

# Officer says impersonation was an error in judgment:

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## ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

In September 2004, [Patrick Hannas] asked his partner if she could investigate the unpaid debt to avoid a conflict of interest. When that was still deemed too close a relationship to avoid conflict, he asked another officer. Const. James Junio agreed, but said he was too busy to start immediately.

Hannas received a phone number from the father of the man he was looking for. When Hannas called the son and left a message, he identified himself as Junio. Hannas told presiding officer Insp. Rick Gagnon that he didn't believe the call would be returned if he left his own name.

Photo: Bruce Edwards, The Journal / Const. Patrick Hannas arrives for his disciplinary hearing at EPS Internal Affairs in CN Tower on Tuesday. ;

## FULL TEXT

Complaint made him realize his mistakes, says man who investigated for his father

EDMONTON - A seven-year member of the Edmonton police department told a disciplinary hearing Tuesday that errors in judgment led him to investigate a complaint from his own father and impersonate another officer.

Const. Patrick Hannas, 37, is facing two counts of deceit, one for insubordination and one for breach of confidence.

In early 2004, the Whyte Avenue officer was approached by his father regarding a customer's \$12,000 unpaid debt at a family business, Hannas Seeds in Lacombe.

"At that point, I told him I would look into it as best as I could," the officer told the hearing.

Hannas checked the man's personal information on the Canadian Police Information Centre, but was too busy to do anything further until months later, he said.

In September 2004, Hannas asked his partner if she could investigate the unpaid debt to avoid a conflict of interest. When that was still deemed too close a relationship to avoid conflict, he asked another officer. Const. James Junio agreed, but said he was too busy to start immediately.

"I took it upon myself to facilitate the matter," Hannas testified.

Hannas received a phone number from the father of the man he was looking for. When Hannas called the son and left a message, he identified himself as Junio. Hannas told presiding officer Insp. Rick Gagnon that he didn't believe the call would be returned if he left his own name.

Although Hannas had no further part in the investigation, he never opened a file for the investigative steps he did take.

Once a complaint was filed, Hannas said his mistakes became clear.

"It was like a light bulb going on in my head," he said, adding that he immediately regretted his actions.

"In light of my understanding, I wouldn't have touched this matter with a million-foot pole."

Hannas pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Lawyer Robert Abells said his client was a hard-working officer who made a wrong judgment call and learned a harsh lesson.

The lawyer for the police service, Jeremy Schick, argued that Hannas knew it was wrong to cover up his own involvement in the investigation by giving his name as Junio.

He compounded the error by never documenting his investigative steps, Schick told the hearing.

Also, the service is questioning if the investigation was even in Hannas's jurisdiction, because his father's store is in Lacombe.

A decision in the case will be handed down on April 21.

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### Illustration

Photo: Bruce Edwards, The Journal / Const. Patrick Hannas arrives for his disciplinary hearing at EPS Internal Affairs in CN Tower on Tuesday. ;

## DETAILS

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