



PCFIT

Pierce County Force Investigation Team



Press Release

Officer Involved Shooting

Tacoma Police Officers were involved in a shooting while attempting to arrest a subject at 5700 E. McKinley Ave in Tacoma.

February 3, 2023:

There are no updates at this time. The investigation is ongoing.

January 27, 2023:

The officers involved in this incident have been identified as:

Officer Lucas Cole, a 37-year-old male who has been with the Tacoma Police Department for 8 months. Officer Cole previously was with Pierce County Sheriff for 5 years.

Officer Truitt Hartle, a 32-year-old male who has been with Tacoma Police for 3 years and 3 months. Officer Hartle previously worked for the Federal Way Police Department for 2 years and 5 months.

Officer Shawn Gustason, a 28-year-old male who has been with the Tacoma Police Department for 4 years and 6 months.

The involved officers have been placed on administrative leave in accordance with their department policies. The investigation is ongoing.

January 20, 2023:

There are no updates at this time. The investigation is ongoing.

January 13, 2023:

There are no updates at this time. The investigation is ongoing.

For Immediate Release February 3, 2023

January 6, 2023:

The deceased male was identified by the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office as Dillion Pugsley a 39-year-old male. The investigation is ongoing.

Tacoma, WA. December 30, 2022:

At 8:00 pm on December 29th, Tacoma Police responded to a shots fired call at a bar on 1200 S 56th St. During their investigation officers were able to identify the subject involved and developed probable cause to arrest him for unlawful possession of a firearm and Unlawful Discharge of a firearm. Officers located the vehicle, but it would not pull over when they attempted to stop it. They did not give chase and the vehicle fled.

At 9:45 pm the same bar called in and said the subject was back at the bar. Tacoma Officers arrived on scene and the subject fled in his vehicle again.

At 03:05 am, on December 30th, Tacoma Police located the subject asleep in his vehicle. There was a woman in the passenger seat of the vehicle who was also asleep. Officers placed stop sticks in front of the vehicle and then initiated a felony stop.

The subject fled and ran over one of the stop sticks. The subject had multiple flat tires and his speed was reported as being very slow. Officers followed him as he fled. At one point the vehicle crashed at E. 43rd Street and F Street. The female passenger got out of the vehicle and was detained. The subject continued to drive away.

The subject went south on McKinley Ave to the 5700 block where the vehicle eventually stopped and the shooting occurred. At 03:22 am officers radioed the subject was down.

Medics were called to the scene, but the 39-year-old man did not survive his injuries. No officers were injured in the shooting. A firearm was recovered from the scene.

The Pierce County Force Investigation Team was called out to investigate the officer involved shooting. The investigation is ongoing.

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