



# MEMORANDUM

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DATE: March 4, 2025

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 #20-OCI-384/24-OCI-411

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 February 21, 2020, the Thunder Bay Police Service arrested a male for various drug trafficking offences. During the arrest, the male resisted, and a struggle ensued. One officer received minor injuries as a result of the altercation. Once in custody, the male was transported to Thunder Bay Police headquarters.

Once at the police station, the male began to breathe heavily and became unresponsive. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) attended and transported the male to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Center (TBRHSC). The male remained unresponsive at the hospital and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit.

The Special Investigations Unit was notified by TBPS on February 22, 2020, however, did not begin their investigation at that time as the SIU was waiting for further information before they would decide whether to initiate an investigation.



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On February 26, 2020, TBRHSC contacted TBPS advising that the male had expelled a package in a bowel movement that was believed to contain narcotics. The package was a torn condom with what was believed to be fentanyl within it. A TBPS officer seized the suspected fentanyl. The SIU was updated and advised they would not be conducting an investigation under their mandate at that time.

On June 6, 2024, the SIU re-instated their investigation advising they are now conducting their investigation relating to the custody injury of this male. The SIU did not provide any further details regarding the reason for the investigation now being conducted.

On September 26, 2024, the SIU advised that the secondary review of the matter was now closed, concluding the matter.

## **Administrative Investigation – Conclusion**

From a review of this incident in relation to the SIU investigation, it was found that a training review in relation to reporting injuries sustained on duty will occur with the officer who sustained minor injuries in the altercation. From the initial SIU notification and correspondence, it was noted that the record keeping, and administrative process was inconsistent. A new SIU administrative process has since been established so this issue has already been addressed.

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

- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P9c3 Use of Force
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P2c30 WSIB Reporting
- 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 P6c48a Search of Persons
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c48c Prisoner Transportation
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P2c13 Special Investigations Unit
- Thunder Bay Police Service Policy P6c86c Drug Investigations

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

As noted above, procedure changes since the date of this occurrence in 2020 have already occurred addressing administrative SIU reporting processes. The TBPS has also updated the Use of Force procedure, in compliance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, since the occurrence of this incident.