

**PRESS ADVISORY**

**WINDSOR POLICE CHIEF GARY SMITH QUILTS -**

**DR. TYCEER ABOUHASSAN RESPONDS**

**December 22, 2011**

Today, Windsor Police Chief Gary Smith abruptly retires amidst a growing public outcry over his management of allegations of serious misconduct against officers of the Windsor Police Service. On April 22, 2010, Dr. Tyceer Abouhassan, an Endocrinologist opening a practice in Windsor, was the victim of a vicious and unprovoked beating by Detective Van Buskirk, one of the police officers under Chief Smith's command. Dr. Abouhassan was then subjected to false criminal charges, laid in order to cover up Det. Van Buskirk's misconduct. Constable Van Buskirk himself now faces criminal charges for assault causing bodily harm, and the officers who laid the charges against Dr. Abouhassan have been charged with deceit and discreditable conduct under the *Police Services Act*. In spite of the fact that the entire incident was caught on video, Det. Buskirk was allowed by Chief Smith to remain on active duty for 13 months following the beating.

Dr. Tyceer Abouhassan, commented: **"I hope that my case and others like it will become a catalyst for change in the Windsor Police Service. I am optimistic that as they move forward they become a more accountable and transparent organization, and their focus returns to serving and protecting the public, not each other. What happened to me should never happen again to another citizen of Windsor. The public deserves much better from its police service."**

Trial lawyer Julian Falconer, who acts for Dr. Abouhassan, **"Chief Smith's exit is an important first step, but in no way addresses the rot that has set in at the Windsor Police Service. It is essential that taking early retirement with your full pension and benefits does not become a tactic to avoid having to answer the questions that Dr. Abouhassan and the public deserve answers to. How is it that a rogue group of officers could operate for so long and get away with it, right under the nose of Chief Smith and others in chain of command?"**

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