

May 08, 2020

IIU concludes investigation into the death of a male suspect following arrest by WPS officers

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into the death of a male suspect following an arrest by Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) officers that occurred last year in Winnipeg.

On July 14, 2019, WPS notified the IIU of an incident that occurred at approximately 3:45 p.m. in the area of Flora Avenue and Parr Street. An adult male was observed to be bleeding from the head and appeared to be armed. A short foot pursuit followed, with the male being apprehended and handcuffed. A hatchet was seized at the scene.

The male was observed to be agitated and bleeding from the head, so a Winnipeg ambulance was requested. Shortly after, the male became unresponsive, and a WPS officer administered first aid until the ambulance arrived. Paramedics transported the male to the Health Sciences Centre, where he was pronounced deceased.

As the matter concerned the death of a person, where that death may have resulted from the actions of a police officer, IIU assumed responsibility for a mandatory investigation in accordance with section 66(4) of The Police Services Act. As this matter involved a death, the IIU asked the Manitoba Police Commission to appoint a civilian monitor.

The IIU interviewed five WPS witness officers and three civilian witnesses. The IIU also reviewed WPS officers' notes and narrative reports, call history, briefing note, scene and autopsy photographs, video surveillance recordings, WPS radio transmission recordings, the Conductive Energy Weapon (CEW) report, and the affected person's autopsy and toxicology reports.

The cause of death was a combination of drugs in his system including methamphetamine and cocaine and an enlarged heart among others. The pathologist's findings also concluded that no actions by the police officers had any causal connection to the death.



The IIU investigation concluded that the WPS officer(s) actions were reasonable and justified, and the IIU civilian director was satisfied that no actions by any police officer contributed to the affected person's death. The IIU investigation is now complete and the matter is closed.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on July 15, 2019.

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Media inquiries may be directed to: Communications Services Manitoba, 204-945-3765.

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