



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

Captain Neil Weaver  
Government and Media Relations

September 17, 2021

**Sergeant Darren Wright**  
360-239-0619  
[Darren.wright@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Darren.wright@wsp.wa.gov)  
Twitter: @WaStatePatrol

## Washington State Patrol Independent Investigation Team (IIT)

**Olympia-** WSP IIT is sending out this release as the required update regarding the independent investigation into the death of Mr. Manuel Ellis. Mr. Ellis died while in the custody of Tacoma Police Department on March 03, 2020.

The IIT has reconvened at the request of the Attorney General's (AG) Office, and has completed the vetting process of the detectives with the Community Representatives. The IIT is adding two detectives from the High Tech Crimes Unit to conduct forensic analysis of the cell phone recovered from the initial scene. The detectives are expected to begin their work as soon as possible.

*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.

Weekly updates 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>

###