



# MEMORANDUM

**DARCY FLEURY, CHIEF OF POLICE**

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DATE: December 6, 2024

TO: Thunder Bay Police Service Board

FROM: Inspector G. Snyder

SUBJECT: SIU Administrative Report required under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, Part VI, Section 81(1)*. SIU Case #24-OCI-166

For information purposes

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In accordance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act, Part VI, Section 81(1)*, the Chief of Police shall promptly cause an investigation to be conducted into any incident involving a police officer in the Chief's police service that becomes the subject of an investigation by the SIU Director under Section 15 of the *Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019*.

The purpose of this investigation is to review the policies of, or services provided by, the police service and the conduct of its police officers.

## **Incident Summary**

On April 14, 2024, at 1129 hours, the Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS) notified the Ontario Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of a 911 call to a short-term residential building. The caller indicated a female was screaming and running around holding a knife. The female was a client at the location. The caller reported that the female had locked herself in a room and security was attempting to restrain her. The location of the knife was unknown.

Several officers arrived on scene along with an Integrated Mobile Police Assessment Crisis Team (IMPACT) worker. The officers were directed to a second-floor hallway by staff and were advised that the female had a knife with her.



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Officers approached the area and were able to see the female through windows of a doorway. Officers observed blood on both sides of her neck from multiple cuts. Officers were able to contain the female in the hall area for the safety of several others within the building. Soon after arriving, officers observed the female to forcefully stab the right side of her neck multiple times with the knife. The female then slumped over and threw the knife down the hallway. Officers immediately attended to the female and observed she had significant injuries to her neck.

As officer were assisting the female prior to EMS arriving, the female began coughing up blood and had an apparent seizure. Officers were then unable to locate vital signs and CPR was started. Officer continued with these life saving measures until EMS and Fire arrived to assist.

EMS attended and transported the female to the hospital where she was transferred to the ICU with serious injuries.

On August 12, 2024, the SIU notified TBPS that they had concluded their investigation which resulted in no criminal proceedings against any officer.

## **Administrative Investigation – Conclusion**

From a review of this incident in relation to the SIU investigation, it was found that all officers performed their duties well and in compliance with all applicable procedures. The direct close involvement of the CHMA employee in a very dangerous situation put the CMHA employee in unnecessary risk. This has been discussed with CMHA management to ensure safety of CMHA employees at calls with an increased risk such as this.

## **Policies reviewed during this administrative review**

- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c36 Police Response to Persons Suffering from a Mental Illness
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c2 Arrest, Release and Detention
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c48 Care and Handling of Prisoners
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c48c Prisoner Transportation



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- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c49a Search of Persons
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c86 Drug Investigations
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P2c10 Occupational Health and Safety

### **Recommendations being implemented as a result of this review**

As a result of this review, minor modifications to an existing procedure are occurring, specifically P2c10 Occupational Health and Safety, to update additional language adding the need for surgical masks to be included inside all safety pouches officers carry. Although this didn't affect officers in this occurrence, the coughing and spraying of blood in this circumstance could have caused a health hazard for officers and the use of surgical masks could assist in preventing this risk.