

July 18, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into allegation of assault by Winnipeg police

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an allegation by a 29-year-old woman that she was sexually assaulted by members of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS). The agency determined her allegations were unfounded and that nothing criminal occurred.

In the early morning hours of October 9, 2017, police responded to a complaint about an intoxicated female starting fights in a lounge. Following her arrest, the woman experienced some health issues and was transported to Health Sciences Centre. While en route, she claimed she had been sexually assaulted by WPS members.

Although she did not suffer a serious injury, the IIU civilian director determined it to be in the public interest for the independent agency to investigate.

Among other allegations, the woman claimed to have been with officers for more than two hours and taken out of the city and assaulted. However, GPS data from the officers' vehicle showed the distance covered was six kilometres and was accomplished in less than nine minutes.

As well, the woman said she was certain of the badge numbers of the two involved officers. However, investigators determined the numbers are associated with officers who retired more than a decade before the incident.

IIU's report into the incident noted virtually all of the woman's allegations were refuted by independent evidence.

The details of this investigation were first announced on October 11, 2017.

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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iiumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba