



# PCFIT

Pierce County Force  
Investigation Team



# Press Release

## **Officer Involved Shooting**

Bonney Lake Police officer involved in shooting while attempting to contact occupant of stolen vehicle behind Fred Meyer store on State Route 410 in the City of Bonney Lake.

### **January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 10:14 am Officer Brian VanSickle of the Bonney Lake Police Department was responding to assist another officer with stopping a stolen silver Honda Civic. Officer VanSickle located the stolen vehicle, turned on his overhead lights and partially blocked the Honda in with his patrol vehicle. He got out of his vehicle and ordered the driver to put his hands up. The driver complied, so Officer VanSickle came around the front of his vehicle to contact the suspect. At this time, the vehicle accelerated forward and hit Officer VanSickle in the legs, causing him to land on the hood of the car. Officer VanSickle responded by firing one round into the windshield of the vehicle. He rolled off the other side of the hood and landed on the ground.

Officer VanSickle suffered minor abrasions and bruising on his left knee and both elbows. Detectives were able to confirm what occurred based on statements by the officer and surveillance footage which captured the incident. The surveillance video is also being released at this time.

Deputies and the US Marshals arrested the suspect, Kenneth Whiteman, on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, and do not believe he was struck by the round fired into the vehicle.

The Pierce County Prosecutors Office has already reviewed the case and Charges were filed against Whiteman for Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.

This concludes the investigation. There will be no additional updates.

**For Immediate Release 5:00 p.m., January 12, 2021**

**January 5, 2021:**

The investigation is active and ongoing. There are no new updates to report at this time.

**December 29, 2020:**

The investigation is active and ongoing. There are no new updates to report at this time.

**December 22, 2020:**

During the K9 track, on Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>, the dog had brought officers to the 24100 block of Entwistle Rd E where it was later reported a box van had been stolen. The box van was dumped at a business in Tacoma and recovered from a tow yard. Detectives believe the suspect may have avoided capture by stealing this second vehicle.

Through witness interviews, Investigators identified the suspect in this incident as 24-year-old Kenneth Whiteman. At 12:30 a.m. on Monday December 21, 2020, Whiteman was arrested by Pierce County Sheriff Deputies and United States Marshals with the Pacific Northwest Violent Offender Task Force. The task force tracked Whiteman to a hotel at the 1400 block of E 27<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Tacoma. Whiteman had been given a ride by a friend and when they arrived in the parking lot deputies and the marshals surrounded the vehicle. Whiteman was ordered out of the vehicle and complied with their commands. Whiteman was arrested and booked into the Pierce County Jail. Whiteman is being charged by the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office with Assault in the 1st Degree.

The investigation is ongoing.

**Bonney Lake, WA. December 15, 2020:** At 10:14 a.m. on Tuesday December 15, 2020, an officer with the Bonney Lake Police Department spotted a stolen silver 1997 Honda Civic in the parking lot of a Fred Meyer store located in the 20900 block of State Route 410 in the City of Bonney Lake. The vehicle was reported stolen the previous night in the City of Tacoma.

As an officer approached the vehicle he radioed that shots were fired and the stolen car fled the scene. Multiple units from Bonney Lake Police, Puyallup Police, Sumner Police, and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department responded to the area to search for the fleeing vehicle.

At 10:32 a.m. a witness called 911 to report that an unidentified male had abandoned a vehicle in her driveway. Officers responded to the neighborhood along State Route 410 near 234<sup>th</sup> Ave. in the Buckley area, where they confirmed it was the stolen vehicle involved in the incident at the Fred Meyer store. The witness reported seeing a white male park and walk away from the vehicle, and the surrounding area was searched by K9 units but the suspect was not located.

The Pierce County Force Investigation Team is on scene and will be handling the investigation.

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