



Manon family wants G20 report heard at inquest

BY *CHRIS DOUCETTE*, TORONTO SUN
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Lawyer Julian Falconer is representing the Manon family at the coroner's inquest into the death of Junior Manon. (ALEX CONSIGLIO/Toronto Sun files)

TORONTO - A Toronto cop is back in the hotseat this week as the Junior Manon coroner's inquest resumes and the dead teen's family pushes to have a new report on a G20 incident entered into evidence.

Family lawyer Julian Folconer hopes to argue the fatal arrest of 18-year-old Manon on May 5, 2010, and the brutal takedown of Adam Nobody less than two months later show that Const. Michael Adams, who was involved in both, is prone to using excessive force.

Falconer also hopes to contend that such violence is a concern across the Toronto Police force.

“From the family’s point of view, the fact that this officer was involved in another excessive use of force case literally within weeks of their loved one’s death, raises far more questions than answers,” Falconer said Monday. “We want and are entitled to get real accountability from both the officer and the service about what has gone on here.”

Falconer asked last week to allow into evidence a report from the Office of the Independent Review Director that recently concluded Adams and four other officers used excessive force and should face Police Services Act charges for their arrest of Nobody, who suffered a broken nose and cheek.

Dr. Dan Cass, who is presiding over the inquest, will make his decision after hearing legal arguments on Tuesday from lawyers involved in the inquest.

If the report is admitted, Falconer plans to question Adams during his testimony about his conduct in both incidents.

“The family is still grieving and at this stage the inquest is their only mechanism (for answers),” he said.

Family and friends listened intently Monday as four witnesses testified about the fateful incident, which began with Adams, and Sgt. Stuart Blower pulling Manon over On Steeles Ave. W., just west of Keele St. It ended soon after with the teen’s death.

TTC bus driver Lisa Edgar recalled watching the incident unfold as she waited to turn right from Founders Rd. on to Steeles.

She claimed one of the officers was “patting down” Manon when the teen bolted.

Not knowing the incident would soon end in a fatality, Edgar said it looked somewhat “comical” as the officer chased the heavyset Manon across the street, around a tree and down Founders Rd. toward York University.

All of the witnesses recalled seeing at least one of the officers on top of Manon as he was face down during the arrest. The coroner determined Manon died of positional asphyxia; he essentially suffocated.

Adams and Blower were cleared of any wrongdoing by the province’s Special Investigations Unit.