



**IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF A PERSON
IN AN INCIDENT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE
SURREY POLICE SERVICE IN
SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ON JANUARY 31, 2025**

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

Chief Civilian Director:

Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number:

2025-032

Date of Release:

October 23, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

On January 31, 2025, Surrey Police Service members responded to a report from a Corrections Canada halfway house that the Affected Person (“AP”) was in breach of parole conditions. When police attended and entered the AP’s unit at the residence, the AP confronted officers with a knife and two subject officers discharged their firearms. The AP was wounded, and was subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene.

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, two paramedics and six 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 from the common areas of the residential building;
- scene examination, photographs and reports;
- data download from a Conducted Energy Weapon (“CEW” or “Taser”);
- results of firearms testing;
- BC Emergency Health Services records; and
- autopsy report.

The IIO does not require officers whose actions are the subject of an investigation to provide evidence. In this case, neither subject officer has given an account.

NARRATIVE

On the evening of January 31, 2025, Surrey Police Service officers responded to a report that the Affected Person (“AP”), who was living at a residential facility for inmates on conditional release from the federal corrections system, was in breach of release conditions. An arrest warrant had been issued. Police were advised that the AP had a history of self-harm and assaulting staff, and was flagged as a “high risk offender.”

Arriving outside the AP's room, Subject Officer 1 ("SO1") knocked and called for the AP to come outside, but did not get a response. Facility staff, who are empowered by regulations to enter rooms without the occupant's permission, told the officers that the room was unlocked and said they could go in. Subject Officer 2 ("SO2") entered the room, followed closely by SO1, Witness Officer 1 ("WO1") and Witness Officer 2 ("WO2"). WO1 and WO2 both had their CEWs in their hands as they entered.

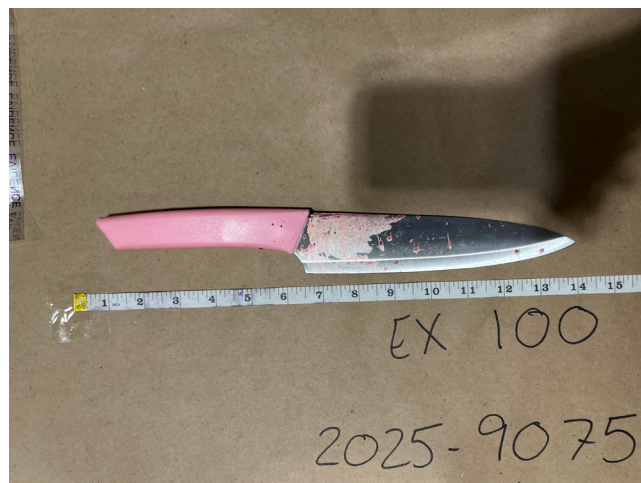
WO1 told the IIO that the AP was standing by a bed in a corner of the room, and pulled out a "massive knife" as the officers entered. Civilian Witness 1 ("CW1"), a staff member, was standing at the open door. She told IIO investigators that the AP was standing about five or six paces from the officers. WO1 told the IIO that the AP said, "I'm not going back to jail." WO2 recalled hearing one of the subject officers yell, "Drop the knife!" as WO2 switched from his CEW to his pistol. Both subject officers had already drawn their pistols.

WO1 described discharging his CEW at the AP but finding it was ineffective. He said the AP raised the knife in the air and "charged" towards the officers. Both SO1 and SO2 discharged their firearms and the AP fell to the floor, still holding the knife, before reaching the officers.

CW1 told IIO investigators that the AP "began running fully towards" the police, pointing the knife, before CW1 heard four gunshots. CW1 retreated along the hall and locked herself in an office.

Paramedics attended, but the AP was found to be deceased. At autopsy, the AP was determined to have suffered bullet wounds to the head, torso and extremities. Cause of death was stated as "multiple gunshot wounds."

Scene examination by the IIO subsequently located a discharged CEW cartridge and nine spent cartridge cases from police firearms. A large kitchen knife with a blade approximately seven inches long, shown in the photograph below, was also recovered from the scene:



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 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 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.

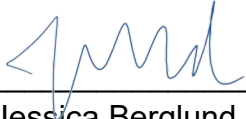
In a case such as this one, involving the use of lethal force by officers, evidence is gathered about potential justifications for that use of force. The CCD then applies legal tests such as necessity, proportionality and reasonableness to reach conclusions as to whether officers' actions were lawful. The specific focus will be on the degree of threat posed by the Affected Person and whether, in the words of the *Criminal Code*, it gave reasonable grounds for the officers to believe lethal force was "necessary for the self-preservation of [the officers] or the preservation of any one under [the officers'] protection from death or grievous bodily harm."

The involved officers were acting in the lawful execution of their duty when they went to the halfway house to execute a warrant for the AP's arrest. Entry into the AP's suite was authorized by the nature of the facility, in which inmates have no overriding expectation of privacy, and by the consent of staff, who themselves have the power to enter at any time without the occupant's consent.

The evidence, including the account of a civilian witness, establishes that the AP drew a large knife and advanced quickly towards the officers in a confined space, wielding the weapon in a clearly threatening manner. In those circumstances, the subject officers' belief that it was necessary to use lethal force in protection of themselves and of the civilian staff was objectively reasonable, and the force deployed was justified and lawful.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Berglund', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jessica Berglund
Chief Civilian Director

October 23, 2025
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