

May 06, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into officer-involved shooting during arrest by WPS officers

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an officer-involved shooting involving the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), which occurred in January 2019 in Winnipeg.

On January 9, 2019, WPS notified the IIU of an incident that evening involving a vehicular pursuit and discharge of a service pistol, resulting in minor injuries to an individual. The incident began when WPS responded to a complaint of an attempted stabbing in northeast Winnipeg. The suspects had fled in a vehicle, which the WPS located and attempted to stop a short time later.

A pursuit followed, with the driver of the suspect vehicle refusing to stop, ramming WPS vehicles several times, and driving the vehicle towards WPS officers. During this interaction, two WPS officers discharged their service pistols at the suspect vehicle. The vehicle was eventually stopped, and WPS arrested three suspects. One of the suspects had sustained a superficial wound to his neck. He was taken to hospital, where he was treated and released to police custody.

As an injury caused by the discharge of a firearm is defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, an IIU investigation was mandatory.

The IIU interviewed two civilian witnesses, two witness officers, two subject officers, and two of the three occupants of the suspect vehicle. A third occupant of the suspect vehicle declined to participate in an interview or provide a statement. Information obtained by IIU investigators also included witness officers' notes and reports, a subject officer's notes and report, prepared statements of the subject officers, and audio recording of the 911 call and WPS radio transmissions, WPS Forensic Identification Section reports, scene and investigation photographs, forensic reports on firearm and vehicle analysis, gas bar and hotel surveillance video, and medical reports.

Following completion of the IIU investigation, the civilian director forwarded the IIU investigative file to the Manitoba Prosecution Service (MPS) and requested a review and opinion on whether any Criminal Code charges should be authorized against either of the subject officers.

Following the review of the IIU investigative file, MPS advised IIU that this matter did not meet the prosecution-charging standard, and accordingly, MPS would not authorize any Criminal Code offences against the subject officers.

The IIU investigation is now complete and the matter is closed.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on January 10, 2019.

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Media inquiries may be directed to: Communications Services Manitoba, 204-945-3765.

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