

[Skip to Content](#)

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[Careers](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Français](#)

[Home](#)

[The Unit](#)

[What We Do](#)

[Publications](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Media Centre](#)

[Outreach](#)

[Contact Us](#)



[Media Centre](#)

[News Releases](#)

[News Release Search](#)

[Email Alerts - News Releases or Video Series](#)

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[FAQs](#)

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[SIU Videos](#)

News Release

SIU Lays Additional Charges in Case Where Man in Whitby Sustained Serious Injuries

Case Number: 17-TCI-098

Mississauga, ON (21 July, 2017) ---

On July 17, 2017, The Director of the Special Investigations Unit, Tony Loparco, caused several Criminal Code charges – *aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and public mischief* – to be laid against Toronto Police Service Constable Michael Theriault in relation to the injuries sustained by a 19-year-old man during an interaction in Whitby in December of 2016.

Yesterday, upon his determination that there were also reasonable and probable grounds to believe that Christian Theriault, a civilian, committed the same offences in relation to the same incident, Director Loparco caused a further information to be laid charging Michael Theriault and Christian Theriault jointly with *aggravated assault* and *assault with a weapon*, contrary to section 268 and 267(a) of the *Criminal Code*, respectively, and each individually with *public mischief*, contrary to section 140 of the *Criminal Code*.

On December 28, 2016, Cst Michael Theriault, off-duty at the time, and Christian Theriault were involved in an interaction with the man in the area of Thickson Road and William Stephenson Drive. Officers with the Durham Regional Police Service arrived and arrested the man. He was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with serious injuries. The SIU was notified of the incident on April 27, 2017 by the man’s lawyer.

Director Loparco said, “Though the SIU investigates and, where warranted by the evidence, charges police officers in cases of serious injury and death, the allegation in this case is that Cst Michael Theriault and Christian Theriault acted together and were parties to the same assault upon the 19-year-old man on December 28, 2016. Accordingly, upon consultations with and advice received from the Crown Law Office – Criminal of the Ministry of the Attorney General, and in view of the exceptional circumstances of this case, I am satisfied that the overall interests of justice are best served by trying both accused together in one trial; thus, the new information that was sworn yesterday.”

Christian Theriault was arrested by the SIU today and subsequently released and required to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at 150 Bond Street in Oshawa on August 10, 2017.

Other News Releases Related to Case 17-TCI-098

[SIU Lays Charges against Toronto Police Officer](#)

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The matter is now properly before the courts. In consideration of the fair trial interests of the accused, the SIU will make no further comment.

The SIU is an arm's length agency that investigates reports involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault. Under the Police Services Act, the Director of the SIU must

- *consider whether an officer has committed a criminal offence in connection with the incident under investigation*
- *depending on the evidence, lay a criminal charge against the officer if appropriate or close the file without any charges being laid*
- *report the results of any investigations to the Attorney General.*

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Investigator's Creed
Organizational Chart
SIU History

Community Outreach

Community Outreach
Outreach Coordinator
Director's Resource Committee
First Nations Liaison Program
Affected Persons Coordinator

What We Do

What We Do
What We Can Investigate
Investigative Process
Forensic Identification Services
Checklist for Police Services
Vehicle Fleet
Balancing Transparency
Access to Information

Publications

Publications
Annual Reports
Special Reports
Brochures
Legislation
Police Services Act
ON Regulation 267/10
Shaping Civilian Oversight
SIU Accessibility

Statistics

Statistics
Total Occurrences
Statistics Search
General Statistics

Careers

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Forensic Investigator
Training
Links
Sitemap
Video Uploads

Media Centre

Subscription
Confirmation
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News Release Search
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RSS Feed
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