IIU | INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT OF MANITOBA

IN THE MATTER OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO AN INCIDENT INVOLVING SERIOUS INJURIES DURING WPS ARREST

FINAL REPORT OF THE CIVILIAN DIRECTOR

OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT

Acting Civilian Director:	Bruce M. Sychuk
IIU File Number:	2025-0042
Date of Release:	April 30, 2026

Introduction

On Sept. 21, 2025, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) notified the Independent Investigation Unit of Manitoba (IIU) of an incident.

The written notification disclosed the following information:

Written excerpt from Part 7 Notification received on Sept. 22, 2025:

On September 20th, 2025, a member of the public observed a male at the intersection of Broadway Av/Furby St who was completely naked and appeared disoriented. The male was also attempting to gain entry to occupied vehicles.

Police arrived on scene and tentatively identified the male in question as AP. Officers spoke with AP at length to confirm his wellbeing as he was displaying signs of paranoia, disorientation, and confusion. WFPS was summoned to the scene and medically cleared AP.

Officers were able to confirm a home address for AP, provided him a ride home and attempted to assist him getting into his suite safely. While at threshold of his apartment door, AP fled on foot from the apartment block and continued running northbound on Furby St towards Portage Avenue. AP was completely naked at this time.

Officers pursued AP on foot, and upon reaching him, began escorting him back to the cruiser car. As police were speaking to AP, he attempted to strike SO1, narrowly missing his face. Officers then radioed for assistance.

A struggle ensued, which led to officers being taken to the ground with AP, during which time the AP began to punch and kick the involved officers multiple times. During the altercation, AP removed SO2's ammunition magazine from his holder and began to punch SO2 in the chest and face with a closed fist while holding the magazine.

Officers were able to disarm AP of the magazine, at which time AP armed himself with SO2's flashlight and began to punch officers, as well as activating the flashlight to blind officers. Additional police resources arrived on scene and police were able to take AP into custody.

WFPS Ambulance transported AP stable to HSC where he was sedated by hospital staff.

SO2 suffered cuts/scrapes to his left knee, left elbow and bruising to his groin as a result of the assault. SO2 declined medical attention.

On September 21st, 2025, police attended to the HSC as AP was still in hospital care. Police spoke with HSC staff who advised that AP had suffered facial fractures because of the incident with police, as well as a broken left foot that appeared to have been caused prior to the police interaction. HSC advised that AP would be admitted to hospital for an indefinite period.

This document is the property of the IIU and is not to be distributed to any other party without the written consent of the IIU.

As this matter concerned injuries 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 WPS or of their own accord:

- notes, narratives and reports of officers
- audio transmissions
- taser data downloads
- use of force report
- medical reports

The civilian director designated two subject officers (SO1 to SO2) and four witness officers (WO1 to WO4). IIU investigators also received information from AP.

Facts and Circumstances

Scene Examination

No scene examination or canvassing of the area was conducted by the IIU because investigators were able to speak immediately with AP.

Interviews

Affected Person

AP was interviewed by IIU investigators on Sept. 22, 2025, and provided the following information:

Although English was not AP's first language, the investigators were able to receive information about the incident through a translation app. AP stated that he had only smoked marijuana before the incident and did not consume anything else. He stated that he did not have any recollection of any confrontation with police or anyone else. AP stated that he respects the job police must do and had no complaints against anyone. He confirmed that he had no idea how he received his injuries and his only focus was on healing and going home.

IIU investigators made numerous attempts after the original interview to meet with AP for follow up questions. Unfortunately, AP was unwilling or unable to meet with the investigators.

Witness Officers

Witness Officer 1 (WO1)

WO1 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Dec. 11, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO1 was partnered with WO4, and they were at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) on an unrelated matter. WO1 heard on the radio that SO1and SO2 were requesting assistance. He said that it sounded like they were in distress and were in a physical confrontation with someone.

This document is the property of the IIU and is not to be distributed to any other party without the written consent of the IIU.

WO1 arrived at the scene where he saw numerous officers holding AP on the ground. They were trying to secure handcuffs on him while he was lying face first on the ground and completely naked. WO1 assisted in bringing AP's arm behind his back so it could be handcuffed. Another officer applied the handcuffs to AP while WO1 was holding onto AP's arm.

Once AP was secure, WO1 observed AP to be agitated and assumed he was under the influence of some form of intoxicant. He also noted that SO2 was completely exhausted and gasping for air. WO1 grabbed a blanket from the police vehicle to cover AP. AP continued to make incoherent comments while they were waiting for medical assistance. WO1 noted some blood on AP's face as he was loaded into the ambulance. WO1 did not have any further interaction with AP after he was loaded into the ambulance.

WO1 confirmed that as he arrived, officers were giving loud verbal directions to AP to stop struggling, but he did not comply. WO1 confirmed that he did not see any officer assault AP when he was on the scene and that the only application of force was to apply the handcuffs.

Witness Officer 2 (WO2)

WO2 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 12, 2026, and provided the following information:

WO2 was partnered with WO3 and confirmed that they went to assist SO1 and SO2 after they radioed for help. WO2 saw SO1 and SO2 shin pin AP on the ground while trying to handcuff him. He noted that AP was naked and appeared to be under the influence of some form of intoxicant or suffering from mental health issues. WO2 assisted the subject officers with placing AP's arms behind his back so he could be handcuffed.

Once AP was secured, WO2 noted taser wires on the ground, so he seized them as exhibits. He also noted a police radio on the ground that he assumed fell off one of the subject officers during the struggle. WO2 confirmed that AP was taken by ambulance for further medical assistance.

WO2 stated that he did not see any officer use unnecessary or excessive force to arrest or detain AP.

