



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT) Investigates Shooting at the July 3rd Fireworks Celebration

Poulsbo, WA

On Wednesday, July 3rd, at around 9 P.M., a large crowd was gathered at Poulsbo's Waterfront Park awaiting the start of the annual fireworks celebration. Citizens contacted Poulsbo Police officers who were on-duty for the event and reported a subject who was acting in a strange manner, which alarmed the people around him. They reported the man was armed with a screwdriver and lunging at people. Additionally, witnesses complained of his odd behavior around children and not respecting the personal space of others. One witness told officers the man "*just didn't look right, was just scoping everybody out and threatened a little kid with a screwdriver saying he is going to hurt somebody.*" Witnesses pointed out the man to officers, who approached him to investigate the complaints about his behavior. Upon contact with the man, a struggle ensued. One Poulsbo police officer fired his duty weapon, striking the subject. The details of what occurred during the struggle and shooting are still under investigation. Officers provided first aid to the subject and called for paramedics to respond. The subject later died from his injuries.

Poulsbo Police Chief Dan Schoonmaker requested the Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT) investigate the incident. KCIRT is a multi-agency team made up of investigators from the Bainbridge Island Police Department, Poulsbo Police Department, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Bremerton Police Department, Port Orchard Police Department, Washington State Patrol, and Shelton Police Department. Poulsbo PD investigators are not participating in this investigation in light of recently passed House Bill 1064, codified as RCW 10.114, which requires that an investigation must be completely independent of the agency whose officer was involved in the use of deadly force.

KCIRT has more than 25 investigators working on this investigation. Investigators have completed processing the scene at the park. Among the evidence recovered from the scene was a flat headed screwdriver.



Investigators did not locate any shell casings from the officer's weapon at the scene. However, a citizen who had been in the immediate area of the shooting at the park and evacuated following the shooting, unknowingly had one shell casing on her blanket when it was rolled up. The citizen unrolled her blanket when she got home and discovered the spent shell casing. The casing has since been recovered by investigators.

Investigators have identified over sixty people who need to be interviewed. A hotline has been established for citizens who may have witnessed the shooting or have any information or evidence related to the incident. Anyone who took photographs or video before, during or after the shooting, or who may have information or evidence pertinent to this investigation, are urged to call investigators at 360-473-5155. This phone will be staffed until 6:00 P.M. Friday evening. After 6:00 p.m. callers are requested to leave a message with their name and number for later contact.

The identity of the deceased subject along with the cause and manner of death will be determined by the Kitsap County Coroner and will be released at a later time following the autopsy.

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