



Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Tukwila and Port of Seattle

**VALLEY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 24, 2020

**UPDATE: Officer Involved Shooting at 10400 block of 47th Ave S,
Tukwila (occurred November 13,2020)**

The Valley Independent Investigative team (VIIT) is serving as the independent investigative team for this Officer Involved Shooting (OIS). VIIT is a multi-agency team made up of investigators from seven south King County Police Departments (Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Port of Seattle, and Tukwila).

As this incident involved an Officer of the Tukwila Police Department, they have been excluded from this VIIT investigation.

The Valley Independent Investigative Team is in contact with the subject involved in this incident and will be keeping him informed of the progress of the investigation.

Two non-law enforcement community representatives have been assigned to this incident.

Previously released update INFORMATION as of November 18, 2020

The injured subject of this incident is a 43-year-old male from Seattle. He was treated and released from Harborview Medical Center with an injury to his back in the upper left shoulder area.

A female passenger that was in the vehicle during the contact was a 35-year-old from Seattle. She was not injured.

The Tukwila Officer has been on the force since March 2019 and lateralled from Jackson Mississippi PD with 9 years of service there.

The vehicle involved was reported stolen in King County in September.

The involved officer has not been interviewed as of this date.

In addition to the previously released information, these are the updated facts as the incident unfolded.

The involved officer arrived on scene of the suspicious vehicle with stolen license plate attached. The Officer waited for backup officers to arrive. With their emergency lights activated, another officer and Sergeant arrived and made contact on the passenger side of the vehicle while the involved officer took up a position on the driver side of the vehicle. The officers on the passenger side of the vehicle were talking through the window to the driver and passenger about the license plate on the vehicle being reported stolen. The driver then attempted to put the vehicle in gear and the vehicle moved slightly to the rear but one of the officers was able to reach the driver's hand and move the gear shift.

The involved officer, positioned on the driver side, gave commands for the driver to keep his hands visible. The officer ordered the driver to open the door. As the driver door opened and the driver begins to step out of the vehicle with his left hand up. The officer reaches out with her left hand to contact the driver's arm, the officer discharged her rifle, striking the driver in the back upper shoulder area.

First aid was rendered at the scene and fire/medics transported the driver to Harborview Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

UPDATED INFORMATION as of November 24, 2020

In reviewing the evidence in this case, the driver appeared to be compliant as he opened the door and was stepping out of the vehicle as ordered by the officers. There was no indication of the driver having a weapon in his hands while he stepped out of the vehicle.

VIIT detectives have completed the investigation.

The case will be forwarded in the next few days to the King County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Media Inquiries regarding the Independent Investigation should be directed to Commander Matt Holmes at mholmes@kentwa.gov.

Per Chapter 139-12 WAC, please note that additional information regarding any officer involved shooting cannot be released by an independent investigation team without first notifying the non-law enforcement community representative assigned to the investigation and the family liaison of the involved subject. VIIT will endeavor to incorporate questions received from the media into subsequent press releases.

Valley Independent Investigative Team

Auburn - Des Moines - Federal Way - Kent - Port of Seattle - Renton - Tukwila



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See the Attached Tukwila Press Release for initial details of the incident.

As this incident involved an Officer of the Tukwila Police Department, they have been excluded from this VIIT investigation.

Detectives from VIIT are continuing their investigation.

The Valley Independent Investigative Team is in contact with the subject involved in this incident and will be keeping him informed of the progress of the investigation.

Two non-law enforcement community representatives have been assigned to this incident.

UPDATED INFORMATION as of November 18, 2020

The injured subject of this incident is a 43-year-old male from Seattle. He was treated and released from Harborview Medical Center with an injury to his back in the upper left shoulder area.

A female passenger that was in the vehicle during the contact was a 35-year-old from Seattle. She was not injured.

The Tukwila Officer has been on the force since March 2019 and lateralled from Jackson Mississippi PD with 9 years of service there.

The vehicle involved was reported stolen in King County in September.

The involved officer has not been interviewed as of this date.

In addition to the previously released information, these are the updated facts as the incident unfolded.