Witness Officer 3 (WO3)

WO3 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Dec. 4, 2025, and provided the following information:

WO3 confirmed that he partnered with WO2 and that they went to assist the subject officers after they heard the request over the radio. He saw the subject officers struggling to arrest AP as they arrived on the scene. WO2 observed AP grabbing at the subject officers and at their police equipment.

WO3 and WO2 went over to assist the subject officers with AP by bringing his arms behind his back so handcuffs could be applied. WO3 noted AP to be naked and that he had a scratch on his forehead that was bleeding. He confirmed that another officer covered AP with a blanket after AP was detained.

This document is the property of the IIU and is not to be distributed to any other party without the written consent of the IIU.

WO3 saw the taser wires on the ground and assumed a taser must have been deployed before they arrived. He confirmed that AP was provided medical assistance and taken away in an ambulance.

WO3 confirmed that he did not use any unnecessary or excessive force on AP. He stated that he did not see any officer use any excessive force while detaining AP.

Witness Officer 4 (WO4)

WO4 was interviewed by IIU investigators on Jan. 12, 2026, and provided the following information:

WO4 confirmed that he was partnered with WO1 and that they were originally dealing with an unrelated matter at HSC until they heard the radio call for assistance from the subject officers. WO4 noted AP to be combative with officers as they arrived at the scene. He confirmed that he assisted in bringing AP's arms behind his back so he could be handcuffed.

WO4 stated that he could not understand much of what AP was saying, but he did hear him say that he had consumed cocaine and vodka. He observed blood on AP, but he could not recall where the blood was coming from on his body.

Once AP was loaded into the ambulance, WO4 and his partner went back to their previous assignment.

Subject Officers

Subject Officer 1 (SO1)

In accordance with his rights, SO1 declined to be interviewed by IIU investigators.

Subject Officer 2 (SO2)

In accordance with his rights, SO2 declined to be interviewed by IIU investigators. SO2 provided IIU investigators with his notes and a use of force report, which contained the following information:

SO2 was assigned with SO1 to deal with a 911 call involving AP. The background information was that AP was naked and running in and out of traffic, attempting to enter vehicles as they passed. The subject officers arrived on scene and observed AP to be under some kind of intoxicant. AP was incoherent and appeared to be suffering from paranoia.

SO2 confirmed that initially, AP was compliant with the officers while he was assessed by paramedics and cleared. SO2 stated that the original plan was to take AP back to his residence and help him get some clothing. He stated that AP refused to enter his residence once they arrived, so the subject officers went into the residence and grabbed some clothes and identification for AP. Soon after, AP fled from the officers.

The subject officers caught up with AP in the street and tried to take him to the back seat of their vehicle for his own well-being. AP refused to get in and a physical confrontation occurred. SO2 confirmed that they radioed for assistance because they were struggling with placing AP in

This document is the property of the IIU and is not to be distributed to any other party without the written consent of the IIU.

handcuffs. SO2 confirmed that officers were directing AP to stop resisting without success. AP then swung at SO1 and the subject officers took AP to the ground.

SO2 confirmed that they were still struggling with detaining AP, and that he used his taser, striking AP in the chest. Soon after the deployment of the taser, WO2 and WO3 arrived. Once AP was detained, medical services were provided to AP and he was taken to HSC by ambulance.

SO2's notes contained photos of his injuries, which included abrasions his right elbow, left knee and swelling to his right hand. SO2 also noted that his groin area was injured during the struggle.

Other evidence

Medical Reports

AP was noted to have fractures to his face, ankle and ribs that required medical assistance. The ankle injury may have occurred before police involvement. Medical reports noted that AP had to be sedated at the hospital and that he confirmed to medical staff that he had snorted cocaine earlier that day.

Taser Download Report

Downloads confirmed that the taser was deployed on three occasions in under four minutes. Each deployment was activated by pressing on the trigger of the taser. The data suggests that only the second and third deployment were effective.

Use of Force Report

The report provided further information about the incident as follows:

1. The first deployment of the taser happened while AP was resisting the officers and after they went to his residence. Although the probes struck AP's body, they were ineffective, as AP continued to evade the officers.
2. The second deployment of the taser was also ineffective, because AP continued to struggle with the officers and resist arrest.
3. During the struggle, AP grabbed a loaded firearm magazine and attempted to punch the officers while holding onto the magazine. AP continued to grab at the officer's utility belt, until he was secured with further assistance from others officers.
4. SO2 stated in the report that while AP was attempting to grab the officer's intervention tools, he struck AP in the face approximately five or six times.

Applicable Law

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

> ***25 (1)*** *Every one 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*

This document is the property of the IIU and is not to be distributed to any other party without the written consent of the IIU.

> ***(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.*

Conclusion

The subject officers were assigned to a 911 call dealing with AP, who was naked and running in and out of traffic. Initially, AP was compliant with the subject officers, allowing paramedics to medically clear him. For whatever reason, AP attempted to flee from the subject officers as they were trying to assist him at his residence. Once the subject officers caught up to AP, there was a physical altercation, with AP attempting to punch the officers and resist arrest. AP was resisting to the point that the subject officers required further police assistance and the deployment of their taser to detain AP. Once AP was handcuffed, medical assistance was provided to him for his injuries. AP acknowledged that he had zero recollection of the confrontation with the subject officers. According to the medical records, AP confirmed that he had snorted cocaine before the incident. The medical records also note that AP had to be sedated while at the hospital. Based on all the evidence available, I believe the subject officers' actions were reasonable in the circumstances. Therefore, no charges are recommended and the IIU investigation is now completed and closed.

This document is the property of the IIU and is not to be distributed to any other party without the written consent of the IIU.