

April 16, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into WPS officer-involved shooting

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an officer-involved shooting involving the Winnipeg Police Service, which occurred last year in Winnipeg.

On March 3, 2019, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) notified the IIU of an incident it responded to, involving a call for service for a break and enter in progress on McGee Street. While responding to the break and enter, a WPS officer discharged their firearm, striking a male several times. The affected person was transported to Health Sciences Centre in critical condition, with multiple gunshot wounds.

As an injury caused by the discharge of a firearm is defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

The IIU interviewed two civilian witnesses, one witness officer and the affected person. In addition, the IIU reviewed the 911 call recorded by WPS communications, which captured the audio of the police interaction with the affected person. The IIU also reviewed medical reports regarding the affected person's injuries, and the subject officer provided a prepared statement to IIU investigators.

Following completion of the investigation, and because of a number of material discrepancies in the various witness accounts, the civilian director forwarded the IIU investigative file to the Manitoba Prosecution Service (MPS). The director requested a review and opinion on whether any Criminal Code charges should be authorized against the subject officer.

Following their review of the investigative file, MPS advised IIU that the matter did not meet the prosecution-charging standard, and accordingly, MPS would not authorize any Criminal Code offences against the subject officer.

The IIU investigation is now complete and the matter is closed.

The affected person remains before the court on charges arising out of this incident. The civilian director's report on the IIU investigation will be made available following disposition of the charges.

The details of this investigation were first announced on March 4, 2019.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba