

October 09, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into deployment of “less lethal” firearm by Brandon Police Service

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the use of a less lethal firearm by Brandon police to subdue a 51-year-old male.

On June 12, 2020, Brandon Police Service (BPS) reported an incident to the IIU that occurred at approximately 8:26 p.m. the previous day in Brandon. According to this notification, BPS officers responded to a disturbance complaint at a residence. When officers attended the residence, a male, behaving in an erratic manner, was located outside the residence.

Attempts were made to have the male surrender, but his erratic behaviour continued. BPS officers subsequently used a less lethal firearm to subdue and arrest him. As a result, he suffered a small laceration on his leg. He was transported to the Brandon Regional Health Centre, where he was treated and released into custody.

As this matter involved the discharge of a firearm that caused an injury, an IIU investigation was mandatory.

IIU investigators met with and interviewed the affected person and four civilian witnesses. They also reviewed officers’ notes and reports, BPS dispatch audio, the occurrence summary, supplementary reports, conductive energy weapon logs, medical reports for the affected person, surveillance video (with audio) from neighbouring residence, surveillance video (without audio) from neighbouring commercial premise, BPS policy on the use of less lethal shotguns and BPS training material on the use of less lethal shotguns.

After careful review of the available evidence and material facts obtained in this investigation, the civilian director found the force used was necessary and in compliance with existing police policy, training and section 25 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Accordingly, the civilian director was not satisfied that reasonable grounds exist to charge the officer with any offence.

IIU has completed its investigation and this matter is now closed.

The affected person remains before the court on charges. The civilian director's report on this incident will be made available following disposition of the charges.

The details of this investigation were first announced on June 19, 2020.

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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