From: Paul Lower
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: Tumwater Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Investigation
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MEDIA RELEASE

Capitol Metro Independent Investigative Team

Media Release

Tumwater Police Department Officer Involved Shooting Investigation

On June 22, 2020, at about 5:45 pm, Tumwater Police Officers were dispatched to the Safeway grocery store in the 500 block of Cleveland Ave for reports of a suspicious person. 911 callers reported that a man in the parking lot was acting erratically and threatening suicide. He was holding a knife and told witnesses that he had a handgun in a vehicle nearby. Tumwater Officers arrived and immediately attempted to de-escalate the situation. They negotiated with the suicidal man while also escorting many bystanders safely out of the area. The man then entered a truck and began repeatedly and recklessly driving through the Safeway parking lot. He restated his wish to commit suicide and was holding a knife.

After officers stopped the vehicle using spike strips, a Tumwater Officer approached it to continue talking to the driver. The man suddenly drove his truck directly at the Officer who then discharged his firearm at the man. The man appeared uninjured, but he again stopped the truck. He remained in his vehicle and negotiations continued between him and law enforcement. The Thurston County SWAT team responded to the scene and eventually were able to take the man into custody without further incident. The Capitol Metro Independent Investigative Team (IIT) was called to the scene to conduct an independent investigation of the incident.

As a result of the investigation, 20-year-old Jose Diaz, of California, was arrested and booked into Thurston County Jail for the crime of Assault 1st degree for attempting to ram his vehicle into a police officer. Diaz sustained minor injuries during this incident and was treated at the scene by Fire Department personnel. He was not struck by bullets from the officer.

The officer involved in this incident is a two-year veteran with the Tumwater police department. As

is normal procedure, the officer has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

This investigation is being conducted by the Capitol Metro IIT team led by the Lacey Police Department and assisted by the Olympia Police Department. Personnel from the Tumwater Police Department are not participating in the investigation.

Media Information about the investigation will be provided by the Olympia Police Department. You can reach Olympia Police Department PIO Paul Lower at 360.753.8410.

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