



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

**VALLEY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 29, 2021 (update) R5

Contact: Commander Holmes, Kent Police Department, Valley Independent Investigations Team
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INCIDENT: Federal Way Police Officer Involved Shooting at the Eastwind Motel located at 33230 Pacific Hwy South, Federal Way occurred on July 6, 2021.

*****For the latest update scroll down to the highlighted **UPDATE*******

The Valley Independent Investigative team (VIIT) is serving as the independent investigative team for this incident. 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). With Federal Way PD as the involved agency, their staff have been excluded from this VIIT investigation.

Here is a copy of the **Federal Way Police Press Release dated July 6, 2021** for this incident:

Press Release, Federal Way Police Department, Officer-involved Shooting

Today [July 6, 2021] at 11:06 AM 911 callers reported a disturbance at a motel in the 33200 block of Pacific Highway South in Federal Way. Callers reported that a man was breaking windows and challenging people to fight. The man fled before police officers arrived and the man was not located.

At 11:49 AM 911 callers reported the man had returned, was breaking windows and yelling, and was armed with a knife. A police officer arrived and contacted the manager. Preliminary information indicates the man charged at the officer and manager, grabbed the manager, and was shot by the officer. Police officers administered aid until medics arrived. Medics transported the man to Harborview for treatment. No one else was injured and a knife was recovered at the scene.

This information is subject to change as more information becomes available.

The Valley Independent Investigation Team (VIIT) is responding to conduct the investigation. Once VIIT establishes scene control, Federal Way P.D. will have no direct involvement in the investigation. VIIT will eventually deliver their case to the King County Prosecutor's Office for review and determination of charges, if any. In accordance with Initiative 940, press inquiries will be referred to VIIT.

In addition to VIIT's independent investigation, the Federal Way Police Department will conduct an internal, administrative review after VIIT completes their criminal investigation.

It is standard procedure to place involved officers on paid administrative leave. That will occur in this case.

VIIT Investigation Update (July 7, 2021)

On July 6, 2021 the VIIT team was activated for this incident. The team was briefed as to the circumstances of this incident and began an independent investigation. This included interviewing witnesses that were present at the time this occurred, including family members of the subject that was shot.

The VIIT team applied for a search warrant which was later approved, and they processed the scene and collected evidence including surveillance camera equipment that may have recorded the incident.

The subject that was injured is a 41-year-old male that resides in Tacoma. He is currently at Harbor View Medical Center in stable condition after surgery.

The VIIT team is currently identifying a family liaison so that we can keep the family up to date on the progress of the investigation.

The VIIT team has reached out to the 3 Non-Law Enforcement representatives for Federal Way, to include them in the investigative process.

VIIT Investigation Update (July 8, 2021)

The VIIT detectives are continuing their investigation and reviewing statements, evidence and video surveillance obtained from the scene.

In addition to the previously released information (above) we have determined that the incident stemmed from a Domestic dispute at that location. We have also determined that the 41-year-old subject is the son of the manager of the Eastwind Motel.

We have also confirmed that the 41-year-old subject was armed with a knife when the first officer arrived in the parking lot. The officer attempted to get the manager (father) to move out of the way, but the subject started to advance towards the officer and the father. The subject then violently grabbed his father from behind with both arms and swung the knife around the front of the father's neck. During the attack and struggle, both the subject and father fell to the ground with the subject still in possession of the knife and both engaged in a

struggle. The officer fired one round, striking the subject once in the side of his head which ended the violent attack.

Additional officers arrived within seconds of the shot being fired and provided first aid to the subject until fire/medics arrived.

The involved officer was placed on administrative leave by Federal Way Police Chief. He is a 10 ½ year veteran officer, with 6 years of service in Federal Way and 4 ½ years of service from out of state.

The subject is still in Harbor View Medical Center and VIIT has been in contact with a family member to provide them with updates on this investigation.

VIIT Investigation Update (July 15, 2021)

The VIIT investigators are presenting a briefing to the Chief of the Federal Way Police Department and the non-law enforcement representatives for Federal Way. The purpose of the briefing is to give the attendees a summary of incident, progress of the investigation, and timeline for completing the investigation.

VIIT Investigation Update (July 22, 2021)

The injured subject was released from the hospital on or about July 16th.

VIIT is nearing the completion of this investigation and is expecting to refer the investigation over to the King County Prosecutor's office for review in the next week or so. A press release will be issued once that occurs.

VIIT Investigation Update (July 29, 2021)

VIIT has completed the investigation and this case is being forwarded to the King County Prosecuting Attorney for review. No additional press releases will be issued from VIIT related to this incident.

Public notifications will be released weekly until the conclusion of the investigation. Media Inquiries regarding the Independent Investigation may be forwarded to Commander Holmes at mholmes@kentwa.gov

As 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

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