

January 29, 2020

WPS officer charged following investigation into unauthorized use of police computer system

A Winnipeg police officer has been charged with three offences under the Criminal Code of Canada following an investigation by Manitoba's Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) into the officer's unauthorized use of a Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) computer system.

On October 1, 2019 while driving a private vehicle, an on-duty police officer was captured speeding on photo radar. Upon return to his office, the officer made unauthorized entries into a WPS computer system to prevent the speeding ticket from issuing, thereby frustrating and defeating the court process related to it.

Once notified of the allegation, the IIU civilian director determined it was in the public interest for the unit to investigate. The IIU conducted a thorough and independent investigation into the incident and Civilian Director Zane Tessler has determined there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe a criminal offence occurred.

As a result, Patrol Sergeant Sean Cassidy has been charged with the following criminal code offences:

1. Unauthorized Use of Computer (s.342.1)
2. Fraud (s.380(1)(b))
3. Obstruct Justice (s.139(2))

Cassidy was personally served with a summons directing a first appearance date of March 9, 2020 in Provincial Court of Manitoba, in Winnipeg.

The IIU issued a news release on October 4, 2019 advising that it had launched an investigation into the incident.

As this matter is now before the court, the IIU will not comment further.

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