

January 17, 2017

IIU concludes investigation into police pursuit and motor vehicle collision in Winnipeg

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has completed its investigation into a police pursuit on Redwood Avenue last May and has concluded that officers acted appropriately.

On May 23, 2016, at approximately 2:35 a.m., members of the Winnipeg Police Service gave chase to a Toyota Corolla with six occupants, after determining the licence plate did not match the registered description of the vehicle. Police activated their lights and siren in an attempt to stop the vehicle, but it accelerated away, travelling westbound on Redwood Avenue. At McPhillips and Redwood, the driver ran a red light and collided with a Chrysler 200 travelling northbound on McPhillips.

The two occupants of the Chrysler were treated for minor scrapes and bruises. One occupant of the Toyota suffered a broken femur while another incurred a fractured vertebra.

As this incident involved serious injuries, the IIU assumed responsibility for the investigation, as required by *The Police Services Act*.

An accident reconstruction report determined the Toyota was travelling at speeds of at least 94 km/h. The call history between the subject police officers and WPS Operational Communication Center, along with surveillance video of the collision, revealed the police vehicle attained a speed of 86 km/h as it pursued the Toyota. When the Toyota increased speed and pulled away from the police vehicle, the officers turned off the emergency equipment, slowed their vehicle and did not attempt to keep pace. The collision occurred very shortly afterwards.

IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler determined the actions of the police officers were justified and appropriate for the circumstances. In his report on the incident, he wrote “the driver of the Toyota was intent on fleeing from police, was driving at extremely high speeds, disobeyed traffic control devices and was solely responsible for the collision with the Chrysler and subsequent injuries sustained by everyone.”

The complete report of the civilian director is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca

The details of this investigation were first released on May 23, 2016.

-30-

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