

SIU Investigation Reveals Male Attacked Our Officers with a Knife

Members

Everyday our front-line police officers are exposed to unpredictable and dangerous situations. Everyday these same officers react in a professional manner with the goal of ending every encounter using as little force as is required. The intent is protecting and serving the citizens of Hamilton. In rare circumstances, our officers are met with the most difficult decision they must make as a Police Officer: to use deadly force.

As most of you know, two of our colleagues were involved in an SIU investigation involving an incident that took place on Hamilton Mountain OVER one year ago, on April 3rd 2018. Our officers were cleared in full of any wrongdoing. The SIU report was released only this week. This is too long for those impacted to wait for a decision to be rendered. It is the former Director, Tony Loparco, who should be held responsible for forcing our officers, and the family of the deceased, to wait an agonizing 373 days to learn of the results of the investigation. I have read the 33 page report written by the SIU. The report and investigation were thorough and done to a high standard. The SIU investigators did a good job. The report highlights the caliber of our membership.

I commend all of the officers involved that day. The responding officers reacted reasonably and in accordance with their training. They did everything they could to prevent the situation from escalating to the point it did. Unfortunately, the deceased's actions forced the two subject officers to react with deadly force in order to protect the life of a fellow officer. As all of you can imagine, despite doing everything right, the involved officers have struggled internally with this incident since it occurred.

Some members of the media have misled the public on this story, as they do on many police related matters. Legislation prevents us from providing a detailed and accurate account of the events a police interaction where the SIU becomes involved. Too often the media has taken to simply filling in the gaps as they see fit to achieve a narrative that sells. Such reporting is careless, at best. Sensationalized headlines do not report the news, they create the news. This does a disservice to all people involved, including our officers and the Hamilton community at large.

The goal of our front line is to protect lives, not take them. Hamilton Police officers respond to tens of thousands of calls each year to help the citizens we serve. On rare occasions, there is one that leads to a situation where our officers' lives are in danger. No police officer should die in the line of duty. That is not in the job description. Officers' families should not have to suffer the loss of their loved one because of the poor decisions made by others. While our sympathies go out to the family of Quinn MacDougall, the use of deadly force is sometimes necessary. Every police officer should return home to their families at the end of shift.

While the release of the report will bring some closure to those involved, it is not the end of the road. These incidents take a toll on our officers regardless of their level of involvement in the incident. We remind all of you to take care of yourself and each other in the wake of difficult times. Set up support systems and engage them often and early.

The SIU report is available on the their website; https://www.siu.on.ca/en/directors_report_details.php?drid=259
Stay Safe.

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