

September 19, 2019

IIU concludes investigation into injuries to male during arrest by WPS

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a 47-year-old male was injured during his arrest at a Magnus Avenue apartment in Winnipeg. It has concluded the two arresting officers did not use excessive or unnecessary force against the man.

On February 12, 2018, two Winnipeg Police Service officers responded to a 911 call about a male who appeared to be suicidal and high on drugs. Officers were aware the man was wanted in respect to unrelated criminal matters. When they arrived, they found the man to be severely agitated, hallucinating and paranoid and he resisted arrest. Several other officers arrived on scene and assisted in pinning the man to the floor and handcuffing him.

Following his arrest, the man was taken to Health Sciences Centre, where it was determined he had sustained a spiral fracture to his left arm. As this is a serious injury as defined by regulations, IIU was mandated to investigate.

The investigation included an interview with the affected man, who acknowledged he was hallucinating and incoherent after smoking an unknown drug. It also included interviews with three relatives of the injured man--all of whom were present during the physical altercation and none of whom saw any inappropriate actions by the police officers.

In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted the subject officers employed all means available to disarm and disable the man and defuse a potentially deadly situation, and there are no grounds to justify charges against either officer.

The complete report on the IIU investigation is available online at iiumanitoba.ca.

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

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