

Manitoba Ombudsman

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October 19, 2018

Danny Smyth
Chief of Police
Winnipeg Police Service
P.O. Box 1680
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z7

Inquest into the Death of Roy Thomas Bell Our file: 2018-0383

Dear Chief Smyth:

As you are aware, the Manitoba Ombudsman has a procedure for monitoring inquests called by the Chief Medical Examiner (CME) under the Fatality Inquiries Act. A Provincial Court Judge is assigned conduct of the inquest proceedings and following completion of the inquest, we obtain a copy of the inquest report issued by the Judge.

If the inquest report contains recommendations directed at or within the jurisdiction of a Manitoba government department or agency, or a municipal authority, we make inquiries to determine what action that office may be taking with respect to the recommendations. At the end of our follow-up on the inquest recommendations, we report to the Provincial Chief Judge on the results of our inquiries.

The inquest report into the death of Roy Thomas Bell was issued on August 2, 2018 and based on the findings of the Honourable Provincial Judge Dale Schille, no recommendations were made in this instance. We will briefly summarize the findings and conclusion of Judge Schille in the following paragraph, as your office would have received a copy of the full inquest report.

In his inquest report, Judge Schille found that on December 17, 2007, in Winnipeg, Roy Bell confronted and advanced towards two members of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), wielding a baseball bat and ignoring verbal commands from the officers. Consequently, the officers discharged a Taser and a firearm and Mr. Bell died because of gunshot wounds from the discharged firearm. Judge Schille concluded that the objective evidence taken at the inquest did not support the view that modification(s) needed to be implemented by the WPS, to avoid similar deaths in future. In particular, Judge Schille held that the tools the WPS had to address

the situation they were confronted with were appropriate – including training, procedure and equipment. Accordingly, Judge Schille made no recommendations regarding the inquest.

In light of the above, this letter is for notification purposes only, as we have no further action(s) to take regarding this inquest. Accordingly, we will not be providing a report on the matter to the Provincial Court Chief Judge. However, we will note on our website that no recommendations were issued on this inquest, and that our office is taking no further action and closing our file.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact me directly at (204) 982-9164, or Lori Roberts at (204) 982-9137.

Yours truly,



Marc Cormier,
Acting Manitoba Ombudsman

cc: Kim Carswell, Legal Counsel, Winnipeg Police Service