

October 26, 2021

IIU concludes investigation into death of a male while in police custody

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a male who was in police custody with the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS).

According to the notification received on November 4, 2020, the WPS arrested a man during a traffic stop in the lane of Talbot Avenue, in Winnipeg, in relation to drug offences.

During his arrest, the individual informed officers that prior to being taken into custody he swallowed some drugs believed to be methamphetamine and cocaine. The affected person (AP) was transported to the Central Processing Unit and cleared by the on-scene paramedic. AP was placed in a holding room under observation.

Approximately one hour later, the individual was observed to be in medical distress and unresponsive. First aid was administered, including chest compressions. The individual was transported to St. Boniface Hospital (SBH) by ambulance and was pronounced deceased by an attending physician.

A team of IIU investigators was assigned to the investigation, and a civilian monitor was also mandated by statute. Eight WPS officers were designated as witness officers, and investigators met with and interviewed three civilian witnesses and two staff from the central processing unit.

WPS file material and other information obtained by IIU investigators, included:

- WPS call summary;
- WPS officers' general reports, supplementary reports, narratives and notes;
- prisoner log sheets and activity logs;
- surveillance video footage; and
- autopsy and toxicology reports.

The amount of drugs in the male's system was found to be significant and extremely high. It was determined that no actions by any police officer caused or contributed to the male's death to any degree. There is no evidence that would justify the designation of any of the police officers as subject officers and there is no further requirement to continue with this investigation.

The IIU investigation is now closed, and the civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca.

The details of this investigation were first announced on November 4, 2020.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:
Communications and Engagement
Email: newsroom@gov.mb.ca
Telephone: 204-945-3765

Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba