

September 29, 2016

IIU concludes investigation into serious injuries related to arrest by Winnipeg police

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has completed its investigation into the serious injury of a suspect last January and has concluded the force used by arresting officers was reasonable and necessary.

On January 23, 2016, WPS officers responded to a call that a male, wearing a black ski mask and armed with a firearm, was observed at a rooming house on Ross Avenue. Three officers, upon entering the house, came across a man in a balaclava, carrying a sawed-off rifle with a scope attached, and being injected with a syringe by a second individual. When the man refused police commands to raise his hands, one officer attempted to physically force him to the floor. The man was wearing the rifle in a shoulder sling and a struggle ensued involving all three officers. The suspect was eventually subdued after police disabled him with a Taser device.

The man was taken to the Health Sciences Centre, where he was admitted with a fractured rib and a partially collapsed lung.

The IIU investigated to determine whether, at any time, the subject officers applied excessive or unnecessary force to the affected person.

Following the investigation, Civilian Director Zane Tessler determined the officers employed all means available to disarm the individual and defuse a potentially deadly situation without resorting to the use of lethal force. He wrote that although the affected person suffered a serious injury, “more serious physical harm and the potential for loss of life was completely avoided by the actions of these subject officers.”

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

The details of this investigation were first released on January 26, 2016.

-30-

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