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Subject: SF PARRABELL STATUS UPDATE [DLM=Sensitive]
Date: Friday, 12 February 2016 12:23:29

Sirs

SF PARRABELL UPDATE:

BACKGROUND:

As you are aware Strike Force Parrabell was established in order to conduct a review of current NSWPF holdings of the previous reported deaths of persons between 1976 to 2000, as previously identified by the Ms Sue Thompson and the Bias Crime Unit, to determine if there is any evidence of sexuality or other bias involvement which may have contributed to the death. This review related to police investigations conducted between 1976 and 2000. The purpose of the review is to determine if any sexuality or other bias was involved in any of the deaths. In all approximately 88 cases previously identified by Ms Sue Thompson have been identified for review by SF Parrabell.

ORIGINATING LAC:

Surry Hills LAC. Present Commander Superintendent Crandell is the current Corporate Spokesperson on GLBTIQ issues and initiated this Strike Force out of growing media and political issues being raised concerning these matters. The cases to be examined are not limited by LAC boundaries and originate from all over NSW

PERSONNEL:

DSCst Cameron Bignell (SF Commander) - Surry Hills LAC
DSCst Jodi GIBBONS: Harbourside LAC
DSCst Sarah Fleming: Rose Bay LAC (restricted - pregnancy plan).

TIMELINE: Strike Force Parrabell was initiated on 01 September 2015 and at the time was estimated to continue for 6 months (01.March 2016). A review period was set for 3 monthly intervals.

1st Review: 01 December 2015.

The first review was successful and culminated in a presentation being offered to a wide group of community and political stakeholders.

2nd Review: 2 February 2016.

The SF reported that it had completed 15 reviews of cases as of this date with results being as follows.

- 1 x case identified as involving a Gender or other Bias in the Crime.
- 9 x cases identified as Likely to involve a Gender or other Bias in the Crime.
- 3 x cases identified as Unlikely to involve a Gender or other Bias in the Crime.
- 2 x cases identified as Not involving a Gender or other Bias in the Crime.

ISSUES ARISING:

At the commencement of this Strike Force it was anticipated that investigators would commence their review of the most recent cases identified (ie, Circa 2000) and work backwards in time (Circa 1976). This decision was made as it was expected that the NSWPF Holdings on each case would be more extensive with the recent cases and dwindle as the Strike Force progressed back in time given the age of the matter, record keeping techniques of the time, and archiving of the older matters. It was therefore expected that as the Strike Force progressed the timeline to conduct a review of each case would hasten as records on each matter became less extensive or unable to be located.

As of the 2nd Review it has been identified that the review of each case so far (Circa 1996) the holdings by the NSWPF are extensive. DSC Bignell reports that on average they are required to review upwards of 15 standard archive boxes full of documents on each matter. Some more recent case have required

up to 90 boxes of material to be reviewed on a single matter. This is proving more time consuming than first anticipated. These time lines do not include the efforts that investigators have to go through to find the location of the material, retrieve it from the locations where it is stored, review the material and complete a list of documents that support their conclusions. DSC Bignell is then required to oversee these reviews and finalise the conclusions. A process which he states is taking him 4 days alone to complete.

CONCLUSION:

Presently the Strike Force is behind originally intended timelines. It was originally anticipated that the Strike Force may have concluded all reviews by March 2016. Clearly this is not the case. At present rates it is predicted that at current resourcing levels the Strike Force would need a further 3 to 6 months to complete its reviews. I still anticipate that as the Strike Force moves back further in time the holdings on each matter may reduce. However I am unable to predict where this point may be reached.

With discussion with DSgt Grace (Surry Hills IM) the Surry Hills Detectives Office has assisted when possible by supplementing and assisting SF Parrabell staff with additional staffing for short 2 weeks periods. This has benefitted the Strike Force to some degree.

After the 2nd review, I have requested the Surry Hills Detectives Office supply an additional Detective on a full-time basis to assist the Strike Force. This will commence on 14 February 2016.

REQUEST:

I am aware that Harbourside are requesting the return of DSC Gibbons due to staffing issues impacting on their CI office. I have had discussions with Mr Birley and have agreed to release DSC Gibbons back to Harbourside. I do believe they are in genuine need of her being returned at this time. This will be effective as of Sunday 1 March 2016.

Given the addition of another Surry Hills Detective, the loss of DSCst Gibbons will not impact on present staffing levels as such. However given the unforeseen complexity of these matters and the delay in expected timeframes any additional staffing would be of great benefit in expediting the completion of this Strike Force.

To that end, I respectfully request the consideration be given to providing 2 x additional Officers (external to Surry Hills) to assist in this Strike Force. Whilst GLLO trained and GLBTIQ awareness and Detective designation is desirable, it is not essential.

Kind Regards



Craig Middleton | Detective Chief Inspector
Crime Manager | Surry Hills Local Area Command

