

January 02, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into alleged assault by WPS officers

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the force used by two police officers during a foot chase and subsequent arrest in Winnipeg in 2016. Neither of the officers involved will face any charges.

The incident occurred November 22, 2016 after police initiated a traffic stop in the area of McGregor Street and Magnus Avenue in Winnipeg. A male fled from the vehicle and two members of the Winnipeg Police Service gave chase on foot. After a struggle, the male was eventually placed in handcuffs and transported to a police station, where he complained of dizziness and pain in his head. He was taken to hospital, treated, and released back into police custody. A portion of the struggle and arrest was captured on a third party's mobile cell phone. This 20 second video was provided by the third party to a local television outlet and posted online.

Although there were no serious injuries to the individual, the IIU civilian director determined it was in the public interest for the unit to investigate the use of force in this incident.

IIU investigators interviewed the male, the civilian who recorded the video, the paramedics who attended to the man, and numerous witness officers. They also reviewed the video and the man's medical reports. The issue for the IIU was whether, at any time, either arresting officer subjected the man to unnecessary and excessive force in the course of apprehending and arresting him.

The completed IIU investigation file was sent to Manitoba Prosecution Services for review and advice. Following a thorough review of the IIU file, Manitoba Prosecution Services advised there is no reasonable likelihood either officer would be convicted of a criminal code offence. Based on this advice, neither officer will face charges.

The arrested individual remains before the courts on charges arising out of this incident. 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 December 2, 2016.

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