

Chief praises Halton officers in wake of SIU decision

By Graeme Frisque
gfrisque@metroland.com

The province's police watchdog has cleared a Halton police officer of any wrongdoing in the shooting of Grayson Delong last September.

At this time I wish to publicly commend each of our officers for the roles they played that day. They were able to effectively intervene in a rapidly unfolding, life-threatening incident, said Halton police chief Stephen Tanner in a release sent May 10.

While we may never know for sure, these officers quite possibly saved the life of the victim who had been shot. Following the initial incident, the officers rendered medical assistance at the scene until Toronto EMS arrived, he added.

Last September, an undercover Halton police officer shot 51-year-old Grayson Delong after police say Delong allegedly shot Toronto lawyer Randall Barrs outside his office on Bedford Rd. in Yorkville.

At the time of the incident, HRPS officers were following the suspect, as part of an ongoing property crimes investigation, wrote Halton police in its release.

Shortly after arriving in the city, Mr.

Delong suddenly and unexpectedly discharged a firearm and an individual suffered gunshot wounds. Officers intervened and, after a brief interaction, (Mr. Delong) was shot by police. Both the victim and Mr. Delong survived, added the release.

According to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), the provincial body called to investigate any incident involving police where someone is killed or injured, On Sept. 20 of last year, a team of undercover, plain-clothes Halton Hills officers were tasked with monitoring Delong, who was suspected of several property offences in Burlington.

The SIU report says officers began surveilling Delong at a scheduled 9 a.m. court appearance at Brampton court. The suspect was then followed to Admiral Rd. in Toronto where police said he exited the vehicle dressed as a construction worker and wearing a blond wig.

He then walked to a nearby park where he stayed for approximately one hour. Suspecting that Mr. Delong was preparing to

commit a robbery, the team contacted other area police services about their suspicions, wrote the SIU in its report, adding Delong then made his way to an office at 23 Bedford Rd. at approximately 3 p.m.

The subject officer, directed to approach on foot in order to ascertain if Mr. Delong was still inside the vehicle, saw Mr. Delong slouched down in the rear passenger seat. He was still wearing the disguise. The subject officer walked into the stairwell of a nearby building which afforded him a view of Mr. Delong sitting in the vehicle, added the report.

Police say Delong then exited his vehicle and allegedly shot Barrs with a semi-automatic pistol before getting back in his vehicle.

The subject officer, now standing on the east sidewalk took out his gun and walked behind the vehicle Mr. Delong was in and pointed his pistol at it. The subject officer yelled, Police, police, police!

Delong then allegedly tried to pull out of the parking space in a jerky motion, then stopped and once again discharged

his weapon.

The report then claims the officer took aim and fired three shots as Delong began to drive down Bedford Rd.

The subject officer aimed his gun at the rear of Mr. Delong's vehicle and fired three times. After firing the third shot, he noticed Mr. Delong slump to the right, and his vehicle suddenly jerked and started rolling forward, said SIU investigators.

Upon closer investigation, officers determined Delong had been struck by two bullets and paramedics were called.

Both Delong and Barrs survived the incident and Delong was charged with 15 offences stemming from the alleged attack.

No police officer wants to be placed in a situation of having to consider, never mind actually using deadly force. However, we know from this and many other similar, serious cases across the country, it can be a requirement of our highly-trained and professional officers, said Tanner in the HRPS release.

With the SIU investigation concluded, I want to once again thank our officers for their actions and commend them for their professional conduct throughout the incident and resulting investigation, he added.



Grayson Delong

HALTON HILLS DENTURE CLINIC

THE FIRST STEP TO RESTORING YOUR SMILE

Joshua Kelly, ^{DD} Denturist

Dean's Award 2008
FREE Consultations

360 Guelph Street, Unit 40
289-924-1378
www.haltonhillsdentures.ca

It's Your Choice When it Comes to Fixing Your Vehicle!

- Servicing Georgetown for over 40 years
- Unbeatable prices and excellent customer service
- Fast & Reliable Auto and Collision Service

FLOYD'S BODY SHOP

(905) 873-8102

13115 22 SIDE RD. GEORGETOWN

www.floyds-body-shop.com
[facebook.com/Floyd's Body Shop](https://facebook.com/Floyd's%20Body%20Shop)

Start driving your auto insurance *savings* further...

Lora Greene, Agent
211 Guelph Street
Georgetown, ON L7G 5B5
Bus: 905-873-1615
lora@loragreene.ca

...with up to 30%* in savings & discounts

- Winter tires? Save up to 5%*
- Multiple vehicles? Save up to 15%*
- Hybrid or electric vehicle? Save up to 5%*
- College or university student? Save up to 10%*
- Additional savings* if you have multiple policies with State Farm®

PLUS, save up to an additional 25% with our new smartphone app TELEMATICS!™ A convenient app to help you learn more about your driving habits, and potentially save. **Call me today.**

State Farm

*Conditions apply. †Certain products and services may not be available in all provinces and territories. The discount does not apply to certain endorsements and additional coverages. Please note that the savings will automatically be applied to the premium at renewal. Certain conditions and restrictions may apply.
State Farm branded policies are underwritten by Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company.
© State Farm and related trademarks and logos are registered trademarks owned by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, 1510024CN used under Licence by Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company.