

City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Rebecca Erickson



October 17, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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July 3, 2019 Incident Investigation Status

The City has been informed the Kitsap County Incident Response Team has completed its preliminary investigation and provided it to the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office for further action.

The next step is for the Prosecutor to determine whether further information or investigation is needed; and to decide whether to bring criminal charges against the involved police officer.

The City is not involved in this process; and will not be consulted by the Prosecutor's Office regarding the charging decision. The City will not make any statements regarding the findings of the investigation or influence the decision in any way.

We ask the community to not interpret the City's silence regarding the on-going investigation as inaction or a lack of care or consideration for public safety or the family and friends of Mr. Chiefstick. Rather, the City is honoring the process which has been mandated by state law and cannot become involved until after the Prosecutor's Office has made its decision. Once that occurs, the City will review the complete investigation and recommendations.

After the Prosecutor's Office has made its charging decision, it is the Police Department's policy to conduct an administrative investigation. The purpose of the investigation is to determine if the actions of the officer were consistent with department policy and procedure. The administrative investigation will be completed by an outside investigator.

As part of the administrative review, it is the Department's policy to convene a use of force review board when a police officer has used force that resulted in serious injury or death. The board will be composed of three to five members from outside the agency. They will review all material relevant to the investigation and recommend findings regarding whether the officer's actions were within department policy and procedure, or in violation of department policy and procedure.

At the completion of the Department's reviews, the City of Poulsbo will take the appropriate actions based upon the evidence and findings that are presented. Regardless of the results of these investigations, the City of Poulsbo remains committed to serving the members of the community and encourages continued dialogue to further advance community relations and inclusion.

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