

**Report to / Rapport au:**

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

**27 April 2026 / 27 avril 2026**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

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

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

**Superintendent Mazen Dikah, Executive Officer to the Chief of Police  
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**SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT 25-OCI-416**

**OBJET: RAPPORT SUR L'UNITÉ DES ENQUÊTES SPÉCIALES – ENQUÊTE  
25-OCI-416**

#### **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 – October 13, 2025**

On October 13, 2025, Ottawa Police officers located the complainant at 725 Bernard Street during a proactive walkthrough of the building. The complainant was wanted on reasonable grounds for several offences, including theft under, breach of probation, and break and enter. He was arrested without incident at 1:15 p.m. and transported to the Ottawa Police cellblock at 474 Elgin Street, Ottawa.

At approximately 1:55 p.m., the complainant was paraded before the on-duty Cellblock Sergeant (Subject Official). He reported no alcohol or drug consumption and disclosed only a pre-existing knee injury. He was searched, provided access to counsel, and lodged in Cell #7 pending a court appearance the following day. Wellness checks were conducted in accordance with policy.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., a Special Constable observed a small amount of blood on the complainant's sweater during a cell check. The Subject Official attended immediately, noted no injuries or signs of medical distress, and the complainant again denied consuming any substances. A search of the cell yielded nothing. The Subject Official directed staff to continue close monitoring.

At 8:15 p.m., during another check, the complainant disclosed to a Special Constable that he had taken "an unknown pill" earlier. This information was relayed to the Subject Official. The complainant refused medical assessment, continued to state he was well, and showed no observable signs of distress. He remained under monitoring with no noted changes.

At 9:05 p.m., the Subject Official briefed the incoming Cellblock Sergeant (Witness Official #1) and documented the situation on the cellblock whiteboard. At the end of the Subject Official's shift, the complainant remained stable.

At approximately 11:35 p.m., the cellblock panic alarm was activated after a Special Constable observed the complainant lying on the floor of his cell via live video feed. Upon attending, the Special Constable found him unresponsive. Medical care was initiated immediately, including the administration of Narcan, and Paramedics were requested. Witness Official #1 and Special Constables remained with the complainant until he was transported from the cellblock.

The complainant was conveyed to the Ottawa General Hospital, where he was intubated and placed in a medically induced coma. Medical records indicated his condition appeared consistent with toxic ingestion of an illicit substance.

Based on the circumstances surrounding the complainant's hospitalization, the Ontario Special Investigative Unit (SIU) was notified and invoked their mandate.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

### **SIU Investigation:**

On February 2, 2026, 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 had been closed and no further action was 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 police witnesses, RMS reports and cellblock surveillance video recording. In his report, the SIU Director stated that in OPS custody, the complainant was owed a duty of care by the Subject Official and the other custodians assigned to look after him while in cells. He was satisfied that in the discharge of that duty, police personnel comported themselves with due care and regard for the complainant's well-being.

The complainant was asked about drug and alcohol use and denied both. In what appears to have been a thorough job, the complainant was searched prior to being placed in a cell. No drugs were retrieved from his person. The complainant was checked regularly and appeared well for the most part. The Subject Official responded quickly when advised of blood on the complainant's sweater, conducting a reasonable assessment of the complainant's health and satisfying himself that he was fine. The complainant appears to have advised his custodians at some point during his stay in cells that he had consumed a substance, either before he was arrested or while in custody. As he continued to appear well, that revelation did not result in any heightened measures. When the complainant suddenly fell ill in his cell, the evidence indicates that the Witness Official and Special Constables responded quickly to provide appropriate first-aid. For the foregoing reasons, there is no basis for proceeding with criminal charges in this case.

The Director further noted what appears to have been a late notification of the incident to the SIU by the service. There is evidence that the service was aware that the complainant was in life-threatening condition as early as 1:23am and yet the service did not notify the SIU until 3pm that day. This matter was reported to the Chief of Police and the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency.

**Professional Standards Unit Investigation:**

Pursuant to Section 8 of Ontario Regulation 90/24, Section 81 of the Community Safety Policing 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 members was appropriate.

During the PSU investigation, it was determined that the Subject Official and Special Constables conducted themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct. They followed policies, procedures and their training when engaging with the complainant.

When blood was observed on the complainant's sweater, the Subject Official and Special Constables immediately engaged with the complainant to obtain further information and continued conducting frequent cell checks to ensure his safety. At shift change, this information was formally relayed to the incoming Witness Official and the Special Constables assuming responsibility for cellblock duties. At the first indication of distress, first aid was administered and paramedics were contacted.

PSU confirmed the delay in notification occurred because medical staff advised OPS that they needed the complainant to wake from the medically induced coma before they could determine the extent of his injuries. Once OPS weighed the delay against the need for accurate medical information, notification was made based on the information known at that time, specifically that the complainant remained in an induced coma with no confirmed injuries identified as a result of the toxic ingestion of an illicit substance.

**Policing Services Findings** – No issues identified.

**Procedural Practices Findings** – No issues identified

**Conduct Findings** – No issues identified

**CONCLUSION**

PSU has concluded its Section 81 investigation, and no further action is required.