



**IN THE MATTER OF THE INJURY OF A MAN
WHILE BEING APPREHENDED BY MEMBERS OF
THE RCMP AND THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
IN RICHMOND, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ON OCTOBER 17, 2022**

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

Chief Civilian Director:

Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number:

2022-274

Date of Release:

November 18, 2025

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

The release of this public report was delayed pending the conclusion of concurrent court proceedings. The decision in this matter was initially reported on [November 7, 2023](#).

INTRODUCTION

On the morning of October 17, 2022, RCMP and Vancouver Police Department (“VPD”) members were seeking to locate and apprehend suspects fleeing from what appeared to be a gang-related homicide that had just occurred in the area of the University of British Columbia. A police pursuit ended in a collision between a police vehicle driven by the Subject Officer (“SO”) and the suspect vehicle, which struck an uninvolved civilian vehicle. A number of injuries resulted, and the Affected Person (“AP”) suffered an injury sufficiently serious for the Independent Investigations Office (“IIO”) to be notified. The IIO commenced an investigation, and the narrative that follows is based on evidence collected and analyzed during the investigation, including the following:

- statements of one civilian witness and five witness police officers;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- Watchguard dash camera recordings from police vehicles;
- audio recordings of police radio transmissions;
- scene examination; and
- EHS records.

The IIO does not compel officers whose actions are the subject of an investigation to submit evidence. In this case, the SO has not provided any account to the IIO.

NARRATIVE

At 9:49 a.m. on October 17, 2022, a fatal shooting occurred at the University Golf Club in Point Grey, Vancouver. Three suspects fled the scene in a silver Audi, which was found burning in a residential area not far from the murder scene. Those same suspects left that secondary scene in a white Honda CR-V.

The CR-V was then located by VPD officers, speeding eastbound on SE Marine Drive. The driver was reported as running red lights and driving extremely dangerously. Officers

pursued with emergency lights and sirens activated. The CR-V drove south over the Queensborough Bridge, and then turned westbound onto Highway 91.

At about this time, the SO had just crossed the Alex Fraser Bridge in a marked police vehicle, speeding to intercept the CR-V. As he drove west in the left-hand lane of Highway 91, he observed the CR-V entering from the right, and moved rapidly across the highway to take a position directly behind it (VPD officers were several vehicles behind the CR-V at this point). The movements of the SO's police vehicle and the CR-V were recorded from that point by Watchguard dash camera video from the SO's vehicle.

The CR-V continued in the right-hand lane, exiting onto the ramp for Westminster Highway, with police vehicles following. At the intersection at the top of the ramp there was a transport truck making a left turn. As the CR-V also turned left beside it, there was glancing contact between the two vehicles.

Ahead, both westbound lanes were blocked by vehicles at a light-controlled intersection. The SO pulled to the right, the nose of his police vehicle beside the rear corner of the CR-V as it braked. The SO then turned hard to the left, striking the CR-V and spinning it 180 degrees clockwise. The CR-V collided with the rear of an SUV that was stopping for the red light, and pushed it forward onto the concrete median. Following the collision with the CR-V, the SO's police vehicle mounted and crossed the median, continuing into the oncoming lanes and closely avoiding a collision with an oncoming unassociated civilian vehicle. The SO's vehicle was then struck at low speed by the CR-V, which had followed it across the median after the impact with the SUV.

The civilian driver of the SUV sustained minor injuries and was assisted by arriving officers. The AP was a rear-seat passenger in the CR-V, and suffered a broken leg and a broken finger. All three occupants of the CR-V were subsequently charged with first-degree murder (the homicide at UBC), arson to property (the silver Audi) and possession of property obtained by crime (the CR-V). The driver of the CR-V also faced charges of failing to stop for police and dangerous driving.

LEGAL ISSUES AND CONCLUSION

The Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia is mandated to investigate any incident that occurs in the province in which an Affected Person has died or suffered serious physical harm and there appears to be a connection to the actions (or sometimes inaction) of police. The goal is to provide assurance to the public that when the investigation is complete, they can trust the IIO's conclusions, because the investigation was conducted by an independent, unbiased, civilian-led agency.

In most cases, those conclusions are presented in a public report such as this one, which completes the IIO's mandate by explaining to the public what happened in the incident and how the Affected Person came to suffer harm. Such reports are generally intended to enhance public confidence in the police and in the justice system as a whole through a transparent and impartial evaluation of the incident and the police role in it.

In a smaller number of cases, the evidence gathered may give the Chief Civilian Director ("CCD") reasonable grounds to believe that an officer has committed an offence in connection with the incident. In such a case, the *Police Act* gives the CCD authority to refer the file to Crown counsel for consideration of charges.

In a case such as this one, involving potentially unlawful driving behaviour by an officer, one aspect of the IIO investigation is the gathering of evidence about potential justifications for that behaviour. The CCD will then apply legal tests to the evidence to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to consider that the officer may have committed an offence, under either criminal law or a provincial statute.

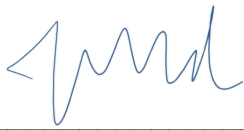
In the course of the investigation, evidence was gathered regarding the driving of VPD officers involved in the pursuit through Vancouver and into Burnaby and then Richmond. That driving involved speeds significantly in excess of speed limits, and would in many circumstances give rise to concerns about unjustified danger to the public. This case, however, involved very serious offences by the occupants of the CR-V, and very dangerous driving on the part of the CR-V's driver in an apparently desperate attempt to evade arrest, even before police were actively in pursuit. The police vehicles were fully marked units using their full emergency equipment, on wide, relatively clear streets, in daylight.

Similar evidence was obtained with respect to the driving of the SO and another RCMP officer who responded by driving across the Alex Fraser bridge in fairly heavy traffic at speeds that were at times well over twice the applicable limit. The risks to other drivers would be obvious to any viewer of those vehicles' Watchguard videos. Again, however, the seriousness of the crimes and the urgent need to apprehend the suspects has to be weighed in a consideration of whether the officers' driving behaviour was unjustified.

When the incident came to its climax on Westminster Highway, it appears likely that the police pursuit would have had to be discontinued very soon, but the blockage of the road by stopped traffic presented the SO with an opportunity. It was not unreasonable for him to make a split-second decision at that time to bring the chase to a conclusion by force. His manoeuvre was conducted at somewhat reduced speed, which limited the risk to the occupants of the CR-V and to members of the public in other vehicles.

The injuries to the AP were evidently caused by the collision, rather than by any force applied by police in extracting him from the vehicle and taking him into custody. The arrest of all three suspects was carried out quite forcefully, but given the likelihood that they were in possession of firearms, and the apparently desperate motivation to escape, that was not unreasonable. No one was injured significantly in the course of the arrest itself.

Accordingly, as 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 the matter will not be referred to Crown counsel for consideration of charges.



Jessica Berglund
Chief Civilian Director

November 18, 2025
Date of Release