FINAL REPORT: IIU concludes investigation into allegation of driving offences by on-duty RCMP officer

On October 12, 2022, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident where an on-duty member was alleged to have committed driving offences while operating an unmarked police vehicle.

According to an excerpt of his notification:

> *On October 6, 2022, a caller reported to the RCMP witnessing an unmarked police SUV driving in excess of 140km/hr on Highway 1 westbound into the City of Brandon operated by a female officer. The police SUV did not have emergency equipment activated.*
>
> *The caller caught up with the unmarked police SUV…and observed it park at a local Brandon restaurant.*
>
> *The caller captured the incident on video via his dash cam.*
>
> *MVB checks… identified the vehicle as being registered to the Government of Canada, Headingley Traffic Services.*
>
> *The female officer attended the Brandon Detachment that afternoon for a meeting and was operating an unmarked police SUV.*
>
> *A request has been submitted to obtain the GPS patrol history and officer log in information available for this police vehicle.*
>
> *RCMP has followed up with the caller and the local restaurant. Arrangements are being made to secure any CCTV that may exist with respect to this matter.*

As the Allegations in the notification are discretionary matters pursuant to the provisions of The Police Services Act (PSA), the civilian director determined that it was in the public interest for an independent investigation to be undertaken by IIU. Accordingly, pursuant to s. 75 of the PSA, IIU assumed conduct of this matter and commenced an investigation. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

Information obtained by IIU investigators included:

- RCMP occurrence summary
- vehicle status
- general reports
- surveillance video from restaurant/gas bar

Due to the dearth of information identifying the female member as the driver with certainty, it was determined that the decision to designate a subject officer would be deferred to allow evidence to gathered and assessed.

The caller was interviewed by IIU investigators as he was the only witness to the purported poor driving. However, his recollections of the incident were markedly different from the original complaint. In fact, his recollection was the unmarked police vehicle was travelling between 110-120 km/hr in a marked speed zone of 110 km/h. Furthermore, his statement that the poor driving was recorded by his vehicle's dash cam proved to be inaccurate as the video did not exist. The video was apparently overwritten and not preserved. It does not exist. His description of the driver was generic and insufficient to identify the female officer as the operator of the unmarked vehicle. A review of RCMP records determined that the vehicle in question was an unmarked police vehicle but there was no record of who, and specifically whether the female member, had possession of it on the day in question. There was no GPS data available for this vehicle. A review of the restaurant and gas bar surveillance video shows that the female member was at the restaurant meeting with two unidentified RCMP members. There was no video available showing that female member exiting or entering the unmarked motor vehicle. The female member was in Brandon for a police related meeting.

Conclusion:

Following the completion of this investigation, it was determined that the available evidence was insufficient to identify the operator of the unmarked police vehicle with any certainty. Accordingly, there are no grounds to support the designation of anyone as a subject officer. The evidence of the only witness to the driving was inconclusive, confusing and incapable of corroboration.

Accordingly, in these circumstances, there is no basis to continue with this investigation and this file is closed.

Final report prepared by:

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Independent Investigation Unit
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