

FINAL REPORT: IIU concludes investigation into injury of suspect

On August 22, 2017, at 8:22 p.m., the Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) was notified by the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) that a male had sustained a broken leg in an attempt to evade apprehension by police. According to this notification, WPS received a report of a domestic assault involving a male suspect armed with a knife, at a suite on Balmoral Street. Officers arrived at the location and entered the suite. Prior to their entry, the male suspect had jumped from a third-storey window in an attempt to evade apprehension. He was found on the ground with an injured leg and was taken into custody. The man was then transported by ambulance to hospital, where he underwent surgery for a broken right femur.

As this is a serious injury as defined in IIU regulation 99/2015, IIU assumed jurisdiction over this mandatory investigation to determine whether there was any causal connection between the actions of any member of WPS and the injury sustained by the affected person (AP).

A team of IIU investigators was assigned to this matter. IIU investigators met with and interviewed AP, once he was medically cleared to participate. AP explained that his first memory of any contact with a member of WPS was when he was trying to stand up following his jump from the apartment window. AP said a police officer instructed him to stay down on the ground and proceeded to search him. AP stated the reason he was on the ground was because he jumped out of an apartment window in order to get away from his ex-girlfriend who was attacking him. AP further stated that, prior to jumping out of the window, the police did not have any contact with him at all. AP said that after he jumped, he hit the ground and attempted to get up. It was at that time he noticed a police officer standing behind him. AP then realized he was seriously injured. AP said when the police officer made contact with him, he let the officer know that he needed an ambulance because he thought he had broken his leg. AP was adamant that he did not have any physical contact with police officers prior to hitting the ground. AP further stated that he was not aware the WPS were outside the apartment when he jumped from the window.

Based on AP's account, it is evident that the serious injuries he received were the direct and sole consequence of his decision to jump from a third-storey apartment window. Aside from being restrained after the fall, AP had no physical contact with police and in fact was unaware of their presence until after he landed on the ground, injuring himself from the jump. Based on his account, it was obvious to IIU investigators that police played no role in AP's decision to jump nor caused the injury that he sustained.

Accordingly, no further investigation was undertaken and no WPS officers were designated as subject or witness officers.

There are no circumstances to justify further action by the IIU and this matter is closed.

Final report prepared by:
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