

Capital Metro Independent Investigations Team (CMIIT)

Media Release

City of Olympia Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Investigation

August 24, 2022

On August 22, 2022, at approximately 10:20am, Olympia Police Department officers were dispatched to Starbucks in the 4000 block of Martin Way East, Olympia, for a disorderly man who was refusing to leave the store. The man was reported to be disruptive and locked himself in the bathroom despite being asked to leave. The eventually man exited the bathroom, but continued to be disruptive, appearing agitated and shouting.

When the three Olympia officers arrived on the scene, the man left the building and walked into traffic on Martin Way East, a busy street. He continued to shout while in the middle of traffic. Officers attempted to convince him to leave the roadway for his safety and that of the drivers. The obstruction of traffic and pedestrian interference established probable cause to arrest the man for disorderly conduct. The man eventually walked back to the parking lot and officers once again tried to engage him. According to witnesses, the man had a knife in one hand and a book in the other as he was walking toward them. Officers told the man to drop the knife several times and two officers deployed their conductive energy devices (“Tasers”) in an attempt to stop him, but neither was effective. The man continued toward the third officer who also ordered him to drop the knife. The man continued to advance toward the officer who fired his duty weapon, striking the man. Officers requested medics and rendered aid. Medics arrived soon thereafter and transported the man to Providence St. Peter Hospital where he later died. Investigators recovered the knife and the Tasers at the scene. Officers were not injured during the event. The officer has been an Olympia Police Office for three years; the deceased was a 37-year-old Olympia man.

During the initial investigation, detectives learned that prior to arriving at the Starbucks, the man had been at an adjacent gas station where he attempted to walk out with alcohol while refusing to pay for it. The man had made threatening statements and was acting erratically; leading employees to use pepper spray in order to force him to exit the store.

The Olympia Police Department contacted the Capital Metro Independent Investigative Team (CMIIT) to request an independent investigation of this event. The CMIIT is an independent investigative team comprised of detectives and investigators of the Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Yelm Police Departments. Following the LETCSA rules and guidelines (I-940 legislation), the Olympia

Police Department members of the CMIIT are not a part of this investigation.

Updates about this investigation and information about the CMIIT can be found at:

<http://www.capmetroinvestigations.org/>

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident, please contact the CMIIT investigators at 360.459.4333.

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