

IIU concludes investigation into serious injuries related to a Winnipeg arrest

The Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) has concluded its investigation into serious injuries sustained during the arrest of an adult male in Winnipeg.

On Jan. 15, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) notified the IIU of an incident that occurred at approximately 6:30 p.m. that same day. According to the notification, WPS members attended a residence on College Avenue to conduct a bail compliance check on a male. While speaking with the male, officers noted he was breaching the conditions of his release order.

Upon realizing he was being arrested, the male suddenly armed himself with an edged weapon and stabbed himself multiple times, while making statements indicating self-harm. A use-of-force encounter occurred, during which the officers disarmed and secured the male and began life-saving measures. The male was taken to Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg in unstable condition.

As this matter concerned injuries during an arrest, the IIU assumed responsibility for the investigation in accordance with Sec 65(4) of the Police Services Act. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation. The civilian director declined to designate a subject officer, but the director did designate two witness officers. One civilian witness provided a statement, and investigators also spoke with the affected person.

Following due consideration of all the circumstances, the civilian director will not authorize charges. The IIU investigation is now completed and closed.

As the affected person remains before the court on charges arising from the incident, the civilian director's report on the incident will be made available once those charges are disposed of.

The details of the investigation were first announced on Jan. 16.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:
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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iiumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba