



Inquest to look at police custody death

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Junior Manon

An inquest into the controversial death of an 18-year-old who died last spring after police pulled over his car near York University will begin Jan. 16,

Junior Alexander Manon, of Toronto, died after Toronto police pulled over the car he was driving May 5, 2010.

When Manon tried to flee, officers captured him and he died shortly after being handcuffed and placed in the back seat of a police cruiser.

Early EMS reports suggest Manon went into cardiac arrest, but the Special Investigations Unit investigating the case, withheld vital information about Manon's death — as they do not comment on cases being investigated — fuelling allegations of police brutality.

Witnesses have said they saw Manon on the ground with two police officers laying on top of him and assaulting him.

Following Manon's death, a group of Manon's supporters on the Facebook community rendered its verdict: The cops killed 18-year-old Junior Alexander Manon. The messages to the Facebook page called "Police Killed Teen, We can't Let Them Get Away!" ranged from anger to sadness, but they almost all alleged that Toronto Police were responsible for Manon's death.

Dr. Bert Lauwers, deputy chief coroner for inquests, announced Friday the inquest will convene at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 16 at the Coroners Courts, 15 Grosvenor St.

Lauwers said the inquest is expected to last three to four weeks and there will be approximately 25 witnesses heard.

Dr. Dan Cass will preside as inquest coroner and Frank Giordano will act as counsel.