



**IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO A FATAL OFFICER-INVOLVED
SHOOTING DURING RCMP ARREST IN DOMINION CITY**

FINAL REPORT OF THE CIVILIAN DIRECTOR
OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

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Introduction

On Jan. 14, 2025, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident.

The written notification disclosed the following information:

Excerpt from Part 7 Notification received on Jan. 14, 2025:

On January 14, 2025, Morris RCMP received a report of a suicidal male in Dominion City, Manitoba. AP was reportedly attempting to commit suicide by injecting himself with testosterone needles. SO was the first officer on scene and heard a commotion in the garage, where AP was located. SO noted a vehicle outside the garage and placed his police vehicle behind the vehicle to prevent the male from potentially driving away. While SO was waiting for back-up, AP exited the garage and began advancing towards SO with a metal object in his hand. SO drew his service pistol and commanded AP to drop the item several times, but AP did not comply and continued to advance towards SO. SO discharged his firearm, hitting AP who then fell to the ground. SO immediately started CPR and was relieved by EMS who were nearby, as they had staged.

As this matter concerned a fatal officer-involved shooting during an arrest, the IIU assumed responsibility for this investigation in accordance with Sec. 65(4) of The Police Services Act. IIU investigators were assigned to this investigation.

IIU investigators obtained the following information from the RCMP, among other items:

- notes, narratives and reports of officers
- audio transmissions
- watch guard video
- use of force report
- medical reports
- forensic evidence

The civilian director designated one subject officer (SO1). IIU investigators also received information from three professional witnesses (PW1 to PW3) and two civilian witnesses (CW1 to CW2).

Facts and Circumstances

Scene Examination

IIU investigators went to the scene, canvassed the area for witnesses and located CW2.

Interviews

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Civilian Witnesses

Civilian Witness 1 (CW1)

CW1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 30, 2025, and provided the following information:

CW1 explained that she had taken AP to the hospital a few days before the incident, seeking assistance for AP's mental health. According to CW1, AP was not admitted to the hospital and just prescribed more pills for depression and anxiety.

CW1 said that she woke up on the day of the incident and found AP in the bathroom vomiting. CW1 explained that AP was a recovering alcoholic, but she found an empty bottle of alcohol beside him that morning. CW1 stated that AP had taken some of the prescription pills and mixed them with alcohol to commit suicide.

CW1 noted that AP had shot a vile of testosterone into his body and blood was gushing from his veins. Originally, AP was concerned for his well-being, but CW1 noted that AP became very angry as time passed. CW1 noted that AP didn't even recognize his own family and made it clear that he "would kill whoever showed up." CW1 confirmed that before police arrived on the scene, AP had threatened to kill his entire family.

CW1 grabbed some knives from the kitchen and exited the residence. CW1's main focus was keeping the children safe. CW1 locked the door once AP exited and called 911 for assistance. AP was now banging on the locked door attempting to re-enter the residence. CW1 called 911 again seeking assistance.

CW1 saw the police vehicle pull into the driveway. CW1 confirmed that at this point, AP was in the garage, trying to smash out the garage door by driving into it. CW1 saw the officer with his gun drawn as he approached AP. CW1 confirmed that she told the 911 operator that AP was armed.

CW1 saw AP leave the garage and walk towards the officer. CW1 confirmed that AP was carrying some kind of metal object in his hand and walking towards the officer. CW1 could not hear what the officer was saying because she was still in the residence. CW1 observed AP walking towards the officer and then heard a gunshot. CW1 confirmed that AP went down to the ground after the gunshot. CW1 confirmed that the officer was backing away from AP as he continued towards the officer.

CW1 confirmed that medical services attended immediately to the scene to provide AP with medical assistance. CW1 confirmed that AP was taken in an ambulance to the hospital shortly after medical services arrived.

Civilian Witness 2 (CW2)

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CW2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 14, 2025, and provided the following information:

CW2 confirmed that she was getting her daughter ready for school when she saw that a first responder unit was in the area. CW2 then saw AP walking on the street. CW2 noted that AP was having difficulty walking and appeared to be intoxicated because he fell into a snowbank. CW2 confirmed that a male and female had been speaking with AP before he fell into the snowbank. CW2 believed it was CW1 and her father.

CW2 noted that her daughter left for school and the first responder unit was still in the area. CW2 then saw AP walking on the street again and moving towards his residence. CW2 noted that a police vehicle drove up AP's driveway shortly after he had returned.

CW2 did not see the incident itself, but she did note that a second police vehicle arrived soon after and blocked off the street.

Professional Witnesses

Professional Witness 1 (PW1)

PW1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 15, 2025, and provided the following information:

PW1 confirmed that he was asked to attend the incident in response to a call about a suicidal individual. PW1 confirmed that he got ready to assist once RCMP had arrived. PW1 spoke with the officer when he arrived and told him that AP originally had a knife that he had put down, but AP had grabbed two more knives for a total of three. The officer requested PW1 to follow him to the residence. PW1 followed the officer to the residence, but he kept his distance for his own well-being.

