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THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2007

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# **Chief shocked** over comments made by police

Two officers allegedly made jokes about suicidal man



A pair of Vancouver sergeants allegedly joked with a dispatcher about a suicidal man, prior to him taking his own life, Chief Const. Jaime Graham announced yesterday.

The allegations stem from a suicide on Sept. 19, 2006, that — due to a dispatcher error — took officers more than an hour to respond to. The dispatcher in question has since been fired.

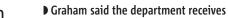
The comments between the dispatcher and two VPD sergeants, however, will be the subject of a disciplinary hearing that will take place sometime next month, Graham said

The comments have not been released, but the chief described them as "shocking."

He said he is worried that they might reveal "a complacency, a callousness, perhaps a bad attempt at black humour that has no place in circumstances of this kind."

In the case in question, E-Comm, the 9-1-1 operator for Southwest B.C., received a call from the Ontario aunt of a distressed 40-year-old Vancouver man before 2 p.m.

The call was erroneously given a low-



disciplinary hearing

about 2,500 mental health calls a year. In 2006, they received 140 calls about people on bridges and threatening to jump. Graham said the man had made similar calls for help in the past.

The Police Complaints Commissioner will review the outcome of the disciplinary hearing.

#### priority code.

E-Comm guidelines mandate that such calls be given the highest priority, requiring police officers to drop lower priority calls to attend, said E-Comm president and CEO Ken Shvmanski.

Graham said all cars were busy and the queue was stacked 14-calls deep.

A second call, this time from the man himself, followed an hour later, and police were finally dispatched to the scene at 3:15 p.m. — more than an hour and 15 minutes after the initial call for help.

Upon arrival, police were able to talk with the man through the front door, but couldn't get into the second-storey apartment because furniture was stacked in front of it.

When they finally did gain entry — by climbing in through the balcony — they found him on the floor in a pool of blood.

He had slashed his wrists and died before the ambulance arrived.





Vancouver Chief Const. Jamie Graham, at the Cambie Street police station yesterday, said police are investigating allegations that two VPD sergeants joked with a dispatcher about a suicidal man just before the man killed himself.



### **16**|style file

## Stylin' exercise outfits you can sport around



#### SPORTSWEAR

Your new years resolution of going to the gym everyday has slowly faded and become nonexistent, but with summer just around the corner you're finally realizing that you need to get in gear and get in shape. Introduce yourself back to the gym and try on these essential outfits created by Vancouver's best sportswear designers. Need a little more motivation? Check out the designers' websites and view their collections, the models toned and tight bodies should be more than enough motivation.

#### ACCESSORIZE

Check out Laura Mercier's beauty book, *The New Beauty Secrets: Your Ultimate Guide* to a Flawless Face. \$30 Available at www.chapters. indigo.ca



#### MATCHING SET

The gym basics Karma Athletics (Vancouver) Available at Karma Athletics 2066 W. 4th Ave. karmaathletics.com



#### THE YOGA PANT

For a workout or just a walk Lululemon Athletica (Vancouver) Available at Lululemon Various locations Iululemon.com



#### **ESSENTIAL TOP**

Great spring/summer colour Lululemon Athletica (Vancouver) Available at Lululemon Various locations Iululemon.com



#### **TENNIS ANYONE?**

Cute wares for the court Wanny Tang (Vancouver) Available at Inspire Concepts Ltd. 111 Smithe St. wannytang.com

#### SPORT SHOES

With designers like Yamamoto and Yasuhiro teaming up with big sport retailers. Adidas and Puma, you can't but help but wander into stores and look for the latest. in athletic shoes. Over the past couple of years athletic shoe designers have been tweaking their designs so that you can take the same sporty look off the courts and onto the streets. You'll get the look of a sporty casual shoe with the comfort and ease of an athletic shoe.

#### PSSST...

It's your time to choose one of four personalized beauty kits at Clarins. Stock up on summer skin care and receive a beauty bonus kit. On now 'till April 12 at The Bay. clarins.com

#### TIP

To keep your luon in perfect shape, avoid washing garments with Velcro, fabric softener and heavy cotton towels. Alma Adrovic, lululemon athletica designer



#### BARELY THERE

Great summer walking shoes Puma (Germany) Available at Puma 834 Granville St. puma.com



#### THREE STRIPE FLATS

Cute flats for spring Adidas (Germany) Available at Chase 4424 W. 10th Ave. chaseclothes.com



#### THREE STRIPE HIGH TOPS

Classic style Adidas (Germany) Available at Chase 4424 W. 10th Ave. chaseclothes.com



#### SLIP ONS

A comfortable fit Puma (Germany) Available at Puma 834 Granville St. puma.com