



Kitsap County Sheriff's Office



Poulsbo Police Department

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Officer involved shooting

Traffic stop ends with fatal encounter

Silverdale, Wash. -- A late evening vehicle traffic stop in Silverdale suddenly turned deadly when the driver of the stopped car changed a routine evolution into one involving the use of lethal force.

The driver, a 23 year-old Bremerton man, was mortally wounded when shots were fired during a violent encounter with an investigating officer.

The officer, a five-year veteran with Poulsbo Police Department, was not injured.

The shooting occurred at 10:30 p.m., Friday, in the parking lot of Timberland Bank, 2401 NW Bucklin Hill Road, in Silverdale.

Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue engine and medic units responded to render emergency medical care. When it was determined that airlift to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, would have an extended arrival time, the driver was transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, where he died.

Kitsap County Sheriff's patrol deputies and detectives initiated an investigation into the shooting shortly after it occurred. The investigation continues.

The officer was a member of the Kitsap County DUI Task Force, a multi-agency team conducting additional traffic safety emphasis patrols Friday night, in the Central Kitsap area, to detect and remove impaired drivers from roadways. A Navy petty officer was riding with the Poulsbo officer as an observer. He, too, was not injured.

“Although the investigation is in its early stages, a preliminary analysis indicates that the officer contacted the driver during the course of a traffic stop,” said Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer. “Almost immediately the officer was engaged in a struggle with the driver and shots were fired. A handgun was found at the scene.”

“Any death by violent means is tragic,” added the sheriff. “However, I’m extremely relieved that this officer recognized the threat, took action and prevailed. We are finding situations similar to this all too common now and it exemplifies the dangers that deputies, officers and troopers face daily.”

Further details about this investigation will be withheld from public release until the investigation is finished and turned over to the prosecutor’s office for review.

The officer is on administrative assignment, per agency policy, pending completion of the shooting investigation and an internal administrative review by Poulsbo Police Department.

The identity of the driver is being withheld pending notification of next of kin by the Kitsap County Coroner’s Office.

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