PW1 confirmed that the officer went to the driveway and was asking AP to come out of the garage with his hands up. PW1 stated that AP was not complying with the officer's request. PW1 thought AP was attempting to drive a vehicle out of the garage, but he could not do so as the driveway was blocked with the police vehicle.

AP came out of the garage with something in his hand and started walking towards the officer. PW1 heard the officer direct AP to drop the weapon at least four times, without success. AP refused to stop walking towards that officer. PW1 heard the officer warn AP one more time without success and then heard the officer fire the gun once.

PW1 confirmed that the officer rolled AP over and initiated CPR until the first responders could assist.

PW1 told IIU investigators that he had spoken with AP twice before the officer arrived. On the first occasion, AP was holding one knife and told PW1 that he had injected something into his arms. PW1 confirmed that AP had given PW1 the knife and then walked back to his residence.

PW1 confirmed that on the second occasion, AP returned and spoke with PW1 again. PW1 confirmed that AP was now holding two knives and informed him that he was going to fight the officers when they arrived. AP was able to grab the original knife that he had been holding because PW1 had placed it on the hood of his vehicle while waiting for the officers to arrive.

PW1 confirmed that AP was holding some kind of metal pole as he went towards the officer before being shot. PW1 believed that the pole was from the garage door that AP had damaged earlier when he tried to drive away. PW1 confirmed that the officer was moving backwards as AP continued to move towards him with the pole in his hand.

Professional Witness 2 (PW2)

PW2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 15, 2025, and provided the following information:

PW2 confirmed that she was partnered with PW3 and asked to attend the scene. Background information was that the male was suicidal and that they were to wait until police arrived on the scene.

PW2 confirmed that while they were waiting for police to attend, AP walked over to PW1 and initiated a discussion. PW2 heard AP advise PW1 that he had injected his arms with different medications and had ingested pills. PW2 confirmed that AP had a knife which was placed on the hood of PW1's vehicle.

PW2 saw AP speaking with CW1 and her father near their residence. AP went back towards the residence for a period of time. PW2 confirmed that CW1's father left with the children and told PW2 that AP "needed to be locked up for a long time."

PW2 noted that AP then went towards PW1's vehicle and grabbed the knife that was on the hood. PW2 confirmed that AP now had three knives. AP went back towards his residence

PW2 confirmed that an officer arrived and spoke with PW1 and directed him to follow the officer. PW2 stated that the officer parked his vehicle in the driveway while PW1 stayed a distance away from the residence.

PW2 had her window down in the vehicle and she could hear a car revving in the garage. PW2 believed that the vehicle was driving into the garage door as she could see it had been damaged. PW2 noted that the vehicle would not be able to exit the garage as the police vehicle was parked and blocking the vehicle from exiting.

PW2 saw the officer exit the vehicle with his gun drawn and demand that AP exit the garage with his hands up. PW2 saw AP exit the garage with a pole in his hand. PW2 heard the officer direct AP to drop the weapon at least twice without compliance. PW2 confirmed that the officer shot AP once. PW2 confirmed that the officer immediately initiated CPR when AP fell to the ground. PW2 thought that AP was approximately three feet away from the officer once he fired his gun.

PW2 confirmed that they took over medical care of AP from the officer and drove AP to the hospital.

Professional Witness 3 (PW3)

PW3 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 16, 2025, and provided the following information:

PW3 confirmed that she was partnered with PW2. PW3 confirmed that the background information was that AP was suicidal and that they were instructed to wait for police to arrive.

PW3 confirmed that AP walked towards their vehicle and PW3 saw AP give PW1 a knife that was placed on the hood of PW1's vehicle. PW3 initiated a discussion with AP and was informed that he was suffering with his mental health. AP also told PW3 that he had injected his veins with medicine and had ingested pills and alcohol. PW3 requested that AP go back to his residence, as they could not help him until police arrived because of protocol. AP complied with PW3's direction and went back towards the residence. PW3 confirmed that CW1 and her father were seen talking with AP as he went towards the residence.

PW3 confirmed that CW1's father was taking the children to school and told them that AP needed to be locked away for a long time.

PW3 saw AP leave his residence and move towards PW1's vehicle, grabbing the knife from the hood. PW3 confirmed that AP now had three knives and that that information was relayed to the dispatcher.

PW3 observed that an officer attended the area and spoke with PW1. Shortly after, the officer drove his vehicle onto AP's driveway with PW1 following behind in his vehicle. PW3 confirmed that she heard the officer tell AP to come out with his hands up. PW3 saw that AP was driving a vehicle into the garage door in an attempt to drive away. The officer placed his vehicle in the driveway to prevent AP's vehicle from exiting the garage. The officer exited his vehicle with his gun drawn and asked AP to exit the garage with his hands up.

