



**IN THE MATTER OF THE INJURY OF A MAN
IN AN INCIDENT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT IN
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ON OCTOBER 8, 2024**

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

Chief Civilian Director:

Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number:

2024-233

Date of Release:

September 24, 2026

INTRODUCTION

On the evening of October 8, 2024, multiple Vancouver Police Department (“VPD”) officers were conducting surveillance on a stolen pickup truck driven by the Affected Person (“AP”). As the AP turned onto East Hastings Street in front of the PNE grounds, the Subject Officer (“SO”) drove his police vehicle into the side of the pickup, causing it to spin 180 degrees and come to a stop. Several police vehicles then surrounded the pickup, holding it in place as the AP attempted to drive away. An officer fired multiple rounds from a beanbag shotgun at the AP through the passenger side window, and the SO lifted his Police Service Dog (“PSD”) into the cab through the driver’s window. The AP was pulled out onto the road, where the PSD was again deployed against him, and arrested. The AP suffered significant dog bite injuries.

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 the AP, 10 other civilian witnesses, four paramedics and 10 witness police officers;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- audio recordings of police radio transmissions;
- video recordings from civilian cell phones and nearby security cameras;
- data downloads from police vehicles;
- scene and exhibit photographs;
- VPD policies and training records; and
- medical evidence.

The IIO does not require an officer whose actions are the subject of an investigation to provide evidence. In this case, the SO has not given an account.

NARRATIVE

At 10:14 p.m. on October 8, 2024, VPD officers noted a Ford F-350 pickup truck (“the truck”) parked on a side street in circumstances they considered suspicious. A computer

query returned the information that the truck had been reported stolen. Shortly afterwards, the truck became mobile, and Witness Officer 1 (“WO1”), a supervisor, authorized a “box and pin” manoeuvre if possible, but added, “If it breaks the pin, we will not pursue” (the technique WO1 authorized involves positioning police vehicles around a subject vehicle in traffic, and then driving them up against its front and rear when it is stationary or nearly so, to pin it in place before it can move off again). Witness Officer 2 (“WO2”) told the IIO that this manoeuvre would usually happen at a fresh red light or when the vehicle was parked.

Over the following minutes, police units observed the truck and followed it for short distances. There was no pursuit or attempt to pull it over. Officers did not activate their vehicles’ emergency lights or sirens and there was no indication that the AP was aware of their presence. Witness Officer 3 (“WO3”) later told the IIO that the AP was not operating the truck dangerously and was driving at “normal speeds.” Witness Officer 4 (“WO4”) described seeing the truck “driving in amongst traffic at what appeared to be normal traffic speeds.” Witness Officer 5 (“WO5”) said that he saw the truck driving at a higher speed on a back street, and driving through “a couple of stop signs.”

At 10:24 p.m., 10 minutes after the truck had become mobile, Witness Officer 6 (“WO6”) radioed that the AP had just driven northbound on Renfrew Street and turned eastbound on East Hastings. At that time, the SO was approaching the Renfrew intersection eastbound on East Hastings. Calling, “Takedown, takedown”, he drove across the intersection and used his police SUV to disable the truck by impacting its right rear, causing it to spin 180 degrees. The force of the impact caused one of the police vehicle’s wheels to be partially torn off.

Four other police vehicles, including SUVs and sedans, then closed around the truck, but the AP was seen to be trying to break out, with the truck’s engine roaring and its tires spinning noisily. A dangerous situation had now been created, as there were bus stops on both sides of East Hastings Street, with pedestrians present, and the officers apparently judged it was vital to bring the AP under control. Police officers were shouting at the AP to stop trying to escape and to exit the truck, but he neither responded nor complied.

Witness Officer 7 (“WO7”) deployed five rounds from a beanbag shotgun at the AP, through the passenger side window, and at the same time the SO put his PSD in through the driver’s window. Despite being struck in his back and abdomen by beanbags, and fighting off the PSD, the AP was still pressing the truck’s accelerator and there was still a danger that the vehicle would be able to force its way past the smaller police vehicles.

With the assistance of the PSD, officers were able to extract the AP from the truck, and he was taken down onto the ground, still being bitten by the dog, to be handcuffed. He

was subsequently transported to the hospital, where he was treated for multiple lacerations and a crush injury to his left forearm caused by dog bites, as well as lacerations and bruises from beanbag strikes.

ANALYSIS

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.

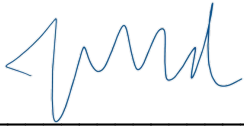
In a smaller number of cases, the evidence gathered may give the Chief Civilian Director ("CCD") reasonable grounds to believe that an officer may have committed an offence in connection with the incident. In such a case, the *Police Act* gives the CCD authority to refer the file to the BC Prosecution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

In a case such as this one, involving the use of force by officers as well as aggressive driving behaviour, IIO investigators collect evidence with respect to potential justifications for that use of force and that manner of driving. The CCD 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 an offence.

The police response to what was a suspected property offence (theft of the truck) was significant, and the use of force choices were questionable. In particular, it is debatable whether the ramming of the truck by the SO was consistent with VPD policy (which states that the ramming of a suspect vehicle must only be carried out in "the most exigent circumstances"). The evidence suggests that when the truck was moving relatively slowly after its turn onto East Hastings Street, the SO saw an opportunity and made a split-second decision to engage and ram the truck. Fortunately, that decision, although it caused the SO's police vehicle to be badly damaged, did not cause anyone, including nearby civilians or the AP, to be injured in the course of the ramming itself. I believe any question about the SO's driving manoeuvre to be potential conduct or training concerns

rather than criminal. In British Columbia, the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner has jurisdiction over the conduct of municipal police officers. The AP could have chosen to surrender at that point, but his actions in trying to force his way out of the pin between police vehicles led to further uses of force against him. They were reasonably proportionate and justified in the circumstances.

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 the BCPS for consideration of charges.



Jessica Berglund
Chief Civilian Director

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