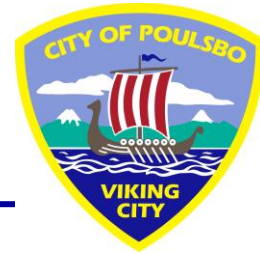


City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Rebecca Erickson



August 13, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Completion of Administrative Review

The Poulsbo Police Department has completed a two-part Use of Force Review relating to the death of Mr. Stonechild Chiefstick on July 3, 2019.

The first part of the review was conducted by independent, outside investigators from Public Safety Testing. They conducted their investigation by reviewing the criminal investigation, Poulsbo Police Department policies, media accounts, and by interviewing the officers involved in the event. They prepared a written report with their findings for consideration by the Use of Force Review Panel.

Poulsbo Police Chief Dan Schoonmaker next convened a Use of Force Review Panel to receive the report by Public Safety Testing and review all pertinent information relating to this incident. The panel was comprised of five-members from various backgrounds, expertise, and ethnicities, including Native American.

- Captain James Mjor, Washington State Patrol (Chair)
- Chief Sam White, Lower Elwha Police Department
- Sergeant Brian George, Washington State Patrol
- Officer Vince Sivankeo, Lakewood Police Department
- JoAnn Schlachter, Poulsbo Community Member

At the completion of their review, the Use of Force Review Panel provided Chief Schoonmaker with an analysis and recommendation as to whether the actions of Officer Craig Keller were consistent with department policy. They unanimously concluded Officer Keller's actions responding to the incident with Mr. Chiefstick were consistent with department policy.

The Use of Force Review process provided recommendations of areas where the department can continue to improve and grow. The Poulsbo Police Department is committing to the following recommendations:

- Reinforcing the department's mission, vision, and values.
- Exploring different delivery methods of training on department policy.

- Considering deploying other non-law enforcement resources during special events.
- Providing crisis intervention training to all police department employees.
- Providing additional training in transition from lethal force to non/less lethal force.
- Establishing better communications with our neighboring Tribal communities.

Chief Schoonmaker next reviewed the reports from Public Safety Testing and the Use of Force Review Panel along with department policy, training, use of force data, past citizen complaints, and race and ethnicity of individuals who were arrested and/or cited by department officers.

At the completion of his final review, Chief Schoonmaker reached the following conclusions:

- The department has provided its employees, including Officer Keller, the necessary training that supports department policies and expectations in interacting with all citizens.
- Chief Schoonmaker agrees with Kitsap County Prosecutor Chad Enright and the Use of Force Review Board that there is no evidence racial bias played any role in the incident involving Mr. Chiefstick.
- Chief Schoonmaker concurs with the Use of Force Review Board in finding the actions of Officer Keller in this incident were within Poulsbo Police Department Policy.

The City continues to appreciate the community's patience with this important review process. It was important to the City to ensure it engaged independent investigators and panel members with a variety of backgrounds to conduct a very thorough and respectful review.

It is also important for those who are following these events to read the information and findings of these reviews thoroughly, so you are fully informed about what occurred and the conclusions that have been reached. The documents related to the Administrative Investigation have been made available on the City of Poulsbo's webpage: <https://cityofpoulsbo.com/>

The City of Poulsbo recognizes there have been other incidents in the City that have occurred which have resulted in communities of color feeling uncomfortable and unsafe at times. The City denounces all acts of racism and discrimination and is committed to continuing its outreach to all members of our community to ensure all individuals who live, work, and visit the City of Poulsbo are treated with dignity and respect.

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