



**IN THE MATTER OF THE INJURY OF A MAN  
IN AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THE  
SURREY POLICE SERVICE IN  
SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ON OCTOBER 6, 2025**

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

Chief Civilian Director: Jessica Berglund

IIO File Number: 2025-231

Date of Release: July 8, 2026

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## INTRODUCTION

On the evening of October 6, 2025, the Subject Officer (“SO”) was patrolling on 135A Street in Surrey when he observed an apparent altercation between the Affected Person (“AP”) and a woman. The SO pulled over and exited his police vehicle. The SO separated the two individuals, but the AP became confrontational with the officer, who took him to the ground. The AP suffered an injured elbow in the fall.

The injury was serious enough to meet the *Police Act* definition of “serious harm,” so 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, two civilian witnesses and four witness police officers;
- police Computer-Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) and Police Records Information Management Environment (“PRIME”) records;
- audio recordings of police radio transmissions;
- security camera video recordings from nearby premises; 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

The AP told IIO investigators that in the late afternoon of October 6, 2025, he was walking along a street in Surrey when he was approached by a police officer (subsequently identified by the IIO as the SO). The AP said he was wearing a backpack and was carrying a carton of cigarettes, a Slurpee, some items from the dollar store and his phone. He said he was not in possession of a weapon.

The AP said he spoke with the SO, who he described as having an aggressive appearance, for about 10 minutes. The AP said the SO told him to “move on,” but the AP “didn’t listen.” The SO then got angry, the AP said, and “attacked” him. The AP stated that the SO grabbed the AP’s right arm and broke it, and then took him to the ground. The AP also said that the SO pointed a gun at him. The AP recalled being taken from the scene to hospital in an ambulance.

Civilian Witness 1 (“CW1”), speaking with the police afterwards, described the incident differently. She said it started because she “went after” the AP on the street, accusing him of stealing a food item she had been saving at the shelter where they both lived. She said they were “screaming and yelling” at each other, and a police officer (the SO) pulled up in his police vehicle and approached them:

*The officer stepped in and broke it up and then [the AP] got, I guess, serious with the officer and the officer took him down, and that’s it.*

...

*[The SO] told me to sit down and be quiet, so I did. And [the AP] just kept going on and on and on and on until the police officer finally had enough ... [The AP] stepped forward towards him and the officer took that as a threat ... Next thing I know, they’re on the ground tussling.*

Civilian Witness 2 (“CW2”), interviewed by the IIO, said that he saw the AP arguing on the street with CW1. CW2 said he saw the SO drive up and approach the arguing individuals, trying to separate them. CW2 said that the AP was refusing to step back, despite being told to do so several times. He said the AP then approached the SO, “flailing” his arms, and was taken down to the ground in a “wrestling move.” CW2 described the AP being injured by landing on his elbow.

The SO had been patrolling alone when he stopped to investigate the altercation between the AP and CW1. Recordings of police radio transmissions show that while dealing with the AP, the SO called for assistance from a second police unit, because an individual was “getting up in” his face and “making life a little bit difficult” for him.

Witness Officer 1 (“WO1”), who arrived while the SO was still controlling the AP on the ground, told the IIO that the SO told him the AP had come up to him challenging him, saying, “This is my f\*\*king block.” WO1 said that passersby also told him that the AP had been warned to back off, but advanced on the SO, who then took him down onto the ground.

Witness Officer 2 (“WO2”), who also arrived at about the same time, said that the SO warned the other officers to “be careful, I think his right arm is broken.” The AP was not handcuffed because of his suspected injury. He was subsequently diagnosed with a fractured right elbow.

Security camera video recordings from multiple nearby locations were obtained and examined by IIO investigators, but did not provide useful evidence of the interaction between the SO and the AP that caused the injury.

Other than the AP’s allegation, there is no evidence that the SO pointed a gun at any time during the incident.

## ANALYSIS

The Independent Investigations Office (“IIO”) 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.

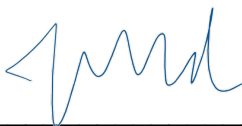
In most cases, those conclusions are presented in a public report such as this one, which completes the IIO’s mandate by explaining to the public what happened in the incident and how the Affected Person came to suffer harm. Such reports are generally intended to enhance public confidence in the police 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 the BC Prosecution Service (“BCPS”) for consideration of charges.

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

Civilian evidence supports a finding that the SO did not simply “attack” the AP. After multiple orders for the AP to step back, the SO was responding to threatening behaviour by the AP that justified the SO’s use of a limited degree of force that was necessary and reasonable in the circumstances. There is no evidence that the AP’s injury was caused by excessive force, or by anything other than the unfortunate manner in which he fell to the concrete sidewalk.

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.



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Jessica Berglund  
Chief Civilian Director

July 8, 2026

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