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

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Contact: **Sergeant Jermaine Walker**
Phone: (253) 312-8880
Email: jermaine.walker@wsp.wa.gov

Weekly Update #4 WSP IIT Officer Involved Shooting

Tum Tum, Wash. – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred Thursday, July 2, 2026, in Tum Tum, Wash.

Wayne Tillman Branham, an 82-year-old resident of Stevens County, received fatal injuries in this encounter.

Investigation revealed four personnel from the Stevens County Sheriff's Office fired their weapons during this incident. They are identified as follows:

Sergeant Mark Coon
Detective Eric Peterson
Deputy Cameron Craddock
Deputy Jason Lee

This investigation remains ongoing.

Investigation and Process:

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.

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 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/independent-investigation-team/.

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