstances existed to make lethal force necessary.

The BCCLA is concerned that the attending VPD member(s) failed to meet appropriate professional standards in discharging their duty of care towards Mr. Knight. A transparent and independent investigation is warranted in this case in the public interest.

To maintain and enhance the public's confidence in the VPD, we request that your office monitor this investigation to the extent of your statutory authority.

Sincerely,

David Eby,
Executive Director