AP exited the garage with some kind of metal object in his hand. The officer had his gun drawn and was backing away from AP as he continued to move towards the officer. PW3 could not hear what was being said, but confirmed that the officer shot AP once while backing away from him. PW3 confirmed that the officer immediately initiated first aid to AP once he fell to the ground.

PW3 confirmed that they took over medical care from the officer and gave AP CPR.

Subject Officer (SO)

In accordance with his rights, SO declined to be interviewed by IIU investigators. SO provided IIU investigators with a prepared statement. The statement contained the following information:

SO confirmed that he was asked to attend the call by the detachment. Background information was that AP was suicidal and overdosed on a mixture of intoxicants, which included testosterone. SO was driving to the scene and received further information that AP was armed with knives and that AP's family now feared for their own safety from AP.

As SO was arriving at the scene, PW1 waved him down to get his attention. SO spoke with PW1 and was informed that AP was armed with three knives. PW1 also told SO that AP was intoxicated and exhibiting signs of slurred speech.

SO drove his vehicle into AP's driveway and exited with his pistol drawn in the ready low position. SO moved towards the garage because he believed AP was still in there, based on the background information. SO called out to AP, asking that he exit the garage with his hands up. AP did not respond.

SO saw AP attempting to drive his vehicle through the garage door and exit the scene. SO got back into his police vehicle and moved the vehicle further onto the driveway to stop AP from being able to leave in the vehicle. SO exited his police vehicle and again had his pistol in the ready low position, while requesting AP to exit with his hands up.

AP responded to SO's direction by saying "Fuck you guys! I'm not going down without a fight!" AP then started to exit the garage with his eyes solely focused on SO. AP started to walk directly towards SO with a metal pipe in his hand, as SO was moving backwards from him. SO confirmed that he directed AP to drop the weapon numerous times without compliance. SO moved his pistol from the low ready position to aiming centre mass, because AP was still walking towards him with the metal pipe in his hand.

SO continued to direct AP to drop the weapon with AP responding, "what are you going to do, shoot me?" AP continued moving towards SO and was approximately eight to 10 feet away from SO when he discharged his gun for his own safety. AP went down after the gun was discharged and SO radioed the detachment that a shot was fired by SO. SO initiated medical assistance until first responders took over.

SO confirmed that he was in a marked police vehicle, in full police uniform and had identified himself as a police officer in his interactions with AP.

Other evidence

Medical Reports

The preliminary autopsy report suggested that AP died from a single gunshot wound. Toxicology reports noted AP to have a combination of ethanol, cocaine, benzoylecgonine, cocoa ethylene, lorazepam, sertraline, desmethylsertaline, ketamine and rocuronium in the blood system

IIU has not received the final autopsy report at the time of writing this report. Because of the nature of the event, the Civilian Director has decided to move forward with completing the report to be accountable to the public in a timely manner. An addendum will be prepared if the cause of death varies from the above.

Watchguard Video

Video from SO's vehicle confirmed that AP was driving his vehicle in the garage in what appeared to be an attempt to escape. Significant damage to the garage door was visible. As the video continued, you could see AP exit the garage with a metal object in his hand and walk in SO's direction..

Applicable Law

All relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada were considered with respect to this incident. Sec. 25(1), 25(3) and 25(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada have been emphasized here for consideration:

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25 (1) Everyone who is required or authorized by law to do anything in the administration or enforcement of the law

- (a) as a private person,*
- (b) as a peace officer or public officer,*
- (c) in aid of a peace officer or public officer, or*
- (d) by virtue of his office,*

is, if he acts on reasonable grounds, justified in doing what he is required or authorized to do and in using as much force as is necessary for that purpose.

(3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), a person is not justified for the purposes of subsection (1) in using force that is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm unless the person believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary for the self-preservation of the person or the preservation of any one under that person's protection from death or grievous bodily harm.

(4) A peace officer, and every person lawfully assisting the peace officer, is justified in using force that is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm to a person to be arrested, if

- (a) the peace officer is proceeding lawfully to arrest, with or without warrant, the person to be arrested;*
- (b) the offence for which the person is to be arrested is one for which that person may be arrested without warrant;*
- (c) the person to be arrested takes flight to avoid arrest;*
- (d) the peace officer or other person using the force believes on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the purpose of protecting the peace officer, the person lawfully assisting the peace officer or any other person from imminent or future death or grievous bodily harm; and*
- (e) the flight cannot be prevented by reasonable means in a less violent manner.*

Conclusion

Having reviewed all the evidence available in this tragic situation, I am of the opinion that the subject officer's actions were reasonable in the circumstances. Therefore, no charges are recommended and the IIU investigation is now completed and closed.