

December 28, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into injury during arrest by Winnipeg police

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a man was found to be injured following his arrest by two members of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) outside Siloam Mission last summer. The unit determined no charges should be laid against the officers.

Around 8 a.m. on August 8, 2018, police responded to a call about a man causing a disturbance outside Siloam Mission on Stanley Street. The man was agitated, aggressive and refused to obey police commands. The man struggled with officers and they deployed first pepper spray and then a “Taser” conducted energy weapon to subdue him. The man was taken to Health Sciences Centre where he was sedated due to his continued agitated state. It was subsequently determined he had sustained a collapsed lung and three fractured ribs and was admitted to hospital.

As the man suffered an internal injury that required admission to hospital on an in-patient basis, the IIU was mandated to investigate the conduct of the WPS officers.

During the course of their investigation, IIU investigators interviewed a number of witnesses, including five staff members of Siloam Mission who witnessed the arrest. They also interviewed the affected person, but he was unable to provide any details to them. They further interviewed the attending physician at HSC who stated it was possible the man had suffered his injuries prior to his interaction with police.

In his report on the investigation, IIU civilian director Zane Tessler wrote that the officers did apply force in arresting the man but that it was necessary and not excessive. Further, given that the man’s injury may have occurred at an earlier time, reasonable and probable grounds did not exist to charge either officer.

The details of this investigation were first announced on August 9, 2018.

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