

February 14, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into alleged assault by WPS

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an allegation that an officer of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) assaulted a suspect. It has concluded that no charges should be laid against the officer.

A man alleged that, after being questioned in an interview room at the WPS headquarters in May 2017, he was hit in the nose and eye by one officer. Although the man did not allege serious injury as defined by IIU regulations, the civilian director determined it to be in the public interest for IIU investigators to discover whether the man had been subjected to unnecessary and excessive force.

The man told IIU investigators that following the beating by police, he was pushed out a door and into the street. He said he was picked up by friends and taken to hospital where he was told his nose was broken.

In conducting their investigation, IIU investigators were aided by video of various locations within police headquarters and exterior street views, and by medical reports from two Winnipeg hospitals where the man had x-rays taken.

In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted that although the man did appear to suffer an injury to his face, the medical reports did not align with the severity of the beating he described. Further, the available evidence conflicted with many of his allegations.

The man remains before the courts on charges unrelated to this incident. The civilian director's complete report will be posted online once the charges are dealt with.

The details of this investigation were first announced on June 20, 2017.

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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba