

# Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team

600 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.416.1911  
360.428.3211 (24-hour Dispatch)

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release:

Case #: 19-ST0001  
Date: March 21, 2019  
PIO: Trooper Heather Axtman  
E-mail: heather.axtman@wsp.wa.gov  
Phone #: (425) 508-0793

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On March 20, 2019 at approximately 8:25p.m., Mount Vernon Police Department (MVPD) Officers were dispatched to a shoplifter running away from Walmart on Freeway Drive. A witness was able to provide a clothing description and said the male shoplifter was carrying a plastic bag. The witness reported last seeing the suspect near Burgermaster, which is just south of Walmart.

The first arriving officer contacted a man just south of Burgermaster that matched the description of the suspect that was reported. As the officer was contacting the male, the male fled on foot and the officer gave chase. The male began to run across Freeway Drive when the officer deployed his department issued Taser; causing the male to fall to the ground. The male was struck by a vehicle that was traveling southbound on Freeway Drive and died at the scene.

The involved officer is 37 years old, and has served with the Mount Vernon Police Department for 4 years. He has been placed on paid administrative leave while the SMART team investigation continues.

SMART team detectives are examining all aspects of this case and are seeking any witnesses that may have information regarding this case. Please call the tip line at (360) 426-1950.