

# **Woodstock Police Service**

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## **Report**

**Subject:** Administrative Review of SIU Investigation (SIU #23-OVI-084)

**From:** Inspector Heidi Becks

**To:** The Chair and Members of the Woodstock Police Services Board

**Date:** September 5, 2023

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## **Recommendation**

For Information only.

## **Summary**

On March 14, 2023, Woodstock Police Service (WPS) received a call for service in relation to a report of assaultive behaviour. As a result of the police investigation, the subject of this assaultive behaviour was apprehended under the Mental Health Act. During the interaction with officers, the apprehended party suffered a Special Investigations Unit (SIU) reportable injury.

The SIU investigated the incident and determined that there was no criminal conduct by the *subject official*.

This report summarizes the required review pursuant to section 34 of *Ontario Regulation 268/10 of the Police Service Act*.

## **Report**

On March 14, 2023, WPS received a call for service to the area of Dundas St. and Finkle St for a report of a male threatening to assault a security guard.

Police attended the area and were advised by the caller that the male had not assaulted them, and that he had left towards Peel St. A detailed description was provided to police. Two officers located the male in the area and recognized him from past occurrences as a person suffering from mental health issues. The male's behaviour was erratic and began to escalate, and he became aggressive towards police as they attempted to interact with him. The male would not comply with police commands and began to yell at police to shoot him.

The male continued to advance towards police in an aggressive manner, by clenching his fists and yelling for police to shoot him. One officer deployed the conducted energy weapon (CEW), but was ineffective in gaining compliance, while the second officer also drew their CEW. A third officer arrived on scene and also drew their CEW, while managing the scene.

A fourth officer arrived on scene, which caused the male to advance towards them in an aggressive manner, yelling and waving their arms around.. The fourth officer deployed their conducted energy weapon, but again was ineffective in gaining compliance.

A fifth officer, being aware that the CEW was ineffective on two attempts, approached the male from behind and tackled him to the ground. Compliance was gained and the male was handcuffed to the rear, and taken into police custody under the authority of Section 17 of the Mental Health Act.

A sixth officer arrived on scene and assisted with handcuffing the apprehended party.

EMS was requested to attend the scene, and the male was transported to Woodstock General Hospital. The male was diagnosed with a fractured left orbital bone. Police stood by until the male's mental state was assessed.

WPS notified the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the SIU invoked their mandate. One officer was designated as the *subject official*, and five other officers were designated as *witness officials*. All have remained on active duty.

On July 10, 2023, the SIU advised, in a letter from the Director, Joseph Martino, the file had been closed and no further action was contemplated. In the Director's view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject official.

*Ontario Regulation 268/10*, section 34 of the *Police Services Act* requires the Chief of Police to cause an investigation into any incident with respect to which the SIU has been notified. The purpose of this investigation is to determine if any changes are required to the policies or procedures of the Service. The regulation also requires the police service to report the findings to the Police Services Board.

In conclusion, this Administrative Review has found there are no recommendations for any changes to the Service's policies and/or procedures at this time.

## **Attachments**

Nil

**Prepared By:** Inspector Heidi Becks

**Approved By:** Chief Rod Wilkinson