PRC Police Review Commission

ASIRT

LEVEL 1

ASIRT DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF AN RCMP SHOOTING CAUSING INJURY IN ST. PAUL ON MARCH 10, 2026



Executive Director: Matthew Block

File No.: 2026-0013(N)

Date of Release: November 12, 2026

Classification: Public

Introduction

On March 10, 2026, pursuant to s. 43.2(4)(c) of the *Police Act*, the CEO of the Police Review Commission directed the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) to investigate a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) non-fatal shooting that occurred that afternoon as a Level 1 incident. The subject officer (SO) shot the affected person (AP) while responding to a stabbing at a home in St. Paul.

ASIRT designated the SO and provided him with notice. ASIRT's investigation is now complete.

ASIRT's Investigation

ASIRT's investigation was comprehensive and thorough, conducted using current investigative protocols, and in accordance with the principles of major case management.

ASIRT investigators interviewed two civilian witnesses and three police witnesses.

ASIRT tried multiple times to interview the AP during the investigation. While the AP initially agreed to be interviewed, he did not make himself available, and no interview was completed.

ASIRT investigators reviewed all available video of the incident, including from the body-worn cameras (BWC) of four officers, including the SO.

As the subject of a criminal investigation, the SO was entitled to rely on his right to silence and not speak to ASIRT. In this case, after reviewing the available BWC footage, investigators did not see the need to interview the SO or obtain his reports or notes.

ASIRT investigators also reviewed 911 calls and all relevant RCMP radio transmissions.

ASIRT investigators also oversaw a scene examination conducted by members of the RCMP Forensic Identification Service (FIS) unit.

Circumstances Surrounding the Incident

On March 10, 2026, at approximately 1:30 p.m., police were dispatched to a house in St. Paul following a report that a woman was stabbed multiple times. It was further reported that the suspect was no longer at the scene. All responding officers were equipped with BWC; accordingly, the following summary is based on a review of the collective footage.

Witness officer #1 (WO1) was the first to arrive and entered the home at 1:31:52 p.m. Upon entry, WO1 proceeded to the kitchen, where he spoke with civilian witness #1 (CW1), who had been stabbed, and civilian witness #2 (CW2). About a minute later, the SO, witness officer #2 (WO2), and witness officer #3 (WO3) arrived at the scene.

CW1 and CW2 informed WO1 that the AP had fled the scene. When asked if anyone else remained inside, both stated no one else was there. While CW1 initially indicated another person might be in a room, she immediately clarified that her boyfriend, the AP, had stabbed her and fled. WO1 then notified incoming officers that the suspect had left the home.

WO2 started checking CW1's injuries before going outside to get a first aid kit. In the meantime, the SO and WO1 spoke with CW1 about a description of the AP and where he may have gone. WO1 then briefly left the house. CW1 told the SO, who was at that time the only officer inside, that the stabbing happened in one of the bedrooms.

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The SO asked CW1 for permission to check the bedroom to see whether the knife used in the stabbing was inside. CW1 agreed and directed him to a darkened room at the end of a hallway off the kitchen (Figure 1).



Figure 1 - The SO (whose reflection is seen in the mirror at the end of the hallway) was directed to the last darkened room on the left side of the hallway. The green arrow shows the kitchen where officers had been speaking with CW1. Image sourced from: SO's BWC.

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The SO turned on the bedroom lights and found the AP seated across from the doorway, holding a knife (Figure 2).



Figure 2 - The AP was seated inside the room, holding a knife (identified by the red arrow). Image sourced from: SO's BWC.

The SO repeatedly told the AP to put down the knife, but the AP did not comply. After returning inside the house to give CW1 first aid, WO2 heard the SO calling out commands and went to the hallway to assist. At that point, both the SO and WO2 drew their service pistols, and WO1 arrived shortly after.

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The AP did not put down the knife and stood up while holding it (Figure 3).

