



**IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO AN INCIDENT INVOLVING  
SERIOUS INJURIES DURING WPS ARREST**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE CIVILIAN DIRECTOR**  
**OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT**

Acting Civilian Director:	Bruce M. Sychuk
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## **Introduction**

On July 10, 2025, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident.

The written notification disclosed the following information:

Written excerpt from Part 7 Notification received on July 11, 2025:

*On July 10, 2025, Winnipeg Police Service members attended a residence in regard to a suicidal male armed with a knife. Upon arrival, officers encountered the male in question, identified as AP, and attempted to negotiate with him to surrender peacefully.*

*Incident command, crisis negotiators, and mental health clinicians were activated in an effort to resolve the situation. AP was taken into custody without incident. He was handcuffed and secured for his safety. As AP was being conveyed down the stairs, he suddenly broke away from the transporting officers and fell down the stairs.*

*Officers immediately attended to the male to provide first aid and requested the attendance of paramedics. AP was subsequently transported to the Health Sciences Centre in critical condition.*

As this matter concerned injuries to an individual during an arrest, the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with Sec. 65(4) of The Police Services Act. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

IIU investigators obtained the following information from the WPS, or as a result of their own initiative,:

- notes, narratives and reports of officers
- audio transmissions
- medical reports

The civilian director declined to designate a subject officer, but the director designated six witness officers (WO1 to WO6). IIU investigators also received information from AP and two civilian witnesses (CW1 to CW2). IIU investigators received further information from another civilian witness, however, the witness declined to be formally interviewed.

## **Facts and Circumstances**

### **Scene Examination and Canvass**

IIU investigators attended to the scene, but no more useful evidence was found. IIU investigators canvassed the area for potential witnesses or surveillance cameras. No cameras were located, and one further witness was found.

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## Interviews

### **Affected Person (AP)**

AP was interviewed by IIU investigators on Aug. 6, 2025, and provided the following information:

AP suggested that on the day of the incident, there was a disagreement with his landlord that resulted in police attending to his residence. AP stated that once police arrived, he did not have any further recollection of the evening. AP recalled that he was desperate and scared that day and that the police were just doing their job. AP did not want the police to be blamed for what happened that day.

### **Civilian Witnesses**

#### Civilian Witness 1 (CW1)

CW1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on July 11, 2025, and provided the following information:

CW1 attempted to check in on AP because he was concerned about AP's well-being. He stated that AP was dealing with some mental and physical health concerns at the time of the incident. CW1 tried to communicate with AP through his front door without success. He went to a window and looked into AP's apartment, which made AP upset with him. CW1 contacted 911 because he was concerned about AP. CW1 confirmed that AP had a knife in his hand.

WPS arrived and they tried to get AP to exit his residence. CW1 assisted the police because he was familiar with AP. He could hear that AP was on the phone with 911 while the police were outside AP's residence. CW1 stated that the police were talking with AP the entire time he was there. Police allowed CW1 to leave the area after a period of time.

#### Civilian Witness 2 (CW2)

CW2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on July 11, 2025, and provided the following information:

CW2 was at his own residence on the day of the incident. He could hear that the police were talking to AP. The police were asking AP to exit his residence and saying that he was not in trouble for anything. The police told AP that they wanted to help him and that they had an ambulance waiting for him once he exited his residence. CW2 stated that the police were very calm and did not yell at AP.

CW2 heard a door slam at one point and assumed police must have entered AP's residence. CW2 confirmed that he did not hear any yelling from AP or the police. He confirmed that he observed five officers outside AP's residence when he looked through his peep hole. CW2 did not have any concerns about the police's actions.

#### Informal Civilian Witness

As previously mentioned, there was a civilian witness who declined to be formally interviewed. This civilian witness did tell the IIU investigators that the police had asked AP to exit his

residence so they could help him. The witness heard a door slam, but they did not hear any yelling, shouting or sounds of a struggle.

### **Witness Officers**

#### Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

WO1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Sept. 25, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO1 was directed to assist other officers with the well-being call involving AP. He arrived and positioned two units outside of AP's door to prepare for various outcomes. WO1 was aware that AP was inside his residence alone and on the phone with 911. WO1 confirmed that they requested AP to exit his residence without success. He confirmed that to be respectful of AP's current mental state, they had no intention of going inside his residence.

WO1 was on the phone with a crisis negotiator, providing background information, when he heard WO2 radio that they had AP in custody. WO1 went back to the scene and saw another officer holding AP's upper arm and directing him to the stairwell. AP was handcuffed with his arms behind his back, which WO1 advised is standard escort practice.

WO1 heard AP repeatedly state that he wanted the officer to let go of him. He heard the officer tell AP that he was holding onto AP for his own safety, so he would not fall on the stairs. WO1 noted the conversation between the two to be calm and neither person appeared agitated. WO1 did not have any concerns at that moment that AP would attempt to break free or try to flee.

WO1 was in the process of advising the team that AP should be taken to the waiting ambulance for assessment because of his mental state. It was at that moment that AP broke away from the officer and dove headfirst down the stairs. WO1 noted that AP's movement was so unexpected that there was no ability for any officer to intervene. WO1 was at the bottom of the stairs and tried to break AP's fall, but he was unable to assist because of the amount of force AP used.

AP's body hit the floor and folded underneath him with his chin pressed into his chest. WO1 stretched AP out so medical assistance could be provided and to open his airway. Medical personnel attended and placed AP in a neck collar on a backboard so he could be transferred to the hospital.

#### Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

WO2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Oct. 3, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO2 confirmed that he was asked to answer AP's well-being call. WO2 was positioned to the right of AP's doorway. He attempted to talk to AP and have him exit his residence peacefully without success. WO2 stated that AP would not talk to the officers that were present, but he was talking on the phone with 911. WO2 confirmed that AP finally agreed to exit his residence.

AP stood in the threshold of his residence, but he would not comply with the officers' verbal directions. WO2 took hold of AP and guided him out of the residence. He explained to AP that he was placing him in handcuffs for his own safety and that of the other officers. WO2 then turned AP over to another officer to be escorted to the ambulance.

WO2 went into AP's residence to ensure that everything was safe inside. While he was in the residence, he heard over the radio that AP had fallen down the stairs.

#### Witness Officer 3 (WO3)

WO3 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Oct. 15, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO3 confirmed that she was asked to assist in the well-being call involving AP. Background information was that AP was suicidal and in possession of a knife. WO3 was originally positioned outside AP's building, but she was eventually directed to a position in the hallway outside AP's door. WO3 confirmed that the officers tried to convince AP to exit his residence without success.

AP did exit his residence and stayed in the threshold of his door, where another officer grabbed a hold of him and placed him in handcuffs. WO4 and WO6 took hold of AP's arms to escort him down the stairs. AP stated that he wanted to be let go and WO6 told him that they were holding onto him for his own safety.

WO3 noted the stairwell to be very narrow with only one person being able to go down at a time. WO6 was going down the stairs when AP broke free from their hold and dove headfirst down the stairs. WO3 noted that WO1 tried to catch him at the bottom of the stairs without success. Medical personnel attended and took over AP's care.

#### Witness Officer 4 (WO4)

WO4 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Nov. 11, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO4 confirmed that he was asked to assist with the incident at AP's residence. He was stationed outside AP's door. WO4 confirmed that the officers tried to get AP to exit his residence peacefully without success. He confirmed that AP was on the phone with 911 and he could hear that AP was in distress.

Eventually, AP did exit his residence, and he was handcuffed by WO2. WO6 took hold of AP's arms to escort him down the stairs while WO4 was behind them to assist. WO4 confirmed that the stairwell was very narrow and only one person could go down at a time. AP requested that he go down first, but WO6 stated that he would go first for AP's safety and WO4 would walk behind them.

AP blocked WO6 from going in front of him down the stairs and then jumped headfirst down the stairs. AP's head hit the concrete floor first and medical assistance arrived immediately, as they were already on scene.

#### Witness Officer 5 (WO5)

WO5 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Oct. 15, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO5 confirmed that he was asked to assist other units at AP's residence. WO5 was asked to stand in front of a set of stairs that led directly to AP's front door. He confirmed that officers on the scene and on the 911 call attempted to communicate with AP. AP eventually exited his

residence and was handcuffed with his arms behind his back. WO4 and WO6 took hold of AP by his arms and started to escort him toward the stairs. AP was politely pleading with them to let go and WO6 said “I’m not letting go, man.”

WO5 was asked by another officer to provide an update, so he started to walk away from AP and the other officers. He heard a noise and then went back to the scene where he saw AP at the bottom of the stairs. Medical personnel immediately responded and took care of AP.

#### Witness Officer 6 (WO6)

WO6 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Dec. 17, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO6 confirmed that he was partnered with WO4 and asked to attend AP’s residence. Background information suggested that AP was suicidal and armed with a knife. WO6 confirmed that he was positioned outside the door of the residence. WO6 confirmed that if AP surrendered, he and WO4 would be tasked with escorting him out of the residence.

WO6 confirmed that numerous attempts were made to communicate with AP. The officers were telling AP that they were here to assist him. WO6 confirmed that AP was on the phone with 911.

Eventually, AP agreed to exit his residence, and he was handcuffed with his arms behind his back. WO6 took hold of AP’s right arm to escort him to the stairs. WO6 observed AP to be distraught and clearly in a mental crisis. WO6 explained that he was going to escort AP to the ambulance so he could be provided medical attention.

WO6 confirmed that the stairway was very narrow and only one person could go down at a time. AP asked WO6 to let go of him, but he declined as it would not be safe for AP to go first. AP stiffened his body as WO6 was about to lead him down the stairs. AP broke free of WO6’s hold and bent his knees before lunging headfirst down the stairs. WO6 attempted to grab AP before he jumped, but he was not successful. AP’s head contacted the floor below the stairs and WO6 immediately radioed for medical assistance. Medical personnel arrived and took AP away in an ambulance.

#### **Other evidence**

##### Medical Report

Medical reports confirmed that AP suffered a brain bleed between the brain and its surrounding membrane. He also suffered a parietal bone fracture which extended to his right temporal bone. The medical report noted that he also suffered trauma to his anterior chest wall.

##### 911 Call from AP

The 911 call from AP lasted approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. I am declining to go into the specifics of AP’s comments, however, it is very clear that AP was suicidal and in an extreme state of distress. Mental health issues were prevalent based on his comments.

#### **Applicable Law**

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All relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada were considered with respect to this incident. Sec. 25(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada has been emphasized here for consideration:

*25 (1) Every one who is required or authorized by law to do anything in the administration or enforcement of the law*

*(a) as a private person,*

*(b) as a peace officer or public officer,*

*(c) in aid of a peace officer or public officer, or*

*(d) by virtue of his office,*

*is, if he acts on reasonable grounds, justified in doing what he is required or authorized to do and in using as much force as is necessary for that purpose.*

### **Conclusion**

Having reviewed all the evidence available in connection with the fact that I declined to designate a subject officer, I am of the opinion that the officers' actions were reasonable. The injuries to AP were the result of his own actions in a time of extreme distress. Therefore, no charges are recommended and the IIU investigation is now completed and closed.