

July 23, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into officer-involved shooting in Winnipeg

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a 25-year-old man armed with a knife was shot with a pistol and a conductive energy weapon by two members of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS). Neither officer will face any charges as a result of their actions.

During the late night of December 11, 2017 four WPS officers attended an apartment on Charles Street, between Church and Machray, in response to a 311 call about a dead body at that location. After police repeatedly commanded the occupant of the apartment to open the door, a man armed with a knife answered the door. After the man refused commands to drop his knife and instead withdrew it from his pants pocket, one of the officers deployed his conductive energy weapon ("Taser") while another discharged his service pistol and shot the man twice, resulting in gunshot wounds to his abdomen and right ear.

As this matter involved an injury resulting from a police officer's discharge of a firearm, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

The man told IIU investigators he did not remember anything about his interaction with the police due to excessive alcohol consumption. Statements from the four officers present--as well as two neighbours who heard but did not see the interaction between police and the man--were consistent. All said many commands were given to the male to drop his weapon and surrender.

"The male, in the face of these commands and armed police, chose to produce the knife in a combative style," wrote IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler in his report on the investigation. "The likelihood that the man was capable of using lethal force on any of the officers was real and substantial. The police did not create this lethal force interaction. This was solely the choice of the affected person."

The man remains before the Court on charges arising out of this incident. The civilian director's complete report will be available online following disposition of the charges

The details of this investigation were first announced on December 12, 2017.

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