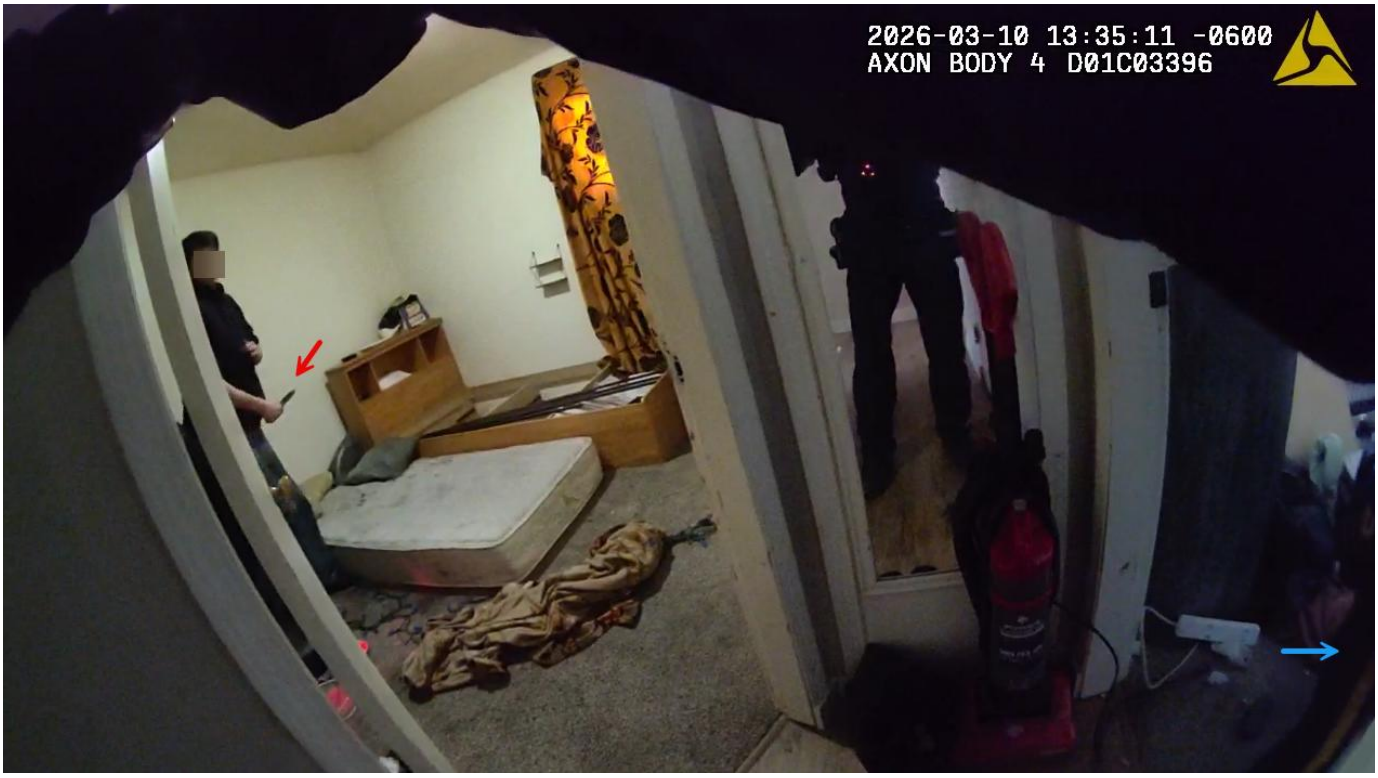


Figure 3 - The AP stood up while holding the knife (identified by the red arrow). WO2's reflection can be seen in the mirror at the end of the hallway. The SO (identified by the blue arrow) has moved almost completely out of frame into a room across the hall. Image sourced from: WO2's BWC.

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The AP started walking toward the bedroom doorway, pointing the knife at the officers (Figure 4).



Figure 4 - The AP started walking toward the doorway, pointing the knife (identified by the red arrow) at officers. Image sourced from: SO's BWC.

As the AP reached the bedroom doorway, the SO fired his gun (Figure 5).

