



*** UPDATE ***

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UPDATE #2: PALECIIRT Investigates Officer-Involved Shooting in Pullman

PULLMAN, Wash. – The below weekly update is in reference to the Palouse Area Law Enforcement Critical Incident Investigation Response Team (PALECIIRT) investigation of an officer-involved shooting that occurred at 1000 SE Latah St. on Dec. 15:

UPDATE: The Whitman County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team utilized verbal negotiations and less lethal tools during the more than 7-hour incident. Ultimately one Washington State University Police Department officer utilized lethal force at 3:58 a.m. The officer's name will be released by WSUPD per their agency policies and procedures.

Background: Pullman Police Department (PPD) officers responded to a disturbance at 1000 SE Latah St. at 8:34 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14. The incident resulted in the response of the Whitman County Regional SWAT, which includes officers from Whitman County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), Pullman Police Department (PPD), and the WSUPD.

Officers attempted to contact an individual inside one of the apartments. Negotiations between the officers on scene and the individual appeared to include verbal communications and less lethal tools prior to the use of lethal force at 3:58 a.m.

The individual was pronounced deceased at the scene. No officers were injured during the incident.

The WSP will be the lead investigating agency in this incident. All future media communications regarding this incident will be provided through the WSP Government and Media Relations (GMR) Division in Olympia.

WSUPD will release the name of the involved officer at a later time. The Whitman County Coroner's Office will release the name of the decedent when appropriate.

Once the PALECIIRT investigation is complete, the case will be forwarded to the Whitman County Prosecutor's Office for review.

In compliance with WAC 139-12, the Washington State University Police Department personnel will not be involved in this investigation. This update is required in compliance with WAC 139-12, which

mandates weekly updates be sent out by the lead investigative agency in investigations where a Washington State Peace Officer uses deadly force in the capacity of his or her law enforcement duties. These updates are required even if no new information is available at the time of the update.

Previous press releases can be found at <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/press-releases/>

With the passage of [Washington State Initiative 940](#) in 2018, and [Substitute House Bill 1064](#) in 2019, incidents where the use of deadly force by a peace officer results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm require an independent investigation. This investigation must be conducted in the same manner as a criminal investigation and state law now requires an “independent investigation” completely independent of the involved agency.

Per WAC 139-12, the IIT is unable to release any criminal history related to the individual, which includes the circumstances surrounding the initial contact, which prompted the law enforcement response. This information can only be released if specifically requested by the media, and is able to be released consistent with the Public Records Act Chapter 42.56 RCW.

Weekly update will be provided as the investigation continues. The policies and operating procedures of the IIT are available to the public at: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/about-us/our-mission/> or directly at: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CID-IIT-Protocol.pdf>

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