The involved officer arrived on scene of the suspicious vehicle with stolen license plate attached. The Officer waited for backup officers to arrive. With their emergency lights activated, another officer and Sergeant arrived and made contact on the passenger side of the vehicle while the involved officer took up a position on the driver side of the vehicle. The

officers on the passenger side of the vehicle were talking through the window to the driver and passenger about the license plate on the vehicle being reported stolen. The driver then attempted to put the vehicle in gear and the vehicle moved slightly to the rear but one of the officers was able to reach the driver's hand and move the gear shift.

The involved officer, positioned on the driver side, gave commands for the driver to keep his hands visible. The officer ordered the driver to open the door. As the driver door opened and the driver begins to step out of the vehicle with his left hand up. The officer reaches out with her left hand to contact the driver's arm, the officer discharged her rifle, striking the driver in the back upper shoulder area.

First aid was rendered at the scene and fire/medics transported the driver to Harborview Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

Public notifications will be released weekly until the conclusion of the investigation. Media Inquiries regarding the Independent Investigation should be directed to Commander Matt Holmes at mholmes@kentwa.gov. Phone 253-856-5836.

Per Chapter 139-12 WAC, please note that additional information regarding any officer involved shooting cannot be released by an independent investigation team without first notifying the non-law enforcement community representative assigned to the investigation and the family liaison of the involved subject. VIIT will endeavor to incorporate questions received from the media into subsequent press releases.

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November 13, 2020

Officer Involved Shooting at 10400 block of 47th Ave S, Tukwila

The Valley Independent Investigative team (VIIT) is serving as the independent investigative team for this Officer Involved Shooting (OIS). VIIT is a multi-agency team made up of investigators from seven south King County Police Departments (Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Port of Seattle, and Tukwila).

See the Attached Tukwila Press Release for preliminary details of the incident.

As this incident involved an Officer of the Tukwila Police Department, they have been excluded from this VIIT investigation.

Detectives from VIIT are continuing their investigation and have impounded the vehicle for processing. The subject involved is being treated at Harborview Medical Center for a non-life-threatening injury.

The Valley Independent Investigative Team is in contact with the subject involved in this incident and will be keeping him informed of the progress of the investigation.

Two non-law enforcement community representatives have been assigned to this incident.

Public notifications will be released weekly until the conclusion of the investigation. Media Inquiries regarding the Independent Investigation should be directed to Commander Matt Holmes at mholmes@kentwa.gov. Phone 253-856-5836.

Per Chapter 139-12 WAC, please note that additional information regarding any officer involved shooting cannot be released by an independent investigation team without first notifying the non-law enforcement community representative assigned to the investigation and the family liaison of the involved subject. VIIT will endeavor to incorporate questions received from the media into subsequent press releases.

{A list of the VIIT investigators and agencies for this incident is available upon request.}

Valley Independent Investigative Team

Auburn - Des Moines - Federal Way - Kent - Port of Seattle - Renton - Tukwila



City of Tukwila

Police Department

Allan Ekberg, Mayor

Eric Drever, Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

Distribution:

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City Clerk's Office
Council Analyst
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Type of Incident: Officer Involved Shooting

Location: 10400 blk 47th Ave S

Date/Time Occurred: 11/13/2020 2:20AM

Case #: 20-5914

Press Contact: Officer V. Masters #222

Phone #: 206-433-1834

Description of Incident

On Friday, November 13, 2020 at approximately 2:20AM, Tukwila officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 10400 block of 47th Ave S. Responding officers located a vehicle with stolen license plates on it that matched the description of the reported suspicious vehicle. The vehicle was occupied by an adult male seated in the driver seat and an adult female passenger.

Tukwila officers contacted both occupants of the vehicle to perform an investigation into the stolen license plates. During the course of the contact, the driver was uncooperative with officers and put the vehicle in drive in an attempt to flee.

A Tukwila officer discharged their firearm once which struck the suspect. Tukwila officers immediately called for medics and rendered first aid to the suspect until the Tukwila Fire Department took over first aid efforts.

The suspect was transported to Harborview Medical Center with a non-life-threatening injury.

The involved officer who discharged their firearm was placed on administrative leave which is standard procedure for any officer involved shooting.

The Valley Independent Investigation Team (VIIT) responded to the scene to conduct the investigation into the incident in accordance with I-940.

Further information releases and questions related to the incident will be handled by the VIIT.