



**IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF A MALE FOLLOWING
INTERACTIONS WITH RCMP
IN
THE CITY OF SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ON MAY 13, 2021**

**DECISION OF THE CHIEF CIVILIAN DIRECTOR
OF THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE**

Chief Civilian Director: Ronald J. MacDonald, Q.C.

IIO File Number: 2021-123

Date of Release: October 20, 2021

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Introduction

On May 13, 2021, RCMP officers attended a residence after the Affected Person ('AP') called 9-1-1 to report a strange sighting of a UFO. Officers were dispatched and spoke to AP, then left the residence. Officers were called back to the residence approximately eight hours later after AP was found to have committed suicide.

Because the suicide occurred following interaction with police officers, the Independent Investigations Office ('IIO') was notified and commenced an investigation. The narrative that follows is based on evidence collected and analyzed during the investigation, including the following:

- Closed Circuit Television footage (CCTV);
- Police Computer-Aided Dispatch ('CAD') and Police Records Information Management Environment ('PRIME') records;
- Attendance and examination at scene;
- photographs of scene;
- recordings of the 9-1-1 calls and police radio transmissions;
- review of civilian witness statements; and
- review of text messages sent to and from AP.

The IIO does not compel officers who are the subject of an investigation to submit their notes, reports and data. In this case, the involved officers did not provide evidence directly to the IIO.

Narrative

On May 12, 2021 at approximately 11:42 p.m. the Affected Person ('AP') called 9-1-1 to report seeing a UFO. He told the 9-1-1 operator that there was "*this thing coming out of the ground.....it's the craziest thing...nobody is going to believe me*".

The 9-1-1 operator let AP know that she was dispatching officers to attend his residence. Two officers arrived to AP's residence at 11:55 p.m. and met with AP in his driveway.

A CCTV camera positioned in the driveway captured the interaction between AP and the officers. The CCTV footage showed the arrival of the two police officers, who parked on the roadway and walked up the driveway to meet with AP. There was a brief conversation between AP and the officers, and then all three walked towards the direction of the back yard.

AP can be heard talking on the CCTV, and at one point AP is heard saying, "*I am totally okay. Scared, scared. I am not crazy. Just fucking scared.*" The officers then returned back into camera view, and walked back to the roadway to their police vehicles. The police vehicles departed the residence at 12:04 a.m. on May 13, 2021, approximately nine minutes after they arrived.

PRIME records (police reports) from the RCMP indicated that AP had declined consuming any drugs or alcohol that night, and had no thoughts of hurting himself or others. AP advised the officers that he had been cleaning his guns prior to police attendance. He also told the officers that he felt safer because the officers had attended, and that he would go to sleep after they left.

AP sent some unusual text messages to Civilian Witness 1 ('CW1') after the officers left that included his banking details and information. The CCTV footage showed AP still moving around the driveway area around 12:30 a.m. and sitting in his truck for a few minutes. At 12:33 p.m., AP got out of his truck and walked to the rear of the residence and out of sight. He was not seen again.

Around 7:19 a.m. the following morning, CW1 went over to AP's residence to check on him after being concerned about the texts she had received. CW1 found AP deceased in the backyard of his residence. An examination at the scene indicated that he had died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

Legal Issues and Conclusion

The purpose of any IIO investigation is to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that an officer, through an action or inaction, may have committed any offence in relation to an incident resulting in serious harm or death.

More specifically, the issue to be considered in this case is whether the officers may have committed an offence in connection with AP's death by not apprehending AP and taking him to the hospital pursuant to the *Mental Health Act*.

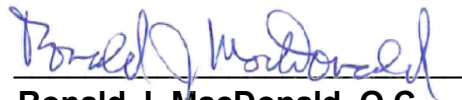
This case must be based on what the officers knew at the time they dealt with AP, not based upon what happened after. A police officer is not held to a legal standard of perfection when making assessments about a person's mental health. Instead, their decisions are assessed based on reasonableness, and any departures from the standard of reasonableness must be marked and substantial in order to be a criminal offence.

The officers attended AP's residence, and spent nine minutes there speaking with him. CCTV footage captures this, and the footage shows nothing unusual in the way that AP

was interacting. Additionally, the officers had no information that AP could be suicidal. Although AP told the officers about the presence of a gun at his residence, the officers had no information to suggest that AP would use the gun to harm himself or others.

The officers' actions were reasonable, and do not constitute a marked and substantial departure from the appropriate standard of care in the circumstances. Instead, this is a very sad situation were AP chose to take his own life.

Accordingly, as the Chief Civilian Director of the IIO, I do not consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an officer may have committed an offence under any enactment and therefore the matter will not be referred to Crown counsel for consideration of charges.


Ronald J. MacDonald, Q.C.
Chief Civilian Director

October 20, 2021

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If you are in crisis, help is available:

- Call 310-6789 to be connected to the crisis centre nearest you (no area code required)
- Crisis Services Canada: [crisisservicescanada.ca](https://www.crisisservicescanada.ca)
- British Columbia: [crisislines.bc.ca](https://www.crisislines.bc.ca)
- Vancouver and surrounding areas: [crisiscentre.bc.ca](https://www.crisiscentre.bc.ca)
- Vancouver Island: [vicrisis.ca](https://www.vicrisis.ca)
- VictimLinkBC: 1-800-563-0808