

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

23 June 2025 / 23 juin 2025

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 24-OPF-492

**OBJET: RAPPORT SUR L'UNITÉ DES ENQUÊTES SPÉCIALES – ENQUÊTE
24-OPF-492**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Service Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

**Que la Commission de service de police 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) in relation to this incident.

DISCUSSION

On Friday, November 15th, 2024, at approximately 11 pm, the Complainant arrived at Wendy's restaurant located at 1170 Place D'Orleans Dr. and parked his vehicle next to witness #1, a stranger who was enjoying a coffee he had just purchased from Tim Hortons. The Complainant asked Witness #1 to borrow his phone to make a call. After

returning the phone to witness #1, the Complainant walked towards the parking lot where a young couple were sitting inside their vehicle, having a coffee and talking.

The Complainant's behavior made the young couple feel uncomfortable and uneasy. They asked the Complainant to leave, however, he refused. The young couple began honking their car horn to generate attention from others and possibly scare him away. This was successful as the Complainant subsequently walked away and returned to his parked vehicle.

The young couple drove by the Complainant's vehicle to document the license plate and notify police of his behavior. During this time, words were exchanged, and the Complainant approached their vehicle while pulling out a knife and began stabbing the driver and passenger repeatedly until the driver managed to speed off. The young couple drove a few blocks to the paramedic station on St Joseph Blvd and asked for help.

While this was going on, there were two vehicles in the drive-thru waiting for their orders. The Complainant walked up to one of the vehicles and began to assault the female driver with a knife. As her partner exited the vehicle to assist her by getting the Complainant to step away, the complainant pulled out an axe and began hitting the partner as he was being chased around the vehicle.

The Complainant moved on to another vehicle in the drive-thru and assaulted the driver with the axe until the driver managed to escape. The Complainant then broke the drive-thru windows with the axe and damaged other vehicles.

The OPS received several calls for service from witnesses and victims. Before police arrival, the Complainant continued to assault people attending the Wendy's parking lot with the knife and axe.

Upon police arrival, officers were faced with several injured victims. The Subject Official (SO) was speaking to one of the victims when he observed the Complainant running full speed towards him while in possession of a knife and an axe.

The SO ordered the Complainant to stop and drop the weapons, however, the Complainant continued to run at him. Knowing that the Complainant had caused serious bodily harm by stabbing multiple people and fearing not only his life but the life/safety of the public, the SO discharged his firearm at the Complainant.

The Complainant was struck by police bullets, causing him to fall to the ground, however, he would not let go of the knife and axe. The Complainant began crawling towards the SO with the weapons in hand. Since the Complainant had been slowed

down but continued to crawl towards the officers, a CEW (taser) was used, which then allowed officers to successfully arrest him. EMS was called, and first aid was administered immediately.

The Complainant was transported to the hospital, where he was treated. The Complainant survived his injuries and was later charged criminally with fifty-two (52) Criminal Code offences related to attempted murder, aggravated assault, possessing weapons dangerous to the public, and assaulting a peace officer.

The SIU was called and invoked its mandate.

INVESTIGATIONS

SIU Investigation:

On March 5, 2025, the OPS received a letter from the Director of the SIU concerning the outcome of their investigation. In his letter, Director Martino stated that the file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. He was satisfied that there were no grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the Subject Official who was involved in this incident. The SIU investigative report was also disclosed to the Chief.

The SIU collected evidence, including interviews with police and non-police witnesses, and video footage.

In his report, the SIU Director stated: "Arriving on scene, the SO had seen a male bleeding from his left arm and face and learned he had been attacked by another male. Moments later, the officer took note of the Complainant - a hatchet in his right hand - advancing on him quickly. There could be little doubt that the Complainant represented an imminent threat, and that immediate action was required in self-defence."

The Director added: "The Complainant had embarked on a course of conduct threatening the lives of many people with deadly weapons. His intentions in approaching the SO were clear. As he neared to within about five meters of the officer, the Complainant was a clear and present danger to the officer's life and limb. The SO might have considered retreating, and there is evidence that he took several steps back as the Complainant closed the distance, but he was not at liberty to withdraw from the scene given the presence of other persons in the area whose lives were also at risk."

The Director concluded that he was satisfied the SO's actions were justified and the matter was closed with no further action.

Professional Standards Unit Investigation:

Pursuant to Section 8 of Ontario Regulation 90/24, Section 81 of the Community Safety and Police Act (CSPA), 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.

During the PSU investigations, it was noted that the involved officers and the SO followed the policies, procedures, and their training when tending to the call for service and using the firearm and the CEW to engage with the Complainant.

PSU's investigation confirmed what the SIU concluded, in that the officers were in the lawful execution of their duty. Furthermore, the RO's use of force was appropriate. The SO witnessed the injuries sustained by the innocent bystanders. He witnessed the Complainant carrying a hatchet and a knife while advancing towards him quickly. The SO showed great restraint by commanding the Complainant to stop and drop his weapons first. The time and distance covered by the Complainant did not allow the SO to continue with his verbal demands. Fearing for his safety and the safety of the public, the SO discharged his weapon and the threat was reduced when the Complainant fell. The SO, and other officers brought the incident to an end, then tended to the Complainant's injuries and rendered first aid.

PSU further investigated the use of force and equipment and did not find any issues with any of the application of force or the use of the said equipment.

After further review of the incident, no issues were identified in relation to service delivery or corporate policy, as well as the conduct of the attending officers.

Conduct Findings – No conduct issues identified.

Service Findings – No service issues identified.

Policy Findings – No policy issues identified.

CONCLUSION

PSU has completed its Section 81 investigation into this incident and no further action is required.