



REPORT TO THE POLICE SERVICE BOARD

Author: Inspector Doris Carriere #3033

Date of Report: 6/18/2024

Type of Report: Public

Title: SIU Investigations

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board receives for information the review of Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigations relating to Durham Regional Police Service officers.

OVERVIEW

This report provides an update of SIU investigations involving Durham Regional Police Service officers, since the last quarter.

SIU INVESTIGATIONS

The mandate of the SIU is to maintain confidence in Ontario's police services by assuring the public that police actions resulting in serious injury, death, allegations of sexual assault, or the discharge of a firearm at a person, are subjected to rigorous, independent investigations.

Incidents that fall within the scope of this mandate must be reported to the SIU by the police service involved and/or may be reported by the complainant or any other person.

The objective of an SIU investigation is to determine whether there is evidence of criminal wrongdoing on the part of the police. It is not to determine whether the involved officer(s) may have committed a lesser offence, such as the breach of a provincial law or professional misconduct under the Code of Conduct.

From March 1st, 2024, to May 24th, 2024, the SIU invoked their mandate on four (4) occasions in relation to incidents involving DRPS officers. All four of these investigations remain open.

2024 Incidents - Mandate Invoked			
Type	Incident date	Summary	Disposition
24-OCI-099	02MAR24	A call for service was received regarding an unsheltered male who was fighting with a customer. The officer located the	Open

		male, who aggressively approached the officer. The officer pushed the male, causing him to fall backwards and strike his head on the asphalt. The male was transported to the hospital and was diagnosed with a brain hemorrhage.	
24-OCI-108	05MAR24	Officers were dispatched to investigate a possible shoplifting incident. The male suspect was arrested due to outstanding warrants. The officer parked the cruiser in the sallyport. Upon returning to the cruiser, the suspect was found unresponsive with blue foam coming from his mouth. The officer administered two doses of Narcan, and the suspect regained consciousness. The suspect was then taken to the hospital and admitted to the ICU, where he remained stable but unconscious. On March 14, 2024, the suspect woke up and was later released from the hospital.	Open
24-OVD-187	29APR24	DRPS Communications received a call from an off-duty officer regarding a commercial robbery from the LCBO in Clarington. The suspect had pulled a knife on the off-duty officer who had intervened to prevent the theft. The off-duty officer reported that the suspect departed in a U-Haul van traveling westbound on Regional Highway 2. The off-duty officer strategically followed the suspect vehicle and disengaged when officers in marked cruisers caught up to the suspect vehicle. Officers lost sight of the vehicle, and a brief time later it was again located in Oshawa. The suspect vehicle struck a cruiser and entered eastbound Highway 401, traveling in the opposite direction of traffic. Officers re-	Open

		engaged and pursued the suspect vehicle onto eastbound Highway 401, traveling westbound. The pursuit ended with the suspect vehicle being involved in a multi-vehicle head-on collision, resulting in 4 fatalities.	
24-OCI-221	24MAY24	Officers received information from EMS in Oshawa about a possible impaired driver on a motorcycle with a pillion passenger. Officers located the motorcycle and attempted to stop it, but were unsuccessful and did not initiate a pursuit. Air1 maintained observation of the vehicle until it eventually stopped at a gas station in Pickering. Officers approached the driver and passenger to conduct an arrest. Both the male and female suspects resisted arrest but were eventually taken into custody. The female suspect sustained facial injuries, was taken to the hospital, and was diagnosed with a broken nose.	Open

One SIU investigation remains open from 2019. This investigation resulted in Cst David Swaine being charged on February 28th, 2021, with Fail to Provide Necessaries of Life following the in-custody death of a prisoner in 2019 (**SIU File – 19-OCD-262**). The matter was heard at trial and on March 19th, 2024, the officer was acquitted. The Crown has appealed the decision and SIU indicated the “ongoing status” remains while the case is under appeal.

Further, between January 1st and May 24th, 2024, the DRPS were notified that one (1) investigation from 2023, had been closed or terminated by the SIU. The details are contained in the chart below.

2024 Closed Incidents - Mandate Invoked			
Type	Incident date	Summary	Disposition
23-OVI-423	17OCT23	Officers were called to a residence where a motor vehicle theft was in progress. The suspects were trying to steal a vehicle parked in the driveway. When DRPS members arrived, the suspects entered another vehicle waiting nearby. As they	Closed – No Further Action 13FEB24 Report Completed and Before the Board March 2024

		<p>were fleeing, their vehicle collided head-on with a police cruiser that was responding to the scene. Both vehicles sustained significant damage. Three suspects were taken into custody and as a result of the collision, two of them were injured. One suspect suffered a broken right femur, while the other suspect suffered a broken right wrist.</p>	
--	--	--	--