

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT SELF-INVESTIGATION
SELF-SERVING:
Public Hearing into Police Riot at the Hyatt will be Initiated

"The Vancouver Police Department synopsis of the yet to be released full report clearly shows the riot squad was ill-prepared and subsequently over-reacted on December 8, 1998, at the Hyatt Hotel in Vancouver. I and those beside me were sitting down in peaceful passive resistance," says Sid Chow Ming Fai Tan, Green Party candidate for Vancouver city council, "Are our ideas so frightening to state security that we need to be beaten and thrown in jail at tax-payer's expense?"

It is the contention of many witnesses and participants that the police rioted at the Hyatt Hotel on December 8, 1998. Political activists across a broad spectrum formed a Jean Chretien Welcoming Committee as the Prime Minister spoke to a \$400 per plate Liberal Party fundraiser that evening. Some participants were beaten bloody when the riot squad became intimidated by less than a dozen arm-linked youths who crossed a lightly fortified police line.

Informed sources say the completed full report of the internal investigation was on the desk of the police chief on October 1, 1999, already receiving a three month extension. The next step would have been to inform the public of its findings which still has not been done in a timely manner.

"The timing is unfortunate for Vancouver citizens because the four binder report is at the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner waiting for the media. The public deserves some answers on why the report is so late, too late for people to become informed for the coming civic election," explains Sid Chow Ming Fai Tan, also a co-plaintiff in a civil suit filed by his lawyer Iven Tse for damages against the Vancouver Police Department. "I leave it to the media to examine and speculate as to why this report is so late."

Dated November 8, 1999, the synopsis of the yet to be released full report by J. Eldridge, Inspector 660, of the Internal Investigation Section, recommends no charges be considered under the Police Act or Criminal Code against any police member involved in the file. Other recommendations in the synopsis include:

- That the Crowd Control Unit obtain a suitable Public Address system to enable effective communication with large groups of people;
- That the Deputy Chief Constable in charge of the Crowd Control Unit review the deployment procedure specifically relating to deployment as a preventative measure rather than a reactive approach;
- That the Special Events Section review the policy of billing protest groups for police actions. This would be done to encourage communication between protest organizers and the police prior to a planned demonstration;
- That at the expiry of the 30-day appeal period the file be concluded.

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"I will ask the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner to investigate the events at the police riot at the Hyatt and subsequent events. The timing of the release of the full report and my credibility being questioned by VPD member Mark Tonner in his column on the eve of a civic election are too auspicious for the Non-Partisan Association," says Sid Chow Ming Fai Tan, a proponent of having an independent CopWatch citizens organization to examine the growth of the security industry and police budgets and their relationship with governments.

"The recommendations, many good, appear to be self-serving. On principle, the police investigating themselves calls for a Public Hearing and I will pursue that course," continued Sid Chow Ming Fai Tan.

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For more information, please contact:

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Sid Chow Ming Fai Tan's Schedule:

Wednesday, November 17 at All Candidates Meeting
West Point Grey Resident's Association
St. Helen's Church (8th Ave. & Trimble)

Thursday, November 18 at ICTV Independent Community TV
1650 East Hastings 1:00-4:30 PM
B-roll footage of Sid Tan's campaign available

CHINESE LANGUAGE MEDIA: PLEASE USE MY FULL NAME "SID CHOW MING FAI TAN" AS ON THE BALLOT. CHINESE LANGUAGE VOTERS NEED TO KNOW "CHOW MING FAI" AND "SID TAN" IS ONE PERSON AND ON THE BALLOT AS "TAN".

Thank You

When rich speculators prosper while farmers lose their land:
when government officials spend money on weapons instead of cures:
when the upper class is extravagant and irresponsible
while the poor have nowhere to turn: all this is robbery and chaos.
TAO TE CHING

*** VOTE SID TAN, CIVIC GREEN, FOR VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL ***