

August 05, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into injuries sustained by a male during arrest by WPS officers

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of a male in Winnipeg, which resulted in the male sustaining a broken left arm.

On October 29, 2019, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) notified the IIU of an incident that occurred that afternoon in a rear lane of William Avenue, just west of Juba Street. The affected male was approached by two WPS officers because he was acting suspiciously. Subsequently, it was determined that the male had three outstanding warrants, and he was advised that he was under arrest.

During the attempted arrest, the male became uncooperative and combative, necessitating the use of force by the officers to wrestle the male to the ground and restrain him. Due to his apparent intoxication and violent behaviour, the male was transported to the Provincial Remand Centre (PRC). While being admitted to the PRC, the male informed staff that his left arm might be broken. Officers then transported the male to the Health Sciences Centre, where medical staff confirmed a broken left arm.

As the male's injuries met the definition of a serious injury under IIU regulations, an IIU investigation was mandatory.

IIU investigators interviewed the affected male and the medical practitioner who diagnosed and treated the broken arm. Investigators also reviewed officers' notes and reports, call history, the use of force report, the medical report relating to the affected male (with the male's permission), and the certificates of failure to appear.

After thoroughly reviewing all of the information, it is the civilian director's opinion that the subject officers' actions were reasonable and necessary to control and detain the male. Accordingly, there are no grounds to justify any charges against the officers.

The 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 November 5, 2019.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba