

June 14, 2017

IIU concludes investigation into alleged assault by Brandon police

On June 7, 2017, the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) concluded its investigation into a complaint by a Brandon University student that he was assaulted and abandoned outside the city by police. It has been determined there is no evidence the incident occurred.

The IIU investigated after being notified by Brandon Police Service (BPS) that a male was alleging assault by police. The man said he had been at a local bar the evening of April 5, 2017, offered a ride home by a police officer around 2:00 a.m. the next morning, then driven east of the city, assaulted, and abandoned at the side of the road. Although the man did not suffer a serious injury, the IIU investigated to determine whether he had been subjected to unnecessary force by police, and whether an officer's actions contravened any laws.

During its investigation, investigators examined GPS reports for all BPS vehicles in service the evening of April 5 and morning of April 6. Other than a Police Dog Unit vehicle, no BPS vehicle left the city limits on those dates.

During interviews with investigators, the man recanted his complaint and provided a new account of events, none of which involved any acts or application of force by any member of BPS.

“This incident did not happen as reported..., and therefore, there are no circumstances to justify further action by the IIU,” wrote IIU civilian director Zane Tessler. “The matter will be referred back to BPS for that service to determine whether further investigation into the actions of (the man) are warranted in these circumstances.”

The civilian director's complete report on this incident can be found online at www.iiumanitoba.ca.

The details of the investigation were first released on April 12, 2017.

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