

May 21, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into WPS officer-involved shooting in Winnipeg

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

On October 18, 2019, WPS notified the IIU of an incident it responded to involving the discharge of a service weapon. On that date, members of WPS responded to a 911 call requesting police assistance relating to a domestic disturbance. Upon entering the residence, officers located an unresponsive female lying face down on the floor, and called for medical assistance.

Shortly after, WPS officers encountered a male in the bathroom of the residence. The male approached the officers, while raising a knife in an overhand grip. A WPS officer subsequently discharged his firearm, striking the male in the left shoulder. Simultaneously, a second officer discharged his Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW). Officers administered first aid, before the male was transported to hospital with one gunshot wound and what appeared to be self-inflicted lacerations to his neck.

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.

In addition to reviewing both witness and subject officers' notes and reports, IIU investigators interviewed the subject officer and three witness officers, and met twice with the affected person at the Remand Centre. The affected person declined to provide a statement, but did consent to the release of medical information. IIU investigators also reviewed the supplementary occurrence report, audio of the 911 telephone calls, WPS radio communications, scene photographs, CEW download report, WPS firearm qualification information, the affected person's medical report, and the Forensic Identification Unit report.

In his report on the investigation, the IIU civilian director found the subject officer's decision to use potentially lethal force was justified, unavoidable, and necessary to prevent death or injury to the attending officers.

The IIU investigation is complete and the file 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 October 21, 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/IUManitoba