



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT) Update: Involved Officer Identified

Poulsbo, WA

The Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team continues to investigate the shooting on July 3rd at the annual fireworks celebration in Poulsbo.

At the request of several media outlets, the Poulsbo Police Department, through the Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT), is releasing the following information on Officer Craig Keller, who was the officer involved in the shooting on July 3rd, 2019.

Officer Keller started his police career with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Police Department in February of 2014. In May of 2015, Officer Keller was hired with the Poulsbo Police Department. Currently, Officer Keller is assigned as a K-9 Handler with his partner, Kilo, in the patrol operations division.

This was Officer Keller's only officer involved shooting. Officer Keller remains on administrative leave while the KCIRT Investigation continues.

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. Officers contacted the man and a struggle ensued. Officer Keller fired his duty weapon,

striking the subject. Officers provided first aid to the subject and called for paramedics to respond. The subject, who later died from his injuries was identified as Stonechild Chiefstick, age 39, of Poulsbo.

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.

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