

Report to / Rapport au:

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

29 September 2025 / 29 septembre 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 25-OCI-024

**OBJET: RAPPORT SUR L'UNITÉ DES ENQUÊTES SPÉCIALES – ENQUÊTE
25-OCI-024**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

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

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de service 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 policing services delivered, the procedural practices and the conduct of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) in relation to this incident.

DISCUSSION

Incident Summary – January 21, 2025

On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at approximately 8:36 a.m., the complainant attended the residence of his ex-girlfriend (CW1) and attempted to gain entry through a window. The Complainant removed the screen and tried to force the window open, which CW1

was holding shut from inside. She immediately called 911 to report the attempted break and enter.

Despite her efforts, the complainant continued his attempts and ultimately forced open the apartment door, gaining entry into the residence. While still on the phone with 911, CW1 reported that the complainant was inside the apartment and in possession of a knife.

The Subject Official (SO) arrived on scene shortly after Witness Official #1 (WO1). Together, they entered the building and proceeded to CW1's apartment. Upon arrival, the SO observed the apartment door was partially ajar. A bent and discarded window screen was noted propped against the hallway wall.

Based on information from 911 indicating the complainant was armed with a knife, the SO drew his service firearm upon entry and identified himself as a police officer and began clearing the apartment.

The SO heard a muffled female scream from another room. The SO went to that room and gained entry. The SO found the Complainant and the female and demanded the Complainant to comply with police commands. The SO also advised the Complainant they were under arrest. The Complainant did not cooperate, and the SO had to physically grab them and pull them away from the female victim, while making sure it was safe to do so.

Due to the narrow hallway space, the ability to execute an arrest was limited. The complainant remained partially upright, shouting and resisting arrest. The attending officers continued to reason with the Complainant and attempted to de-escalate the situation but to no avail. The officers began to use physical force to gain compliance and affect the arrest.

During the struggle to affect the arrest, the SO delivered a strike to the Complainant's face (nose area) in order to gain control of him. The strike was effective, and the SO was able to secure the complainant's arms behind his back, and he was handcuffed without further incident. A search of the complainant revealed two folding knives and one set of brass knuckles in his pockets.

The complainant was escorted outside where first aid was administered. Paramedics transported him to hospital for evaluation. The Complainant was later diagnosed with a broken nose by hospital staff.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was notified and invoked its mandate.

The complainant was subsequently charged with several criminal offences.

INVESTIGATIONS

SIU Investigation:

On May 12, 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 being 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: "I am satisfied that the evidence does not establish reasonable grounds to believe that the Complainant was subjected to unlawful force. The takedown in the hallway made sense. At the time, the officers would have had reason to believe that the Complainant was violent and in possession of a knife, having just broken into a home. Forcing the Complainant to the floor would better position the officers to more safely manage a combative and potentially armed individual. For the foregoing reasons, there is no basis for proceeding with criminal charges in this case. The file is closed."

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 policing services, the procedural practices of 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 responding to the call for service and engaging with the Complainant.

PSU's investigation confirmed what the SIU concluded, in that the officers were in the lawful execution of their duty and the RO's use of force was appropriate given the information received from CW1 and the observations made at the scene. Physical force was employed as a distraction technique to safely gain control of the complainant, who was actively resisting arrest and may have been attempting to access additional weapons later found on his person during the search. Once the complainant was safely detained, no further use of force was applied.

After further review of the incident, no issues were identified in relation to the policing services delivered, the procedural practices or the conduct of the attending officers.

Policing Services Findings – No issues identified.

Procedural Practices Findings – No issues identified.

Conduct Findings – No issues identified.

CONCLUSION

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