

## 14 officers identified in G20 takedown

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The officer who appears in images of two separate takedowns during a G20 protest at Queen's Park wields his baton in a third incident.

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The Special Investigations Unit has the name of the officer who used a baton to hit a G20 protester, as well as those of 13 other officers who were present or nearby at the time.

The police watchdog is still gathering information and tracking down civilian witnesses, said spokesman Frank Phillips.

By Thursday, investigators also identified one civilian witness, armed with a video camera, for whom they had made a public plea earlier this week.

Police spokesman Mark Pugash confirmed that photos and videos published in the Star over the course of the week led police to identify the 14 officers.

The Star had initially published the photos of three, including the officer who hit protester Adam Nobody with his baton.

Badgeless during the G20 confrontation, his name is currently unknown to the public. But he was also seen in a photo taking down National Post photographer Colin O'Connor and wielding his baton in an incident involving Wyndham Bettencourt-McCarthy. The Torontoist blogger said she was struck twice, leaving a welt on her right hip.

The other two officers were identified because their pictures showed their name tags.

Names will not be revealed by either the SIU or police. "We do not identify people who have not been charged criminally," said Pugash.

He declined to say whether supervisors were among the 14 officers. "We follow the evidence wherever it goes, irrespective of role or rank," he said, adding that all the officers are still currently on the job.

"I'm glad that they found them, finally," said Nobody.

The stage builder, who was taken down by six officers while protesting at Queen's Park, said he felt like a victim two weeks ago when the SIU failed to charge any officers for causing his injuries but did say force was probably used.

He said he now feels empowered after citizens came forward with additional video of the event.

"It took a city to bring down a few," Nobody said, thanking those individuals for their support.

The SIU will now decide which officers will be considered as witnesses or subjects, meaning they had a direct role in the event.

Witness officers must submit to an interview. Subject officers can exercise their rights, and decline.

An internal police investigation is also underway to determine whether there were any breaches of discipline.

Penalties for officers will be assessed by looking at circumstances and precedent, but the maximum penalty under the Police Act is loss of employment.

Pugash said information brought forward by citizens and the Star this week was “extremely helpful” in identifying the officers.

“We always expect to work very closely” with the media, he said. “In a huge amount of cases we get information from the public.”

He said the investigation is not finished and encouraged anyone, media or otherwise, to come forward with new information.

In an interview Wednesday, embattled Police Chief Bill Blair said he was doing “everything he can” to cooperate with three independent investigations into possible police misconduct during the G20, and one internal probe.

“It is the responsibility of the chief of police for the discipline and conduct of officers,” said Blair.

“I think it’s important that the public be assured that we’re all taking this very seriously.”

Toronto’s deputy mayor, Doug Holyday, dismissed the calls for Blair’s resignation.

“If there are cases where officers have acted improperly, I think (Blair) will deal with them accordingly,” he said. “We should be paying more attention to the vandals and thugs who tried to wreck our city.”

