

January 5, 2024
Case Number: 2023-0016

IIU concludes investigation regarding serious motor vehicle collision in Winnipeg

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding a motor vehicle pursuit of an adult male by the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) that resulted in two individuals sustaining serious injuries.

On March 5, 2023, the WPS notified the IIU of an incident that had occurred the previous day. According to the notification, officers were dispatched to a call for service regarding a domestic assault in the area of Powers Street and Selkirk Avenue. Upon arrival, officers located a female victim. A male entered a nearby SUV and sped away from the scene. Officers attempted a traffic stop but the male refused to comply and continued at a high rate of speed. The Air1 helicopter followed the suspect vehicle and provided ground units with updates. The SUV ran a red light at the intersection of McPhillips Street and Leila Avenue and collided with a civilian vehicle. Both drivers were transported to Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg with serious injuries.

As this matter concerned a serious injury as defined under the IIU regulations, the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with Sec. 66(4) of the Police Services Act.

The civilian director designated five witness officers. No subject officers were designated. Investigators interviewed two affected persons and two civilian witnesses. IIU investigators obtained and reviewed information received from the WPS including video footage captured by Air1 as well as dash camera footage from a civilian witness and a traffic analyst report.

In considering all the circumstances, the civilian director concluded the police officers' actions did not contribute to the serious injuries sustained by the affected persons. Accordingly, the matter is now closed.

As an affected person remains before the court on charges arising from the incident, the civilian director's report on the incident will be made available once those charges are disposed.

The details of the investigation were first announced on March 6, 2023.

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