

Nov. 2, 2018

Physical confrontation involving Lethbridge officer under investigation

On Nov. 1, 2018, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was directed to investigate the circumstances surrounding an altercation between a Lethbridge Police Service (LPS) officer and a young man outside La Cité des Prairies. A portion of the incident was captured on video and shared on social media.

In the early hours of Oct. 28, 2018, police arrived at the 600 block of 21 Street South, where approximately 100 to 150 youths were reportedly attending a party and a large crowd had vacated onto the streets.

Following the events that evening, brief video clips of the police response were circulated on social media. A portion of the events captured on video depict an altercation between a police officer and a young man, during which a second man grabbed and tackled the officer from behind. Once the officer pulled away, he returned to deal with the first man.

After making some inquiries regarding the matter, pursuant to the provisions of the *Police Act*, LPS made a notification to the Director of Law Enforcement. As a result, ASIRT was directed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the altercation and the officer's use of force. As our investigation continues, ASIRT will not make any further comment until the matter is concluded. In the interim, we would encourage the public to allow the investigation to proceed and refrain from drawing any conclusions until all the facts are known.

ASIRT's mandate is to effectively, independently and objectively investigate incidents involving police that have resulted in serious injury or death to any person, as well as serious or sensitive allegations of police misconduct.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

ASIRT Media Line
780-641-9099