

December 08, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into injuries related to WPS arrest

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of a 19-year-old female that resulted in her sustaining a serious injury.

On January 19, 2020, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) reported an incident to the IIU that occurred at approximately 11:59 p.m. on January 18, in the 2600 block of Pembina Highway. According to WPS, officers responded to a call for service regarding a female in distress. Upon attending, they observed that the female appeared to be intoxicated. WPS reported that when officers attempted to take the woman into custody, she became uncooperative and resisted arrest. Upon being handcuffed, the woman reported soreness to her left arm. She was transported to Victoria Hospital, where she was treated for fractures to her left arm.

As a fracture to the arm is defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

IIU investigators interviewed the affected person, a witness officer and two civilian witnesses. Investigators also reviewed:

- general, arrest and narrative reports of the witness officer;
- the witness officer's notes;
- the prepared statement of the subject officer;
- audio recording of the 911 call;
- audio recording of WPS radio transmissions;
- video surveillance footage;
- the call history; and
- medical reports related to affected person.

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

Following the review of the IIU investigative file, MPS provided a written opinion, in which it was stated:

Manitoba Prosecution Service (MPS) has reviewed the IIU investigation of [SO]. While it is always in the public interest to hold police officers accountable, there must also be a reasonable likelihood of conviction for MPS to prosecute a matter. In this case, after considering all of the admissible evidence, we have concluded that a reasonable doubt exists as

to whether the officer's use of force was excessive. Consequently, we are not satisfied that there is a reasonable likelihood of conviction. When MPS is consulted for charge authorization in any criminal matter, we employ the same standard for proceeding with criminal charges.

The investigation is now complete and the matter is closed. The civilian director's complete report is now available online at www.iumanitoba.ca.

The details of this investigation were first announced on January 20, 2020.

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