

FINAL REPORT: IIU concludes investigation into serious injury to a male during interaction with RCMP

On June 22, 2021, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) of an incident in which it was alleged that a male sustained a serious injury following his arrest and detention by police.

The notification, provided to IIU (and edited for clarity), read in part:

“On June 8th, 2021, at approximately 2200 hrs, Blue Hills members were dispatched to a residence in Souris for an unknown situation. The female complainant was calling regarding a stolen flag. In the background the call taker heard an unknown male yelling and calling her names. The male was being belligerent and rude and said he beat his wife. The complainant advised the call taker that her husband was identified as the affected person (AP) and that she did not need police.

The two police officers attended to the residence to check on the wellbeing of the complainant. They parked their police vehicles on an angle to allow the on-board car video systems to record their interactions with AP...The video shows the members approaching the door, knocking and attempting to check on the complainant. It then appears that AP pushes the door back in after he was outside and apart from the complainant. There is an altercation in which AP is taken down and handcuffed. He is then brought out to the police car where he continues to be belligerent. The members speak to the complainant and find that no offence has occurred. They then release AP and he continues to be belligerent.

On the same night at 2318 hrs, members were again dispatched to attend AP’s residence to assist EMS who had been called by AP. However, EMS attended without issue and AP refused EMS Assistance...

On June 10th, 2021 members attended the same residence with CFS workers. They had received reports from the school that AP’s daughter did not want to live there anymore. Upon attending, AP was again uncooperative and would not allow CFS workers to interview his daughter...

On June 19th, 2021, AP called numerous times requesting members speak to him regarding getting beat up by police. AP also called EMS who did not attend. AP was belligerent and claimed that members had gone to his home, dragged him out, beat him up and broken his ribs. It is believed that he is referring to the incident from June 8th...

AP has stated that he has an alleged injury and stated that members had broken his ribs. It is unknown if this is accurate or if he has sought any medical assistance beyond calling EMS”

As the notification concerned an allegation that AP sustaining broken ribs (which is defined by regulations as a serious injury) this matter is a mandatory investigation for which IIU was statutorily required to assume responsibility. A team of IIU investigators was assigned to this investigation.

IIU investigators attempted to arrange a meeting with AP to interview him and gather more information concerning the incidents and alleged injuries sustained. On July 2, 2021, AP contacted IIU investigators by telephone and advised that he had not attended a hospital or seen a physician in relation to these allegations. AP also advised that it was his preference to deal with the RCMP Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) and not the IIU. On July 12, 2021, AP contacted IIU investigators again by telephone and advised that he did not wish to cooperate with the IIU and its investigation. On July 23, 2021, AP sent an email to IIU investigators in which he stated that he did not believe that his injuries met the IIU mandate. On September 28, 2021, AP agreed to meet with IIU investigators in Brandon, Manitoba for an interview. Once again, AP stated that he “...*did not believe I was injured to the IIU standard of a serious injury*”. AP stated that he was checked by EMS personnel and that he declined to go to a hospital for further examination. AP stated that he did not seek any medical treatment as a result of the referenced incidents, primarily as he was “...*busy with work*”.

As a result of the IIU investigators efforts, I am satisfied that there is no evidence that would substantiate the allegation that AP sustained broken ribs following his interaction with RCMP officers.

In light of this, the initial decision that there was a statutory obligation for a mandatory investigation by IIU must be reconsidered. Consequently, it must be determined whether public interest would demand that an independent investigation of these allegations be undertaken by IIU.

I am not satisfied that the public interest demands an independent IIU investigation in these circumstances. Accordingly this investigation is terminated and the file is closed.

Final report prepared by:
Zane Tessler, civilian director
Independent Investigation Unit
November 03, 2021

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