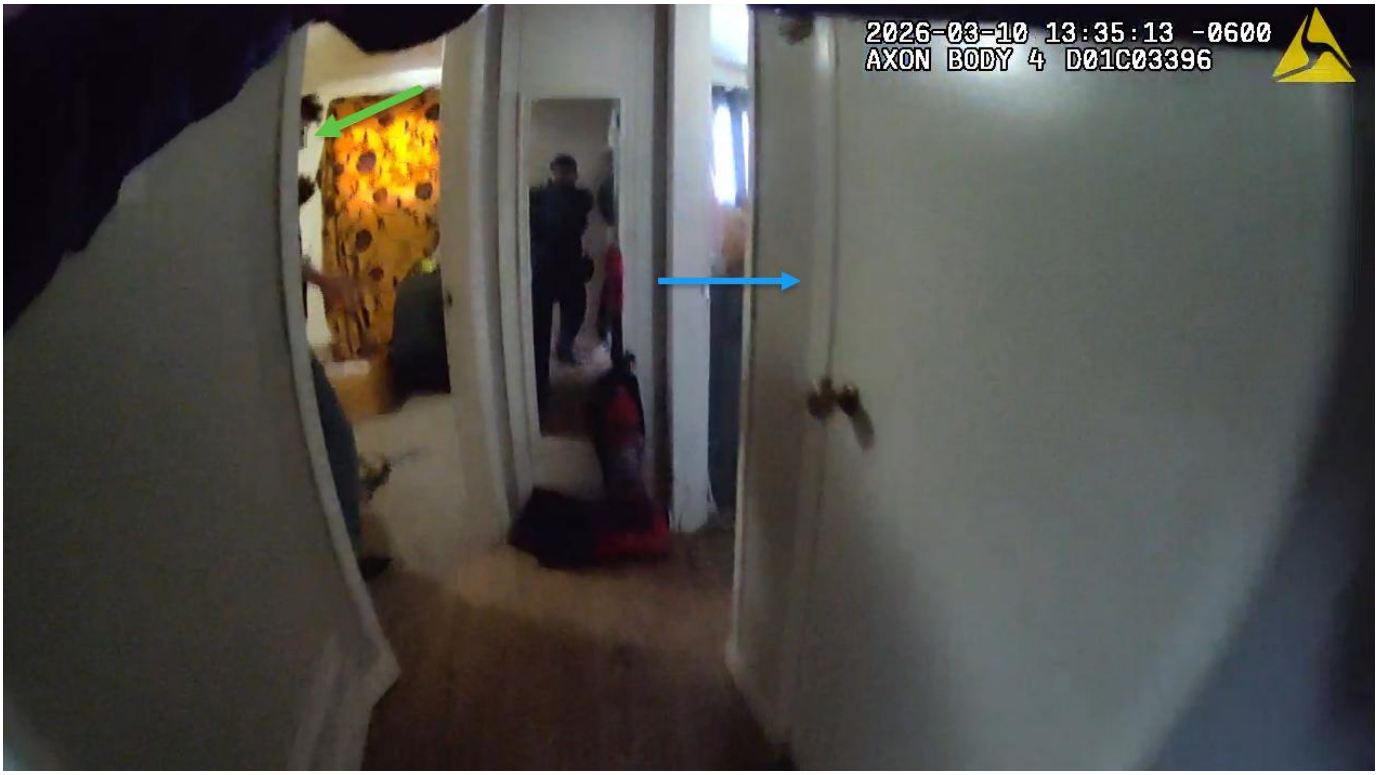


Figure 5 - The AP (identified by the green arrow) had almost reached the doorway when the SO fired

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the first shot. The SO was not in the frame as he had stepped back into the room across the hall (identified by the blue arrow). WO2's reflection can be seen in the mirror at the end of the hallway. Image sourced from: WO2's BWC.

After being struck, the AP continued to point the knife at officers, prompting the SO to fire a second shot (Figure 6).



