



PCFIT

Pierce County Force



Investigation Team

Press Release

Tacoma Police Vehicle vs. Pedestrian

On January 23, 2021 a Tacoma Police officer responded to a report of a reckless driving event in the intersection of South 9th Street and Pacific Avenue. When the officer arrived participants at the event surrounding his patrol vehicle. The officer attempted to back up, but was blocked in by the participants. He then drove forward through the crowd striking some of the participants.

Tacoma, Washington February 5, 2021:

The Pierce County Force Investigation Team (PCFIT) recognizes that the incident that occurred on January 23, 2021, in the City of Tacoma is of great concern to Tacoma citizens, elected officials, and the Tacoma Police Department. We want to assure the community that we are conducting a thorough independent investigation of the incident and inform you that this investigation will likely take several more weeks to complete. However, to be transparent, we want to let you know what PCFIT investigators have accomplished to date:

- Six individuals who may have been struck by the patrol vehicle have been identified. Investigators have interviewed three of the individuals and are attempting to obtain statements from the remaining three. Expect that more information regarding these individuals will be released at a later date.
- Investigators have received thirty-three (33) tips regarding the incident.
- Investigators have attempted contact with all thirty-three (33) individuals who have provided a tip. The tips have resulted in several formal interviews and other videos of the incident.
- Aside from the tips, investigators have attempted to contact twenty-three (23) other individuals who called in to report the incident or were mentioned in police reports.

For Immediate Release 12:00 p.m. PST, February 5, 2021

- Both the tips and the comprehensive review of police reports have led to several additional potential witnesses, some of whom have subsequently been interviewed.
- Members of PCFIT have processed the Tacoma Police vehicles involved in the incident. PCFIT received assistance in processing the involved officer's vehicle from the Washington State Patrol Crime Response Team and the Metro Cities Major Collision Response Team.
- Conducted a broad canvas of the area around the incident to obtain additional video evidence.

Based upon the investigation to date, investigators believe that there may be additional witnesses who have yet to come forward. Investigators are requesting that anyone who witnessed the incident or has video evidence please contact the Puyallup Police Department tip line at 253-770-3343.

In closing, the Pierce County Force Investigation Team is committed to conducting a thorough investigation while maintaining transparency with the community. Our goal with this release today is to let Tacoma citizens, their elected officials, and the Tacoma Police Department know that we are working diligently to identify and capture the facts surrounding this incident.

Tacoma, Washington January 25, 2021:

The two individuals that were treated at local hospitals on Saturday night were a 21-year-old man from Tacoma who was released that night. The other subject is a 21-year-old man from Kent, Washington, who was admitted with non-life threatened injuries. Any other individuals that were injured in this incident should contact the Puyallup Police Department.

The Tacoma Police Department has placed the officer in this incident on paid administrative leave. He has been identified as 58-year-old Officer Khanh Phan, who has been a member of the Tacoma Police Department for 29 ½ years. The officer was placed on paid administrative leave per department policy on the evening of January 23rd, immediately following the incident.

The PCFIT members involved with this incident are as follows:

Cpt. Portmann-Puyallup PD (Incident Commander/Family Liaison)
Det. Sgt. Kevin Gill-Puyallup PD
Det. Ken Lewis-Puyallup PD (Lead Investigator)
Det. Shelby Wilcox-Puyallup PD
Det. Seth Habeck-Puyallup PD
Det. Jordan Wicks-Puyallup PD
Det. Sean Scott-Bonney Lake PD
Det. Brian Byerley-Bonney Lake PD
Det. Paul Johnson-Milton PD

more

Non-Law Enforcement Citizen Representatives

David Stokes
Jennifer Jefferson

Specialty Support Units

Metro Major Collision Response Team (Scene documentation).

Investigators would like to hear from anyone that witnessed the incident or might have video recordings. Please contact the Puyallup Police Department through their Tip Line at 253-770-3343 or by email at tips@puyallupwa.gov

For additional information please contact Captain Dan Pashon. He can be contacted at the numbers listed below:

Office 253-256-7239

Cellular 253-377-2565

Danp@puyallupwa.gov

Tacoma, WA. January 24, 2021:

On January 23, 2021, the Pierce County Force Investigation Team (PCFIT) responded to investigate an incident involving a Tacoma Police Officer that had reportedly struck one or more pedestrians at the intersection of 9th and Pacific Avenue in the City of Tacoma.

Officers from several outside agencies responded and are conducting an independent investigation into the incident.

Two individuals were taken to area hospitals. One them has seen been released. None of the injuries were believed to be life threatening.

Investigators would like to hear from anyone that witnessed the incident or might have video. Please contact the Puyallup Police Department through their Tip Line at 253-770-3343 or by email at tips@puyallupwa.gov.

The Pierce County Force Investigation Team (PCFIT) is a team of detectives, forensic investigators, and public information officers from law enforcement agencies throughout Pierce County who investigate use of deadly force incidents involving officers. The multi-agency team operates under the independent investigation criteria set forth by Washington State Administrative Code 139-12-030 of the Law Enforcement Training & Community Safety Act.