

January 16, 2017

IIU concludes investigation into WPS arrest during home invasion and serious injury to suspect

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the serious injury of a suspect last July and has concluded the force used by arresting officers was reasonable and there are no grounds for charges against any of the officers involved.

At approximately 5:00 a.m. on July 13, 2016, police were dispatched to a house on Ross Avenue after a call from the homeowner that someone had broken into her home and was inside the residence. Officers broke through the front door and found a suspect inside and attempted to place him under arrest. The suspect resisted and police used a taser device to gain control of him.

The man became unresponsive and was transported by ambulance to hospital, where it was determined he had suffered a laceration to his liver; he was hospitalized for eight days. As this is a serious injury as defined by IIU regulations, the unit was required to investigate to determine whether, at any time, police applied excessive or unnecessary force to the suspect.

The investigation included an interview with the suspect himself, who was unable to remember suffering any injuries to his torso before or during the altercation with officers.

In his report, Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted there was no evidence to ascertain how the suspect suffered the laceration to his liver. He wrote, "It is a possibility this injury occurred earlier that morning through an altercation with another individual, prior to and unrelated to any contact with police at the residence. The medical opinion does not assist in resolving this issue."

As a result of the incident, the suspect was charged with one count of break and enter of a residence with intent to commit an indictable offence and one count of obstructing/resisting a peace officer. As one of those charges is still before the Court, the IIU will not comment further on this matter.

The complete report of the civilian director will be posted online once the charges are dealt with by the Court. The details of this investigation were first released on July 18, 2016.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:
Barbara Czech
Communications, Independent Investigation Unit
204-803-9644
bczech@mts.net