Figure 6 - The AP remained standing while holding and pointing the knife (identified by the red arrow) with both hands. He was shot a second time. Image sourced from: SO's BWC.

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The AP fell backward onto a mattress on the floor but kept hold of the knife in his left hand (Figure 7).



Figure 7 - The AP fell onto the mattress after being shot. He continued to hold the knife (identified by red the arrow) in his left hand. Image sourced from: SO's BWC.

He tried to push himself up and used his left arm to pull himself across the mattress toward the door, still holding the knife. Officers repeatedly told him to drop the knife and that he was under arrest.

WO3 deployed his conducted energy weapon (CEW) twice, with each shock lasting five seconds, between 1:35:47 p.m. and 1:36:03 p.m. After the first deployment, the AP attempted to remove the CEW wires with his left hand, while still holding the knife. WO3 deployed the CEW a second time, but it

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did not seem to affect him, and he kept moving across the mattress toward the door (Figure 8).

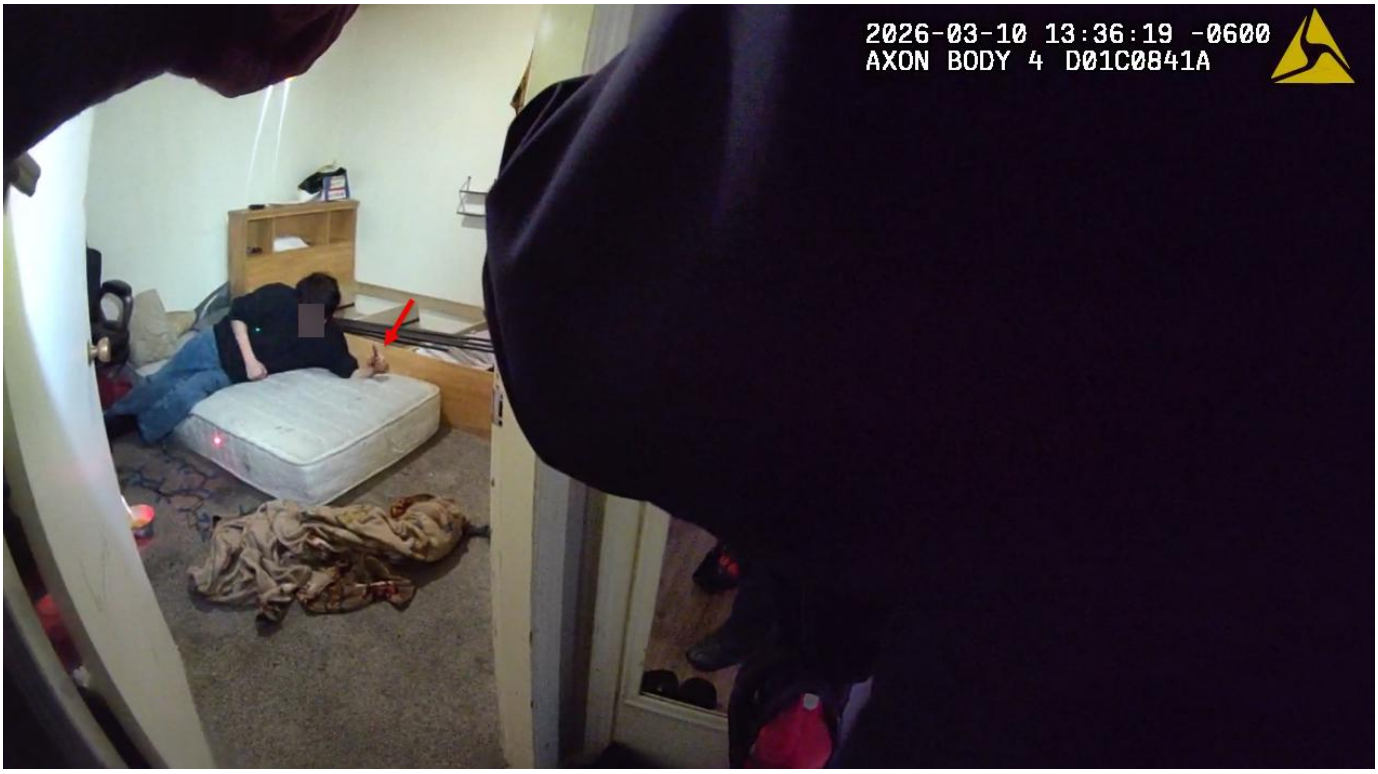


Figure 8 - The AP continued to pull himself along the mattress, while holding the knife (identified by red arrow), after being shocked by the CEW twice. Image sourced from: WO3's BWC.

WO3 deployed the CEW a third time, causing the man's body to stiffen up and the knife to fly out of his

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hand (Figure 9).



Figure 9 - The AP's knife (identified by the red arrow) flew out of his hand when his body locked out in response to the third CEW deployment. Image sourced from: WO3's BWC.

Throughout the interaction, the SO, WO2, and WO3 repeatedly told the AP to put the knife down. CW1 and CW2 could also be heard from another room urging the AP to comply with police. The AP did not say anything the entire time.

Two knives were recovered from the bedroom. The knife held by the AP during the police encounter was identified as a hunting knife with a folding handle and decorative designs on both the blade and handle. A second knife, identified as a kitchen knife, was located while the AP was being moved by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel for transport to the hospital.

Civilian Witnesses

ASIRT investigators interviewed two civilian witnesses.

Both CW1 and CW2 confirmed that on the evening before the incident, the AP and CW1 visited CW2's house, where they drank alcohol.

CW1 said she woke up at 5 a.m. and saw the AP fidgeting and making comments about people being after him. She believed he was under the influence of drugs, as he mentioned he had taken "a line of something." CW1 was able to convince the AP to lie down. While they were lying together, the AP said, "I'm sorry, I love you," then took out a knife and stabbed her in the chest.

