

## BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

1025 Burwell Street • Bremerton, Washington 98337 • (360) 473-5220

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2015

Contact: Bremerton Police Department  
Chief Steven Strachan (360-473-5224)

### **One Man in Critical Condition After Stabbing at a Residence**

Bremerton Police Officers and Detectives are investigating an incident involving a stabbing at a residence in the 1500 block of Spruce Street in East Bremerton. One man is in critical condition at Harrison Hospital and one man is in custody.

The original call came at 8:10 PM on Tuesday, July 7. Multiple callers reported the incident, and there were apparently several people at a gathering at the residence. Responding officers located a 54 year old man, whose home address is on Fuson Road, bleeding profusely from the neck, and 23 year old James Wesley Cotant, of Port Ludlow, who was taken into custody. Cotant had blood on his hands and clothing and did provide a statement to officers.

A search warrant was obtained as part of the investigation, and an 8-inch knife was recovered from the living room at the residence. The suspect indicated he fought with the 54 year old man because he thought he was abusing a woman in the apartment, and the suspect admitted to using marijuana before the incident.

The 54 year old man lost a significant amount of blood and underwent surgery at Harrison Hospital. His condition is listed as critical as of this release. Cotant has been jailed and a Certificate of Probable Cause (attached) has been completed for Felony Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Steven D. Strachan, Chief of Police  
Bremerton Police Department  
1025 Burwell Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
[Steven.Strachan@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Steven.Strachan@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

360-473-5224  
Fax: 360-473-5890  
Assistant: Barbara Forbes  
[Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us)

# STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Clerk Code \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATE OF PROBABLE CAUSE

(required for all probable cause arrests and all cases submitted for criminal prosecution)

**SUSPECT NAME:** James Wesley Cotant

**COURT:**  Superior  District  Juvenile  Bremerton Municipal

**AGENCY CASE NUMBER:** B15-5333

**ARREST CRIME:** 1) Assault 1st

2)

3)

**ARREST DATE & TIME:** 07/07/15 at approximately 2010 hours

**ARREST LOCATION:** 1526 Spruce Apt B, Bremerton Wa

### STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Summarize the facts showing probable cause for the arrest for each element of every offense committed. If a witness can be identified, please include that witness' name if the witness has supplied you with information supporting your determination of probable cause. If the full name of the witness should not be disclosed, please use the initials and date of birth to identify the witness.

On 07/07/15 at approximately 2010 hours, CenCom received multiple calls about a stabbing that just occurred in the area of 1522 Spruce Ave. Bremerton Police Department responded to the scene and contacted the victim who was bleeding profusely from the left side of his neck. The victim had towels wrapped around his neck in an attempt to stop the bleeding. Sergeant Meade was first on scene and quickly rendered first aid to the victim who was "turning grey" from the loss of blood. Sergeant Meade requested medical response to step up their response due to the nature of the injury.

Shortly after Sergeant Meade arrived, Officer Vertefeuille arrived on scene and made contact with the suspect, James Cotant. Cotant was one of the 911 callers and admitted to stabbing the victim. Cotant was detained in hand restraints without incident. Officer Vertefeuille noticed Cotant had blood on his arms and an empty knife sheath on his belt.

Officer Vertefeuille read Cotant the Miranda Warnings which he said he waived. Cotant admitted to Officer Vertefeuille that he stabbed the victim. Cotant explained he was

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct

Signature: 	Print Name: K. Sargent	Badge # 440
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Date: July 8, 2015	Place: Bremerton	Agency: Bremerton PD
	Case #: B15-005333	Page 1 of 2

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

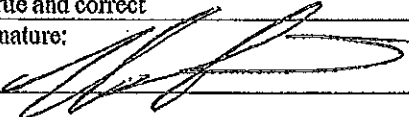
trying to help the female tenant, Karen Hubbartt because the victim had been abusing her. Cotant said he was over at the house smoking marijuana when Karen and the victim started to push each other. Cotant said he stepped in and that is when the victim "cracked" him in the face twice. Cotant thought the victim had a "shiv" so he took out his knife and tackled the victim. Cotant remembers pulling his hand away from the victim's neck and the victim ran out the door. Cotant then requests an attorney. There were no marks on Cotant's face.

The victim was transported to Harrison Hospital for emergency surgery to the left side of his neck. It was estimated the victim lost about 6 pints of blood. At the time of this report, the victim was out of surgery and expected to survive.

I spoke with Karen who advised she was in her bedroom when the stabbing took place. She heard the victim's voice yell for her to call 911 because he had just been stabbed. She said the suspect attempted to conceal the knife in her room but she said no.

Officer Vertefeuille applied and obtained a telephonic search warrant. Kitsap County Superior Judge Forbes signed the telephonic warrant for the residence 1526 B Spruce Ave. At approximately 2305 hours, BPD Detectives entered the residence to process the scene. The knife was located in the living room. The knife was about an 8 inch in length with wood handles. The blade was covered in what appeared to be blood stains.

At this point in time, it is not known how many times the victim was stabbed. The stabbing occurred on the victim's left side of his neck which caused an extensive amount of blood loss, the need for immediate medical assistance, and emergency surgery at Harrison Hospital. The suspect inflicted great bodily harm to the victim.

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