

July 29, 2016

IIU concludes investigation into high-speed pursuit and fatal accident in Winnipeg

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has completed its investigation into a high-speed pursuit on Portage Avenue last November and has concluded that officers acted appropriately.

On November 23, 2015, at approximately 1:20 a.m., members of the Winnipeg Police Service were involved in a high-speed pursuit from Polo Park to downtown. Police pursued a Ford Explorer that was allegedly involved in two armed robberies earlier that morning. They estimated the vehicle was travelling at speeds up to 160 km/h.

Officers temporarily lost sight of the Explorer but located it less than a minute later, after it had crashed at Portage Avenue and Good Street.

The adult female driver of the vehicle was found outside the vehicle and taken to hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. The sole other occupant--a male—fled on foot and was arrested nearby.

As this incident involved a fatality, the IIU assumed responsibility for the investigation, as required by *The Police Services Act*.

Also as required under the Act, a civilian monitor was appointed by the Manitoba Police Commission. The IIU held monthly briefings with the civilian monitor throughout the course of its investigation.

IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler received the investigative files, including eyewitness accounts of the chase and video surveillance from a number of businesses along Portage Avenue. He also received a pathologist's report that noted the driver was intoxicated by cocaine and methamphetamine.

Tessler concluded that although all involved police vehicles exceeded the posted speed limit, the actions of the officers were justified and appropriate for the circumstances.

The complete report of the civilian director is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca

The details of this investigation were first released on November 23, 2015.

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