

June 14, 2017

IIU concludes investigation into fatal motor vehicle collision in Winnipeg

On May 16, 2017 the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) completed its investigation into a fatal vehicle collision that followed an attempted police traffic stop and resulted in the death of an adult female. It has determined there are no grounds for charges against the involved officers.

On the afternoon of September 13, 2016, a marked police cruiser car attempted to stop a GMC Envoy in the vicinity of Arlington Street and Boyd Avenue. When police activated their emergency equipment, the Envoy fled westbound on Boyd Avenue at a high rate of speed, soon striking and flipping a Dodge Ram northbound on Sinclair Street. The Envoy then continued westbound, striking another vehicle parked on Boyd Avenue.

The Envoy rolled and came to rest against the parked vehicle. The driver fled on foot, but was apprehended following a short foot chase and taken into custody. Four passengers were transported to hospital, where a 36-year-old female passenger was declared deceased.

Among other things, IIU investigators examined radio transmission recordings between the WPS Communication Centre and the marked police vehicle involved in the pursuit, and GPS data recordings from the police vehicle.

A traffic accident reconstruction report estimated that, at the point of impact with the Dodge Ram, the Envoy was travelling at 91 km/h. The police vehicle at that time was travelling at 50 km/h.

In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler said any pursuit by police was minimal. He noted police activated their lights and siren but never accelerated to catch up to the Envoy.

Tessler wrote the actions of the two officers were “careful, prudent, justifiable and appropriate” and that the driver of the Envoy bears “full and sole responsibility for the manner of driving, collisions and consequent death.”

The driver has been in custody since the collision and is facing numerous criminal code charges. The civilian director’s complete report will be posted online once the charges are dealt with.

The details of this investigation were first reported on September 14, 2016.

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