

October 5, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into possible driving offences by off-duty RCMP officers

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into possible impaired driving and other driving offences by two members of the RCMP. Due to lack of evidence, neither officer will face any charges.

It was reported to RCMP management in July last year that two off-duty officers who attended a party and consumed alcohol at a member's residence drove their personal vehicles at high speeds and did "donuts" on Highway 44. Although no one was injured, the IIU civilian director considered it to be in the public interest for the agency to investigate this incident.

The alleged drinking and driving offences occurred on June 30, 2017 but the incident was not reported to the Manitoba East District RCMP until July 6. Following an investigation by East District, "D" Division in Winnipeg was advised of the event on August 11 and immediately notified the IIU.

The IIU interviewed 11 witnesses who attended the party in the rural municipality of Whitemouth but was unable to locate any additional witnesses nor any relevant video.

In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted that the delay in reporting significantly affected the ability of investigators to gather evidence. Consequently, it could not be definitively determined how much alcohol either officer drank at the party, how much may have been in their system at the time of driving, or even whether they had operated their vehicles.

The details of this investigation were first announced on August 15, 2017.

-30-

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