



**IN THE MATTER OF THE INJURY OF A MAN  
WHILE BEING APPREHENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT IN  
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ON MAY 9, 2024**

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

Chief Civilian Director:

Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number:

2024-107

Date of Release:

February 20, 2025

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This report details situations that may be distressing to some readers. 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://crisisservicescanada.ca)
- British Columbia: [crisislines.bc.ca](https://crisislines.bc.ca)
- Vancouver and surrounding areas: [crisiscentre.bc.ca](https://crisiscentre.bc.ca)
- Vancouver Island: [vicrisis.ca](https://vicrisis.ca)
- VictimLinkBC: 1-800-563-0808

## INTRODUCTION

On the afternoon of May 9, 2024, Vancouver police responded to 911 calls reporting an assault on Granville Street in downtown Vancouver. Officers challenged the Affected Person (“AP”), who ran away into traffic. The AP was struck by a vehicle travelling at low speed, but then continued to flee. The Subject Officer (“SO”) deployed a Conducted Energy Weapon (“CEW” or “Taser”), which caused the AP to fall to the ground. After being arrested, the AP was taken to a hospital where he was treated for injuries before being released the next day.

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:

- statements of seven civilian witnesses, three first responders and five witness police officers;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- audio recordings of 911 calls and police radio transmissions;
- security camera video recordings of the incident;
- photographs of physical exhibits;
- medical evidence, including photographs of the AP’s injuries.

The IIO does not require an officer who is the subject of an investigation to provide evidence. In this case, the SO has not given an account. Attempts by investigators to obtain a statement from the AP have been unsuccessful.

## **NARRATIVE**

At about 1:36 p.m. on May 9, 2024, the AP assaulted a person outside the Pacific Centre Mall in Vancouver. He struck the victim several times with his fists and then swung a hammer at the person. The AP then walked away carrying a backpack that appeared to belong to the person he had assaulted.

Passersby called 911 to report the incident and four police officers responded. The officers identified the AP and approached him. They told the AP that he was under arrest, and instructed him to get down on the ground. The AP was not immediately compliant, and the SO discharged his CEW at the AP, but it was ineffective as one of the probes did not make contact with the AP. The AP turned and ran away from the officers into the street.

The incident was captured on video recordings from nearby commercial premises. The AP can be seen running into the street, and is struck by a slowly-moving civilian vehicle. He immediately gets up, apparently uninjured, and continues running. The SO is the closest officer behind the AP, and deploys his CEW at the AP for a second time. The CEW appears to be effective, as the AP's body "locks up" and he falls face-first to the ground. He is arrested and handcuffed by the pursuing officers.

Shortly afterwards, two paramedics arrived on the scene and provided medical first aid to the AP, who had struck his head on the ground when he fell. He was subsequently found to have suffered a broken collar bone, five non-displaced rib fractures and lacerations to his head, as well as two small wounds caused by the CEW barbs.

## **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 aim 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 the majority of 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

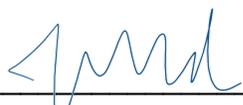
incident and how the Affected Person came to suffer harm. Such reports are generally intended to enhance public confidence in the police and in the justice system as a whole through a transparent and impartial evaluation of the incident and the police role in it.

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 the use of force by officers, the IIO investigators collect evidence with respect to potential justifications for that use of force. The IIO then analyzes this evidence using legal tests such as necessity, proportionality and reasonableness to reach conclusions as to whether officers’ actions were lawful, or whether an officer may have committed the offence of assault.

The AP had demonstrated that he was prepared to use a weapon in an assault on a member of the public, and represented a continuing threat when he fled. The responding officers were justified in apprehending him, and in using whatever force was reasonably necessary to do so. It appears that most or all of the injuries the AP suffered were caused by the SO’s second CEW deployment and the AP’s consequent fall to the ground, but it cannot be said that the use of a CEW, in the circumstances, amounted to unreasonable or excessive force.

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.

  
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Jessica Berglund  
Chief Civilian Director

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