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\*A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 19 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. If you request a copy of the Audiological Report, a fee will apply. †This limited-time offer applies to private and ADP sales of select advanced and premium hearing aids and is subject to change without notice. For ADP sales, the discount is after the grant is applied. [1] Reward mile value is non-transferable and depends on select models purchased. Please allow 45 days for Miles to be posted to your Collector Account. [2] While quantities last. Free TV Connector offer valid on purchase of select hearing aids. Value cannot be transferred. No substitutes. Some conditions apply. Please see clinic for details. Offers not valid in Quebec. Offer expires 11/30/20. \*\* Trademarks of AM Royalties Limited Partnership used under license by LoyaltyOne, Co. and HearingLife Canada Ltd.

## NEWS

# SIU SAYS OFFICERS WON'T BE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH WOMAN'S INJURIES

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Ontario's police watchdog has concluded there is no basis to criminally charge two Halton police officers in connection with an Acton woman's injuries.

In a report issued Thursday, Nov. 19, Special Investigations Unit (SIU) director Joseph Martino noted that on the evening of Jan. 2, 2020, Halton police received a 911 call from a 60-year-old woman at an Acton residence who claimed her husband was mentally abusing her.

The husband joined the call moments later and said his wife was drunk, high and suffering from PTSD.

Four Halton police officers were dispatched to the home.

According to the SIU report, when police arrived the woman became increasingly incensed with one officer, yelling at him to take his boots off in her home. The report said she hurled profanities at this officer and paced unsteadily in the room.

Ultimately, two officers decided to arrest the woman, telling the SIU that they did so to prevent a breach of the peace.

The woman was taken to the ground, handcuffed, escorted to a police cruiser and driven to Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for examination.

The woman left the hospital early the following day and was released by police without being charged.

A week later, she was diagnosed with tears to her shoulder tendons, which required surgery.

In his report Martino

"Considering the complainant's level of intoxication, state of agitation in her dealings with the officers, and belligerence toward her husband, I am satisfied that the officers harboured a legitimate concern that the complainant's behaviour left unattended would likely result in an escalation of the conflict between her and her husband."

- Special Investigations Unit (SIU) director Joseph Martino

concluded there is insufficient evidence to reasonably believe that the two officers acted outside the scope of legal justification when they arrested the woman.

"I accept that subject officer #1 and subject officer #2 had a lawful basis to arrest the complainant," wrote Martino.

"Considering the complainant's level of intoxication, state of agitation in her dealings with the officers, and belligerence toward her husband, I am satisfied that the officers harboured a legitimate concern that the complainant's behaviour left unattended would likely result in an escalation of the conflict between her and her husband."

Martino noted the evidence indicates minimal force was used by the officers to overcome the woman's physical resistance, bring her to the floor and handcuff her arms.

The SIU director also

expressed some doubt that the woman's injuries even came from her encounter with police.

"Given the nature of the injuries, the date they were diagnosed, and other factors, there is a distinct possibility the officers had nothing to do with the complainant's tendon tears," wrote Martino.

"Be that as it may, there is no indication on the reliable evidence that the officers used more than minimal and proportionate force in effecting the complainant's lawful arrest."

The SIU is a civilian law enforcement agency that investigates incidents involving police officers where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

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