

IIU concludes investigation into serious injury during WPS arrest

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of an adult male by the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) that resulted in him sustaining serious injuries.

On August 18, 2022, the WPS advised the IIU of an incident that occurred on June 10, 2022. According to the notification, WPS responded to a call for service on Holborn Place. Upon arriving on the scene, officers located a male suspect and advised he was under arrest. During his arrest, a use of force encounter occurred. The male required medical attention at the scene, was medically cleared by Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) and subsequently taken to WPS headquarters, where he was processed and released. WPS further advised it received correspondence from the Law Enforcement Review Agency (LERA) on August 18, 2022, advising that as a result of a complaint, LERA had secured medical evidence that indicated the male suffered a fractured rib during his arrest.

As the injuries sustained are defined as serious injuries under IIU regulations, the IIU was mandated to investigate. Information obtained and reviewed by IIU investigators included:

- WPS officers' notes and narratives;
- witness statements;
- WPS use of force report;
- audio recordings of 911 calls;
- call history;
- audio recordings of WPS radio communications;
- video surveillance footage;
- WPS arrest report; and
- medical report concerning the affected person.

Investigators met with and interviewed the affected person, three civilian witnesses and four members of the WFPS.

The civilian director designated four WPS officers as witness officers. However, during the course of the investigation, the IIU received notification the purported subject officer had died.

Due to the death of the purported subject officer, before he was formally designated and had any involvement in this investigation, the role of the IIU at this stage has been materially affected. In usual circumstances, based on the nature and quality of the evidence that has been gathered and reviewed, the most that would have occurred would have been to forward this file to Manitoba Prosecution Services requesting an opinion on whether the evidence would support a reasonable likelihood of a successful prosecution. In these circumstances, that decision is moot as the purported subject officer is deceased and no criminal code charge would be authorized to proceed.

The IIU completed its investigation to the best of its abilities under the circumstances and has produced all the salient facts surrounding the matter. Given the fact that the purported subject officer is deceased, there is no further role for the IIU. Accordingly, the matter is now closed.

The affected person remains before the court on charges arising from the incident. The civilian director's report on the incident will be made available following disposition of those charges.

The details of the investigation were first announced on August 19, 2022.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba