

March 9, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into injury of youth during arrest by WPS

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the injury of a 14-year-old female while being chased by a member of the Winnipeg Police Service. It has concluded that no charges should be laid against the officer.

On September 2, 2017, police responded to reports of a car stolen from the area of Magnus Avenue and Charles Street in Winnipeg and being driven erratically. Police located and stopped the vehicle and arrested the driver and one occupant. A second occupant—a female youth—ran from the vehicle. When she refused an officer’s commands to stop, she was chased on foot. The officer pushed her from behind, causing her to fall onto her shoulder and sustain a broken left clavicle.

Although this was not a serious injury as defined by regulations, the IIU civilian director determined it to be in the public interest for the agency to investigate.

The issue for the IIU was whether the officer used unnecessary and excessive force while apprehending the teen. It determined the officer had a clear duty to take all reasonable steps to apprehend the girl and that, in the circumstances, his actions were reasonable and appropriate.

The civilian director’s complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on September 6, 2017.

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