



PCFIT

Pierce County Force Investigation Team



Press Release

Pierce County Sheriff's Department Officer Involved Shooting 1/09/2022

PCFIT Activated for Officer Involved Shooting

Pierce County, WA January 9th 2022:

On 1-9-22, at 12:11 AM Buckley PD received a call about a woman being shot and killed by her boyfriend who had since fled the scene. Before a Buckley officer could arrive at the residence, Pierce County deputies saw the vehicle driving at a high rate of speed. As probable cause had not yet been developed, deputies were unable to pursue the vehicle. They were, however, able to deploy stop sticks that slowed the suspect vehicle enough that they could follow without pursuing while probable cause was developed.

At 12:20 AM, Buckley officers advised that the female was deceased and they had probable cause for the suspect in the vehicle. Deputies then initiated a stop and were able to get the vehicle off the road a short time later.

At 12:22 AM the deputies advised over the radio that shots had been fired. No deputies were injured and the suspect died at the scene.

An investigation into the officer involved shooting was initiated by the Pierce County Force Investigation Team (PCFIT). Further details on the officer involved shooting will be released as they become available. For inquiries about the initial homicide, please contact the Buckley Police Department.

Any questions regarding the ongoing investigation can be sent to:

****UPDATE 01-13-22****

The medical examiner's investigation of the deceased found only one single gunshot wound to the head with no other gunshot wounds or injuries that would have been caused by the involved deputies. The manner of death was listed as suicide with the cause of death listed as a single gunshot wound to the head. This determination is corroborated by physical evidence at the scene that included a firearm present inside the vehicle, a single fired shell casing, and a corresponding bullet defect inside the vehicle. The Medical Examiner and detectives were also able to view video footage of the incident that supports the determination of suicide.

This concludes PCFIT's involvement in this investigation. All materials will be turned over to the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

Lt. Chris Lawler
Lakewood Police Department/Public Information Officer
(253) 830-5011 Desk
(253) 606-6981 Cellular
clawler@cityoflakewood.us

