



**IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF A MAN
IN AN INCIDENT INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT IN
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
ON AUGUST 19, 2025**

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

Chief Civilian Director:

Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number:

2025-201

Date of Release:

January 12, 2026

INTRODUCTION

On the afternoon of August 19, 2025, police responded to a 911 call reporting an assault in progress at an apartment in East Vancouver. Upon arrival, the two subject officers from the Vancouver Police Department were confronted by the Affected Person, who was in possession of a knife. Shots were fired and the AP was struck by police bullets. He was declared 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 six civilian witnesses;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- audio recordings of a 911 call and police radio transmissions;
- video recordings from Closed-Circuit Television (“CCTV”) equipment and police body-worn cameras;
- scene photographs;
- forensic firearm examinations;
- Vancouver Police Department policies;
- Vancouver Fire Rescue Services patient care records;
- BC Emergency Health Services patient care records; and
- autopsy and toxicology reports.

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 any account.

NARRATIVE

At 3:59 p.m. on August 19, 2025, Civilian Witness 1 (“CW1”) called 911 to report that about five minutes earlier, she had been assaulted by a man, the Affected Person (“AP”) from the next apartment. CW1 said that the AP had come to her door and struck her in the face (she later told IIO investigators that after striking her, the AP had produced a large knife, but the officers did not have that information when they responded to the call).

A few minutes into the 911 call, the two subject officers arrived at CW1's apartment building and were let in by a neighbour.

Civilian Witness 2 ("CW2") described seeing an initial confrontation between CW1 and the AP at CW1's front door. She said that after CW1 closed the door, the AP pounded on it and then ran back to his own apartment, reappearing with a large knife. CW2 said the AP knocked on CW1's door and then hid to one side, apparently hoping (said CW2) that CW1 would think the police were there and would open the door and come out. CW2 said CW1 opened the door, accompanied by her dog, and started screaming. CW2 said the AP moved towards CW1 with the knife in his hand, just as a police officer appeared at the top of the stairs. CW2 said she heard an officer say something like, "Stop, don't do that," but the AP did not stop. CW2 then saw and heard an officer fire what she believed were four gunshots at the AP.

The police interaction with the AP was captured on video from SO1's body-worn camera. In the video recording, SO2 can be seen just ahead of SO1, climbing the stairs and stepping onto the landing outside CW1's suite. Neither officer had drawn his firearm at this point. There is no audio for approximately the first 30 seconds of the recording because of the camera's buffering process.

The video then shows the following:

- The AP is standing outside his apartment door, a short distance along the landing from CW1's suite, his hands behind his back.
- CW1 comes to her open front door, still on the phone with 911, and SO2 apparently begins to verbally engage with the AP.
- The AP goes into his apartment and SO2 approaches the door, looking inside.
- The AP then emerges rapidly from the apartment, pushing at SO2 with his left hand and holding a large knife, blade forward, by his side in his right hand. The AP appears to be shouting.
- The AP backs SO2 into the corner of the landing across from CW1's front door. SO2 is fending the AP off with his right hand while reaching for his holster with his left (the officer is left-handed).
- The AP turns towards SO1, who is just outside the entrance to the landing from the stairs, then back towards SO2, who is drawing and pointing his service pistol at the AP. The AP flinches momentarily.
- SO2 then backs rapidly across the landing and through CW1's door, pursued closely by the AP, who appears to be moving rapidly toward the officer with the knife. They pass in front of SO1, who dips the muzzle of his pistol back and down momentarily as SO2 moves past.

- The slide of SO2's pistol can be seen to cycle back at least twice, indicating that shots have been fired. The AP has grasped SO2's right arm with his left hand.
- SO1's pistol, aimed at the AP's back as the AP pursues SO2 into the doorway of CW1's apartment, can then be seen to eject spent cartridge cases, indicating that shots had been fired.
- As the audio track of SO1's body camera recording begins, there is the sound of a final gunshot, and the AP is seen to fall to the floor, just inside CW1's doorway. As SO1 moves towards the door, both CW1 and SO2 can be seen a short distance into the apartment.

In total, the video appears to show three shots fired by SO1 and four by SO2. Forensic analysis of the scene and the officers' firearms, combined with the autopsy results, demonstrated that a total of ten rounds were actually fired by the two subject officers.

The two officers then called for more police resources to attend. SO2 was inside CW1's entrance hall, and SO1 was still outside the door, on the landing. Both officers monitored the AP as he lay on the floor, just inside the door. SO1 was also careful to watch the front door of the AP's apartment, a few metres to the right of the AP's door, as the AP had left it open when he came out and there was a possibility that someone else might appear from that apartment. CW1 was inside her apartment and was still on the phone with 911. When asked by the call-taker what was happening, she said, "He took a knife, a big, big knife at the cops, and they had to shoot."

Over a period of approximately 20 minutes, police, firefighters and paramedics attempted lifesaving first aid on the AP, but he was declared deceased at the scene at 4:39 p.m.

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 an officer or detention guard. 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.

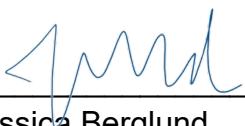
In a case such as this one, involving the use of lethal force by officers, evidence is gathered about potential justifications for that use of force. The CCD then applies legal tests such as necessity, proportionality and reasonableness to reach conclusions as to whether officers’ actions were lawful. The specific focus is on the degree of threat posed by each 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.”

While it was possible to obtain a sufficiently clear picture of this incident from objective evidence, particularly SO1’s body-worn camera recording, neither SO1 nor SO2 provided statements. As a result, the investigation did not have the benefit of their subjective perspectives.

The officers were acting in the lawful execution of their duty when they responded to CW1’s 911 call and attempted to verbally engage with the AP. They were then given virtually no opportunity to take any action other than the rapid deployment of lethal force. SO2 was faced with a violent attack at extremely close quarters by an individual wielding a deadly weapon and was justified in defending himself from imminent death or grievous bodily harm as he did. SO1 was equally justified in using deadly force to defend his partner.

Given the startling circumstances, it should be noted that both officers displayed quick reactions and a commendable level of professionalism in protecting themselves and CW1 from any injury that might otherwise have been caused by the AP’s assault.

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

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