

May 07, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into injuries sustained by a 62-year-old male during an arrest by RCMP

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the arrest of a 62-year-old male in Russell, Manitoba, which resulted in the male sustaining a broken jaw and other injuries.

On November 4, 2019, RCMP notified the IIU of an incident that occurred on October 31, 2019, during which, two RCMP officers attended a residence in Russell, Manitoba, to locate and return a male to the Russell Hospital. The male, who had a history of alcoholism and dementia, had left the hospital without consent. Health authorities feared the male could harm himself or others.

The attending officers met the male at a residence in Russell and requested that he return willingly to the hospital. The male refused and grabbed one of the officers by the collar. He was pushed away, then aggressively approached the officer, at which point the male was struck on the left side of his cheek by the officer, taken to the ground, handcuffed and returned to the hospital. A subsequent medical examination showed the male had sustained a broken jaw and other injuries.

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, as well as two RCMP witness officers and one civilian witness. Investigators also reviewed occurrence reports, witness officer notes, an audio statement by the civilian witness, and medical reports and injury pictures of the affected male.

In the civilian director's opinion, the subject officer's actions were reasonable and necessary to control and detain the male. Accordingly, there are no grounds to justify any charges against the officer. IIU has completed its investigation and the matter is now 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: Communications Services Manitoba, 204-945-3765.

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