

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**25 April 2022 / 25 avril 2022**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

**Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa**

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

**Inspector Hugh O'Toole, Professional Standards Branch / unité des normes  
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**SUBJECT: REPORT ON SIU INVESTIGATION**

**OBJET: RAPPORT SUR L'ENQUÊTE DE L'UES**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du  
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

**BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes an investigation by the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) into an incident that occurred on July 13, 2021, for which the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) invoked its mandate on the same day. This investigation is required by legislation once the SIU has completed its involvement and assesses the incident against our policies, services, and the conduct of our officers.

A brief synopsis of the incident and the findings of the SIU is provided below, as well as the conclusions of the PSU review.

## **DISCUSSION**

On July 13, 2021, at 12:04 a.m., patrol officers responded to a 911 call about a person who appeared to be trying to break into cars in the city's suburban east end. On arrival, officers located the man and briefly detained him for investigation. The male indicated he was lost and was looking for a bus station. No evidence of a criminal offence was established, however, the officers assessed the man for intoxication or mental illness, given his described behaviour. However, there was no odour of alcohol or apparent indication of illness. Regardless, officers offered to have him assessed by paramedics but he refused. One of the officers offered to give him a ride to a bus stop and he accepted, and at 12:34 a.m. he was dropped off at Innes and 10<sup>th</sup> Line Roads.

Video evidence reviewed during the investigation revealed the male lay down on the ground in the same area at approximately 2:30 a.m.

At 5:51 a.m. patrol officers were dispatched when a passer-by found a male lying on the ground at that location, apparently deceased. After a brief investigation, it was determined to be the same male that police had dealt with approximately five hours earlier. The scene was secured, and the SIU was notified. During the examination of the scene, investigators located evidence indicative of drug use.

## **INVESTIGATION**

### **SIU Investigation**

On November 8, 2021, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) received a letter from the Director of the SIU concerning the outcome of the investigation. In his letter, Director Joseph Martino stated the file has been closed and that no further action was contemplated. He was satisfied that there were no grounds from the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the Subject Officer.

The OPS received a copy of the SIU investigative report and reviewed it carefully as part of their assessment. The cause of death was unclear at the time of the issuance of the report, but opioid involvement was suspected.

### **Professional Standards Investigation**

Pursuant to Section 34(1) of Ontario Regulation 268/10 of the Police Services Act (PSA), the PSU initiated an investigation into this incident to review the policies and service provided by the OPS, and to determine if the conduct of the involved police officers was appropriate.

The response of the OPS was consistent with legislation and policy, and no conduct issues were identified for any of the involved officers. It was determined that the

involved officers did not have any reason or authority to take the male into custody. They assessed his health, and offered to have paramedics assess him. He was provided transportation to a location of his choice. Unfortunately, the suspected opioid use was either not detected at the time, or occurred after officers transported him.

After careful review of all the information and evidence for this incident by PSU investigators, no policy, service or conduct issues have been identified.

**Conduct Findings** – No misconduct identified

**Service Findings** – No service issues identified

**Policy Findings** – No policy issues identified

## **CONCLUSION**

The PSU completed the Section 34 (formerly Section 11) investigation into this incident and concluded that no further action is required.