

September 19, 2019

IIU concludes investigation into injuries to male related to WPS arrest

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a 34-year-old male was injured during a physical altercation with police officers at a Sargent Avenue apartment in Winnipeg. It concluded the officers did not use excessive or unnecessary force against the man.

On September 2, 2018, in response to a 911 call, two police officers arrived at the apartment to check on the well-being of an occupant. They found the suite in shambles and a man hiding under sheets on a bed. When the man jumped at the officers in a hostile manner, a fight ensued and the man grabbed a large hammer and attempted to strike one of the officers. Officers used pepper spray and tasers on the man, but to no effect. According to police, the man appeared to be under the influence of a drug--likely meth--and he continued to fight. He was eventually brought to the ground and arrested once back-up officers arrived.

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

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. He found the subject officers “demonstrated calculated, crucial and necessary actions to avoid the necessity of resorting to lethal force.”

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

The details of this investigation were first announced on September 5, 2018.

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