CW1 screamed for CW2, but the AP kept trying to stab her as she fought to grab the knife. He then got on top of her. CW1 managed to grab the knife, which cut her hand in the process, and was able to free herself. She ran to the living room, woke up CW2, and told him to call emergency services. When

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the AP came out of the bedroom, CW1 told him to stay away. He listened and went back inside. She noted that he had attempted suicide a couple of months earlier by cutting his wrist and was taking medication for depression. She added that she does not want him to face criminal charges.

CW2 said he had been sleeping on the couch while the couple used his bedroom. He woke up to CW1 shouting that she had been stabbed and saw that she was bleeding. He immediately called emergency services. He said when he went back into the bedroom to get CW1's wallet, he saw the AP inside holding a knife. He further admitted that when the officers arrived, he told them that the AP had left because he was worried about the man's safety. As officers searched the home room by room, they eventually found him. From the living room, CW2 heard police shouting commands like "drop the knife," followed by two or three gunshots.

Witness Officers

ASIRT investigators interviewed three police witnesses who were present at the time of the shooting. Each officer's account was consistent with the events depicted in the BWC footage.

WO3 saw two gunshot wounds on the AP: one on the right side of his stomach near his belly button, and another that went straight through his bicep, entering the front of his arm and exiting the back.

Analysis

ASIRT Level 1 investigations involve incidents where serious injury or death is caused by a police officer, in addition to other sensitive investigations of police officers. These are criminal investigations only.

Here, the action under investigation is the shots fired by the SO that resulted in serious injury to the AP.

Section 25 Generally

Under s. 25 of the *Criminal Code*, police officers are permitted to use as much force as is necessary for the execution of their duties. Where the force used by an officer is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, s. 25(3) applies and the officer must believe on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the self-preservation of the officer or preservation of anyone under that officer's protection. The force used here – discharging a firearm at a person – was clearly intended or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm. The subject officer therefore must have believed on reasonable grounds that the force he used was necessary for his self-preservation or the preservation of another person under his protection. Another person can include other police officers.

