

April 15, 2021

## **IIU concludes investigation into injuries following WPS use of Taser**

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the injury of a 46-year-old male during his arrest by the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS).

On April 11, 2018, WPS notified the IIU that, earlier the same day, officers had attended at an apartment block on Agnes Street following a report of a man who was agitated and threatening others. According to police, when officers arrived at the scene, the man was armed with a hammer and resisted arrest. He was shocked with a Taser and fell down a flight of stairs. The man was subsequently transported to hospital where he was diagnosed with possible fractures to the neck or spine. He was discharged approximately 12 hours later and processed on criminal charges.

As a fracture of the vertebrae is defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, the agency was mandated to investigate.

IIU investigators interviewed the affected person and three civilian witnesses, as well as a WPS subject matter expert on the use of Conductive Energy Weapons (CEW). Investigators also reviewed:

- WPS general and supplementary reports
- WPS officers' notes and narrative reports
- Scene photos
- Surveillance video of the arrest
- The injured man's medical reports
- Audio recording of the 911 call
- WPS radio transmissions
- CEW downloads
- Use of CEW force report

The IIU's civilian director is satisfied that the use of the CEW was appropriate, measured and justified in these circumstances, and that the injuries sustained by the affected person were an unavoidable consequence of the use of the CEW. No excessive force was used.

The civilian director is not satisfied that any reasonable grounds exist in these circumstances to justify the laying of any criminal code or other offence against the officer who discharged the CEW.

This IIU investigation is now closed, and the civilian director's complete report is available online at [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca).

The details of this investigation were first announced on April 13, 2018.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:  
Communications Services Manitoba  
Telephone: 204-945-3765

*Information on the IIU can be found at [www.iiumanitoba.ca](http://www.iiumanitoba.ca) or at [www.twitter.com/IUManitoba](https://www.twitter.com/IUManitoba)*