

One man in hospital, one arrested after morning shooting in Overbrook

By Lucy Scholey and Joe Lofaro
Metro



Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is probing Tuesday's shooting in Overbrook which sent one man to hospital with serious injuries and another man in the back of a police cruiser in handcuffs.

Heavily armed tactical officers were called in to Lilas Private shortly after 8 a.m. when residents heard the sound of gunfire at a townhouse they say is known for drug use and loud parties.

One man was sent to hospital for "traumatic injuries" shortly after the shooting, according to paramedics.

At approximately 11 a.m., a second man resisted arrest, but later limped his way into the back of a police cruiser.



Joe Lofaro
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4

The SIU investigates incidents where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault during a police operation.

A next-door neighbour who would only go by Samuel said he heard two men fighting outside at around 8 a.m., followed by gunfire.

"Three shots, like one after the other – pop, pop, pop," he said. About 10 people ran out of the house, he added. Then, he saw one shirtless man bleeding from his side and another man bleeding from his mouth.

Another neighbour, who only gave his name as Mark, said he heard screams and several gunshots. He saw a man lying on the ground, bleeding, and later watched him be taken away by ambulance.

Fights are common at that unit and Mark said he recently helped a woman who took a beer bottle to the face.

"I am not liking it because I have a daughter that lives here ... she's 18 years old and I don't even let her sit on the front step with that going on there," he said. "I can't even let my nephews play in the park that's right in the backyard."

The apartment complex is owned by the Ottawa Community Housing.

"It's a very scary situation and certainly we want to support people who are touched by this event," said communications manager Melany Chretien.

She said OCH has many partners who can be called in to help with support residents.

Another couple, who had been evacuated from their home when police were on the scene, said they were planning to complain to Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) about the tenant.

Stéphane Giguère, CEO of OCH, said they encourage people to call and report problem tenants. The OCH will also offer social workers and other support for neighbours in the coming days.

Police have not said publicly if the shooting is gang-related. The Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs Unit is investigating.

Rawlson King, president of the Overbrook Community Association, said in a statement anti-gang initiatives need to continue in order to suppress violent crime in the neighbourhood.

"While there have been successes in terms of arrests, charges and taking guns off the street by the police, more needs to be done on a regular, ongoing basis," said King.

King also called on Ottawa police to conduct more patrols in the neighbourhood and to adopt an exit strategy for gang members.



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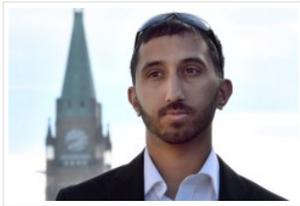
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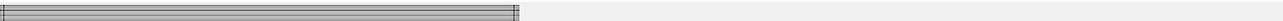
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