

January 28, 2021

IIU concludes investigation into fatal WPS officer-involved shooting

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into a fatal WPS officer-involved shooting.

On April 8, 2020, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) advised the IIU of an incident that occurred at 5:30 p.m. that day. According to the notification, police were pursuing a stolen vehicle. The vehicle came to a stop in the area of Lagimodiere Boulevard near Fermor Avenue. While apprehending the occupants of the vehicle an officer discharged their firearm, striking a female occupant. The female was transported to Health Sciences Centre, where she was pronounced deceased. A team of IIU investigators was immediately deployed to the scene and the investigation commenced.

As this matter concerned the death of a person, which resulted from the actions of a police officer, the IIU assumed responsibility for this mandatory investigation in accordance with section 65(1) of The Police Services Act (PSA). Furthermore, in accordance with section 70(1) of the PSA, the IIU was required to seek the appointment of a civilian monitor as this matter involved the death of a person. Accordingly, IIU requested the Manitoba Police Commission to appoint a civilian monitor. Finally, a team of IIU investigators was assigned to this investigation.

The information obtained and reviewed by IIU investigators, included:

- Investigative summary completed by WPS Criminal Investigations Bureau
- Forensic Identification Service (FIS) reports and photographs
- 3D Scan of Scene
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) report
- Audio recording of 911 call from SCLM
- Audio recording of WPS radio transmissions
- Photographs and video recordings taken by various civilian witnesses
- Video surveillance recordings from various business and commercial premises
- Narrative reports and notes of WPS officers

- Video statements of various civilian witnesses
- The mechanical inspection report for the Jeep
- Physical evidence seizures, including the discharged WPS service firearm
- Pathology report respecting the deceased
- WPS policy on use of service firearms
- Expert opinion on Use of Force report

Following the receipt and review of the expert Use of Force report, the entire investigative file was referred to Manitoba Prosecution Service (MPS) with a request to provide a Crown opinion on the matter. On December 22, 2020, MPS provided IIU with a detailed and thorough 45-page report. MPS advised IIU that it was not recommending any criminal charges against the officer.

This incident is a tragedy, magnified by the loss of a young life. In normal circumstances, IIU would withhold the publication of a final report if, arising from the incident, Criminal Code charges are still before the courts. In this situation, there are individuals who are charged out of an earlier incident, which was separate from the IIU investigation of the officer-involved shooting. However, as this final report focuses specifically on the pursuit and officer-involved shooting, it has been determined that it is in the public interest to release the full and final report at this time.

The investigation is now complete and the matter is closed. The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on April 9, 2020.

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