

June 10, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into injuries sustained by a 59-year-old male during an arrest by the WPS

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of a 59-year-old male in Winnipeg, Manitoba, which resulted in the male sustaining a fractured left forearm.

On June 18, 2019, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) notified the IIU of an incident that occurred during the evening of June 17, 2019, during which, WPS received a call from the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service, requesting WPS assistance with a 59-year-old male who had become violent and combative in the rear of their ambulance.

The attending WPS officers entered the ambulance, located at the Main Street Project (MSP), and tried to persuade the male to get back on a stretcher, so he could be safely buckled in and moved to the MSP. The male refused and flailed his arms, causing the subject officer to grab the male's left arm. During the ensuing interaction, a snapping sound was heard, indicating what appeared to be a significant injury to the male's left forearm. The male was subsequently transported to St. Boniface Hospital, where a medical examination confirmed a fracture of the forearm, and surgery was performed.

As the male's injuries met the definition of a serious injury under IIU regulations, an IIU investigation was mandatory.

IIU investigators interviewed two civilian witnesses, a WPS witness officer, and two City of Winnipeg paramedics. Investigators also reviewed the subject officer's notes and report, witness officers' notes and reports, the incident history report, the arrest report, audio of the 911 telephone call and WPS radio communications, MSP surveillance video, the WPS Use of Force report, and the St. Boniface Hospital and Health Sciences Centre medical records and reports concerning the affected male.

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

MPS advised the IIU that in this matter, the arrest was lawful, the use of force reasonable, and the fractured arm was the result of the male's physical condition. It did not meet the prosecution-charging standard, and MPS did not recommend any charges against the subject officer.

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

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on September 16, 2019.

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

Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba