



*****For Immediate Release*****

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Government and Media Relations

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Investigation into Homicide Suspect's Death Continues

PORT ORCHARD – The Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (KCIRT) investigation into the death of Sean Michael Howell remains ongoing.

The Kitsap County Coroner's report has been provided to KCIRT, and shows the cause of death to be restraint asphyxia. The death has been ruled a homicide by the Coroner. KCIRT will continue to complete a thorough investigation into the specific actions and events that led up to his death.

This media release serves as a required weekly update per WAC 139-12, which states public updates will be provided "even if there is no new progress to report."

Howell, 28, was arrested by the Bremerton Police Department on Friday, May 8, 2020, and booked into Kitsap County Jail for First-Degree Murder.

On Saturday, May 9, 2020, at around 10:30 a.m., Kitsap County Corrections Officers responded to an incident involving Howell, who was housed in a crisis cell attempting to tamper with the cell's sprinkler system. Corrections officers entered Howell's cell and attempted to restrain him with the intention of moving him to a different cell. Howell began to violently resist, resulting in Howell and one of the corrections officers being injured and transported to the hospital. The corrections officer was treated and released. Howell died the morning of Friday, May 15, 2020.

The incident is being investigated by KCIRT, with the Washington State Patrol as the lead investigating agency.

Additional details regarding the incident will be released as the investigation continues. Any inquiries into the homicide case are to be directed to the Bremerton Police Department.

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