



**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

*The Trusted Leader in Policing
Le chef de file de confiance dans la police*

**REPORT
RAPPORT**

DATE: 26 January 2015

TO/DEST: Executive Director, Ottawa Police Services Board

FROM/EXP: Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service

SUBJECT/OBJET: **REPORT ON SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT INVESTIGATION**

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND

The attached Annex A outlines a call for service that resulted in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) being contacted and invoking their mandate. The background of the incident, SIU findings, and recommendations are provided in the Annex. The Professional Standards Section completed an investigation into policy, services and conduct of the involved members of the OPS and the findings are also in the attached document.

(Original signed by)

Charles Bordeleau
Chief of Police

Responsible for report: Inspector Christopher Rheume

SIU INVESTIGATIVE FILE # 14-OVD-040 – ONTARIO VEHICLE DEATH**BACKGROUND**

In February 2014, East Division Patrol officers observed an eastbound vehicle that did not have its taillights activated on Highway 174, east of Jeanne d'Arc Boulevard. One officer activated their emergency equipment and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. The subject vehicle accelerated and failed to stop for the officer who was then joined by a second officer where they both entered into a pursuit.

Both officers attempted to stop the subject vehicle using a rolling block. The subject vehicle was able to evade the manoeuvre and continued eastbound on Highway 174 at excessive speeds. The pursuit was terminated by all officers involved. Moments later, the subject vehicle was involved in a fatal single motor vehicle collision with a light post at the intersection of Trim Road.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was contacted and invoked their mandate.

INVESTIGATION**Special Investigation Unit Investigation**

The Director of the Special Investigations Unit advised the following:

"The investigation by this Unit has been completed, the file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. That is, there are no reasonable grounds, in my view, to believe that either of the subject officers committed a criminal offence in connection with the police pursuit preceding the motor vehicle collision that resulted in the death of the driver.

"I thank you for the cooperation of all members of your police service in the conduct of this investigation."

Professional Standards Section Investigation

Pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Ontario Regulation 267/10 of the *Police Services Act*, an investigation was conducted by the Professional Standards Section to determine if policies of, or services provided by, the OPS were adhered to at the time of this incident, and to determine if the conduct of the police officers was appropriate or contributed to the death of the victim.

After a careful review of the evidence in this case, it has been determined that there is no evidence of any misconduct on the part of the involved officers that may have contributed to the vehicle death of the driver.

Conduct Findings – No misconduct identified.

Service Findings- No service issue identified.

Policy Findings- The initiating Constable was in the lawful execution of their duties when they signalled to the driver of the vehicle to stop. The driver decided not to stop and wilfully continued to avoid police when the police gave pursuit. The police pursuit was terminated and, shortly after, the driver was involved in a fatal single motor vehicle collision. Breaches were found as the subject officers did not fully adhere to OPS policies with relations to Suspect Apprehension Pursuits, Motor Vehicle Collision Investigations and Special Investigations Unit. The officers are subject to internal discipline.

CONCLUSION

Both officers were counselled in regards to the OPS Suspect Apprehension Pursuit (SAP) policy and their excessive speeds. One officer had to complete a refresher course for the SAP and was counselled in relation to the duties of a police officer in a motor vehicle collision report. The Duty Inspector in charge at the time was counselled by his Superintendent in relation to the OPS Special Investigations Unit Policy.