

Report to / Rapport au:

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

24 January 2022 / 24 janvier 2022

Submitted by / Soumis par:

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

Contact Person / Personne ressource:

**Inspector Hugh O'Toole, Professional Standards Branch
*OtooleH@ottawapolice.ca***

SUBJECT: REPORT ON SIU INVESTIGATION – 15 JULY 2021

OBJET: RAPPORT SUR L'ENQUÊTE DE L'UES – 15 JUILLET 2021

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 report outlines a police interaction that resulted in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) invoking its mandate. The background of the incident, along with SIU findings are provided. The Professional Standards Unit (PSU) completed an investigation into the policy, services and conduct of the involved members of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

DISCUSSION

On July 15, 2021 at 4:23 p.m., officers attended a residence on Woodroffe Avenue to arrest a male on the strength of an arrest warrant with a Feeney warrant. The officers knocked on the door numerous times and the man, who was inebriated, answered. After being notified of the warrant, the man asked to go get dressed. The subject was inside the residence for several minutes. Officers waited outside the door for him to get dressed. They looked through the window and observed the male with a rope and

ladder, they then forced entry into the residence and found the male hanging from a rope. The male was subsequently pronounced deceased at the hospital.

The SIU was contacted and invoked its mandate.

INVESTIGATION

SIU Investigation

On November 12, 2021, the OPS received a letter from the director of the SIU concerning the outcome of its investigation. In his letter, Mr. Joseph Martino stated the file has been closed and no further action was contemplated. He was satisfied that there were no grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the Subject Officer.

The OPS received and reviewed a copy of the SIU investigative report. The SIU determined that the OPS was not responsible for the death of the male.

Professional Standards 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 service provided by the OPS, and to determine if the conduct of the involved police officers was appropriate.

The response of the OPS was consistent with legislation and policy and no conduct issues were identified relating to any of the involved officers. The arrest and sudden death incident was dealt with in accordance with the Sudden Death and Arrest policies.

After a careful review of the information in this case, it was determined that there were no service or policy issues identified.

Conduct Findings – No misconduct identified

Service Findings – No service issues identified

Policy Findings - No policy issues identified

CONCLUSION

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