

March 8, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into shooting of suspect by WPS officers

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a male was seriously injured as a result of being shot by two members of the Winnipeg Police Service. It has concluded that no charges should be laid against either officer.

On July 24, 2017, police responded to reports of a home invasion on La Verendrye Street in St. Boniface, by a male armed with a handgun. A motor vehicle pursuit ensued, followed by a short foot chase along Archibald Street involving multiple officers. The man ran with his left arm pumping and his right hand secured by his side. When the man pivoted his body back towards the pursuing officers and pointed with his right arm, two officers discharged their weapons. The man was taken to hospital with multiple gunshot wounds to his right hip, leg and foot.

Police then searched the area for a handgun but did not find one. Rather, they located a pair of brass knuckles beside where the man fell to the ground.

Security video from two nearby businesses aided the IIU investigation, as did interviews with 16 witness officers and numerous civilian witnesses.

In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted that police were chasing a suspect they believed to have been involved in an armed home invasion; that he refused all commands to stop and surrender; and that he appeared to reach for his waistband as he turned and made a gesture as if to aim a gun. Tessler concluded it was reasonable for the two officers to fire at the man to prevent the death of officers and numerous civilians in the vicinity.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on July 25, 2017.

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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IUManitoba