

October 30, 2019

## **IIU concludes investigation into injury to man during WPS arrest**

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the injury of a 40-year-old man during his arrest by members of the Winnipeg Police Service. It has concluded that no charges should be laid against either of the two subject officers.

On February 2, 2018, police responded to a call from an apartment block on Sherbrook Street where tenants reported a male armed with weapons was banging on doors and attempting to enter suites. Upon arrival, police found him sleeping, with a knife nearby, and cradling a fire extinguisher. When officers woke the man, he responded violently, discharged the fire extinguisher and resisted arrest. Officers used a conductive energy weapon (Taser) on the man to no effect. After using force to complete the arrest, police took the man to the Health Sciences Centre where he was diagnosed with fractured vertebrae and a fractured nasal cavity.

As fractured vertebrae are defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, the agency was mandated to investigate.

The IIU investigation included interviews with four tenants in the building, all of whom said the man was actively resisting arrest. Investigators also met with the injured man, who acknowledged he was a methamphetamine user and was armed with several weapons at the time of his arrest.

The issue for the IIU was whether the officers used unnecessary or excessive force while apprehending the man. In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler determined the subject officers employed all means available to disarm the armed man and defuse a potentially deadly situation.

“In my opinion, the subject officers demonstrated calculated, crucial and necessary actions to avoid the necessity of resorting to potential lethal force,” Tessler wrote. “In the end, more serious physical harm and the potential for loss of life was completely avoided by the actions of the subject officers.”

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 February 7, 2018.

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