

June 18, 2020

## **IIU concludes investigation into deployment of less lethal firearm by BPS**

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the use of a less lethal firearm by the Brandon Police Service (BPS) during the arrest of a male causing a domestic disturbance in Brandon, Manitoba.

On June 20, 2019, the BPS notified the IIU of an incident that occurred during the evening of June 18, 2019, involving the BPS response to a 911 call requesting police assistance to remove a male, who was causing a disturbance, from a private residence.

Upon attending the residence, BPS officers noticed a male leaving through the back door. Officers spoke with the male outside of the residence, at which point the male pulled out a large knife, claimed to have a sawed-off shotgun, and made suicidal comments, telling the officers, “just shoot me, I want to die.” The male continued to make suicidal comments and threw his knife in the direction of a BPS officer.

At that point, a BPS officer deployed his Taser, which appeared to have no effect on the male. The subject officer then fired a “beanbag” round from his shotgun, striking the male in the lower back area, and causing the male to fall to the ground, at which time he was taken into custody. A subsequent medical examination showed the male had experienced minor injuries to his back, including a welt and swelling.

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

IIU investigators interviewed the affected male, two civilian witnesses, and three witness officers. Other information obtained and reviewed by IIU investigators included officers’ notes and reports, the major incident report, audio of the 911 calls, prisoner booking sheets, the use of force report, photographs and medical reports of the affected male, and the BPS less lethal firearm policy.

In his report on the investigation, the civilian director said the use of a less lethal option was judicious and appropriate, helping to de-escalate a potentially serious situation and preventing harm to the male or to attending police officers. Accordingly, the civilian director is satisfied that no reasonable grounds exist to charge the subject officer.

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

The civilian director's complete report is available online at [www.iumanitoba.ca](http://www.iumanitoba.ca). The details of this investigation were first announced on January 22, 2020.

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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](http://www.iumanitoba.ca) or at [www.twitter.com/IUManitoba](https://www.twitter.com/IUManitoba)*