

## Report

**Subject:** Administrative Review of SIU Investigation (SIU #24-OVI-15)  
**From:** Inspector Jamie Taylor  
**To:** The Chair and Members of the Woodstock Police Services Board  
**Date:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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### Recommendation

For Information only.

### Summary

On January 13, 2024, Woodstock Police Service (WPS) attended Dundas Street and Hunter Street in the City of Woodstock for a report of a male passed out behind the wheel of a GMC Sierra pick up truck. The responding officer arrived on scene and was able to wake the lone occupant in the driver's seat. The driver then put the vehicle in motion and fled westbound on Dundas Street at a high rate of speed. The responding officer notified dispatch of his observations and did not pursue this motor vehicle for public safety. A short time later police received a report that this same motor vehicle had crashed on the south side ditch of Dundas Street in the area of Zorra and East Zorra Tavistock Line. The male driver was arrested and transported to the hospital where he was diagnosed with fractured ribs. As a result of the fractured ribs the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was notified.

The SIU investigated the incident and determined that there was no criminal conduct by the responding officers. No Subject Officer was designated.

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

### Report

On January 13, 2024, Police were dispatched to the area of Dundas Street, and Hunter Street in the City of Woodstock for a vehicle parked running with a male passed out behind the wheel. Police arrived on scene and observed a Grey coloured pickup truck parked at the stop sign.

Police observed the driver's side door to be heavily damaged. The vehicle was parked at the stop sign facing southbound. Police pulled up to the scene parked facing northbound beside the truck. Police observed the truck to have some sort of cardboard covering the driver's side window. Police called out for the driver to ascertain if he was in medical distress. Police were met with negative results getting an answer from the driver. Police removed the cardboard from the window and observed the male leaning back in the driver's seat with his eyes closed. Police asked the male if he was alright. Police were met with negative results for a response. Police shook the male's arm at which time he opened his eyes, observed Police, put the vehicle in motion, spinning his tires making a right hand turn travelling westbound on Dundas Street at a high rate of speed.

Police advised dispatch that the vehicle had fled and provided the direction of travel. Police also advised dispatch to contact the Oxford County OPP as the vehicle was travelling toward their jurisdiction. Police did not engage the vehicle in any manner.

Police advised dispatch that the vehicle may have been involved in a Fail to Remain single vehicle collision on Mill Street and Parkinson Road in the City of Woodstock. A vehicle described as a Grey Pick up Truck struck a Traffic light standard and fled the scene. The Grey pickup was described as having a heavily damaged driver's side door.

Police advised dispatch that they would travel west on Highway 2 to make observations for that vehicle. At no time did Police have their emergency equipment activated. Police drove westbound on Highway 2 to the Tenth Line before turning around and heading back toward the city. A short time later Police were advised that a vehicle had crashed into the ditch in the area of East Zorra Tavistock Line and Highway 2.

Police arrived on scene and observed the vehicle to be crashed in the south ditch just west of East Zorra Tavistock Line. Police observed the male driver walking North on East Zorra Tavistock Line. The male was believed to be the same male observed in the Grey Pickup Truck. Police engaged the male verbally at which time he turned and looked at Police. The male had an injury to his face and was observed to have blood covering his face. The male walked back towards

Police where he was placed under arrest and transported to hospital for injuries resulting from the motor vehicle collision.

It was determined through investigation that the pick up truck was travelling at 130 km/hr 5 seconds before the motor vehicle collision had occurred. It should also be noted that the weather on the day was snowing, with gusting white out conditions. The roads were snow covered with icy conditions

WPS notified the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the SIU invoked their mandate. No officers were designated as the *subject official* or *witness officials*, and all officers remained on active duty.

On May 8th, 2024, 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 the SIU Director's letter dated May 8th, 2024, Mr. Martino noted that despite invoking the mandate, they have terminated the investigation into the incident resulting in a vehicle injury to a male on January 13, 2024. There are no recommendations for any changes to the Service's policies and/or procedures at this time.

### **Attachments**

Nil

**Prepared By:** Inspector Jamie Taylor

**Approved By:** Chief Rod Wilkinson