For the defence provided by s. 25 to apply to the actions of an officer, the officer must be required or authorized by law to perform the action in the administration or enforcement of the law, must have acted on reasonable grounds in performing the action, and must not have used unnecessary force.

All uses of force by police must also be proportionate, necessary, and reasonable.

Proportionality requires balancing a use of force with the action to which it responds. As noted above, where force is intended or is likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, s. 25(3) codifies a requirement that the officer must believe on reasonable grounds that the force is necessary for the self-preservation of the officer or preservation of anyone under that officer's protection.

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Necessity requires that there are not reasonable alternatives to the use of force that would also accomplish the same goal. These alternatives can include no action at all. Analysis of police actions must recognize the dynamic situations in which officers often find themselves, and such analysis should not expect police officers to weigh alternatives in real time in the same way they can later be scrutinized in a stress-free environment.

Reasonableness looks at the use of force and the situation as a whole from an objective viewpoint. Police actions are not to be judged on a standard of perfection, but on a standard of reasonableness.

Section 25 Applied

The SO, WO1, WO2, and WO3 were lawfully placed and acting in the execution of their duties in responding to a call for service involving a reported stabbing. Upon arrival, the AP was identified as the suspect in the stabbing; thereby, providing the officers with lawful grounds to arrest him. In accordance with their core duty to investigate criminal offences, the officers were both authorized and obligated to apprehend the AP, and their actions throughout the incident were undertaken in furtherance of that duty.

At the outset, CW1 and CW2 told the officers that the AP had fled the residence. As a result, when the SO located the AP inside a bedroom, armed with a knife, the encounter was unexpected. The SO immediately told the AP to put down the knife. WO2 provided similar commands upon joining the SO. The AP refused to comply. When the AP stood up while still holding the knife, further commands were issued; however, the AP continued to disregard police direction and advanced toward the officers, who were a short distance away, while pointing the knife in their direction.

In these circumstances, the SO's decision to discharge his firearm was reasonable. A knife, when brandished in this manner, presents an immediate risk of grievous bodily harm. Once the AP directed the weapon toward the officers and advanced, the SO's obligation to protect himself, as well as fellow officers and civilians – including CW1 and CW2, who remained inside the residence – was engaged. Notwithstanding that the AP was confined within a bedroom and confronted by armed officers who were blocking the only point of exit, and despite being afforded multiple opportunities to comply, the AP escalated the situation by moving toward the officers while armed. He further persisted in this conduct even after the initial discharge of the SO's firearm.

It was necessary for the SO to fire at the AP when he did. The AP presented a threat that could reasonably be perceived as immediate and capable of causing grievous bodily harm. He had refused all directions to disarm, had already demonstrated a willingness to use the knife in the reported assault, and escalated the confrontation by advancing toward officers while armed. In these circumstances, it was reasonable for the SO to conclude that the AP had no intention of complying with police commands.

A lesser use of force was not reasonably available. The officers were positioned within a confined hallway leading to areas occupied by CW1 and CW2. A tactical withdrawal was not feasible without exposing those individuals to a significant risk of harm, particularly given the nature of the initial complaint that the AP had already used a knife to inflict serious injuries. Furthermore, it would not have been reasonable for the SO or WO2 to divert their focus by transitioning to a less-lethal option, such as a CEW, given their close proximity to the AP and the speed with which the distance between them could be – and was – closed.

Accordingly, the SO's use of his service firearm to shoot the AP was proportionate to the threat of

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grievous bodily harm that he reasonably appeared to pose to the SO, other officers, and civilians in the immediate area.

The SO was required or authorized by law to act that day and acted on reasonable grounds. His use of force was reasonable, proportionate, and necessary. As a result, the defence provided by s. 25 of the *Criminal Code* is likely to apply to the SO.

Conclusion

The SO's use of force was proportionate, necessary, and reasonable. As a result, there are no reasonable grounds to believe that an offence was committed.

Original signed by	November 12, 2026
Matthew Block	Date of Release
Executive Director	

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