

**Report to / Rapport au:**

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

**26 February 2024 / 26 février 2024**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

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

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

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**SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT - INVESTIGATION  
23-OCD-375**

**OBJET: RAPPORT SUR L'UNITÉ DES ENQUÊTES SPÉCIALES – ENQUÊTE  
23-OCD-375**

**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 document outlines a police interaction that resulted in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) invoking their mandate. The background of the incident, along with SIU findings and recommendations are provided. As required by legislation, the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) subsequently completed an investigation into the policy, services, and conduct of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) about this incident.

**DISCUSSION**

On September 12, 2023, at approximately 5:30 a.m., the OPS responded to an 'unwanted party' call at an apartment building located on McEwen Avenue in Ottawa. Civilian Witness (CW) #1 was reporting that an unknown naked male was in the laundry room. Responding officers located the male, sensed he was exhibiting symptoms of

excited delirium, and requested Emergency Medical Services (EMS). While waiting for EMS to arrive, the officers engaged in conversation with the male who was calm and cooperative. When EMS arrived, the male was cuffed and walked through the front lobby towards the ambulance parked out front. While in the lobby, the male became limp, collapsed, and went vital signs absent (VSA). Paramedics immediately commenced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and rushed the male to the Queensway-Carleton Hospital (QCH) where he was pronounced deceased shortly after arrival.

OPS contacted the SIU and notified them. The SIU invoked its mandate and opened an investigation.

## **INVESTIGATION**

### **SIU Investigation:**

On January 9, 2024, the OPS received a letter from the Director of the SIU concerning the outcome of their investigation. In his letter, Director Martino stated the file has been closed and no further action contemplated. He was satisfied that there were no grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject official (SO) who was involved in the incident.

In his report, Director Martino noted the following, “The SO, WO #1 and WO #2 were lawfully placed throughout their brief engagement with the Complainant. The protection and preservation of life being their foremost obligation, the officers were duty bound to do what was reasonably within their power to prevent harm coming to the Complainant.

I am also satisfied that the SO comported himself with due care and regard for the Complainant’s well-being. The officer quickly surmised that the Complainant was in medical distress and promptly called for paramedics. While he and the other officers waited, they monitored the Complainant and placed him in a recovery position. With the arrival of the paramedics, the officers also assisted with CPR.”

The Director concluded, “In the result, while it remains unknown how and why the Complainant died, I am satisfied on reasonable grounds that his death is not attributable to any conduct on the part of the SO that transgressed the limits of care prescribed by the criminal law. As such, there is no basis for proceeding with charges in this case. The file is closed.”

The SIU closed its investigation and advised OPS that no further action would be contemplated.

### **Professional Standards Unit Investigation:**

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

After the SIU conducted its investigation and closed it with no further actions, the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) conducted a review under Section 34(1). The Subject Official and the Witness Officials were dispatched to check on the well-being of a male (The Complainant) who was naked and wandering the basement of a building. Upon first contact, the officers attributed his behaviour to being medical. The officers conducted themselves professionally and with care for the Complainant. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were called immediately once the officers noticed the Complainant's symptoms. They continued to provide care when placing the Complainant in the "recovery position" as per their training. They assisted EMS until they reached the hospital where medical staff took over. Unfortunately, the Complainant could not be saved and was pronounced deceased at the hospital. After a careful review of the information in this case, it has been determined that there is no evidence of misconduct on the part of the Subject Official.

The Professional Standards review concluded that the Subject Official involved in this incident responded properly. Furthermore, no issues were identified about the Service delivery or Corporate Policies during the review.

**Conduct Findings** – No conduct issues were identified.

**Service Findings** – No service issues were identified.

**Policy Findings** - No policy issues were identified.

## **CONCLUSION**

PSS has completed its Section 34 investigation into this incident and no further action is required.