



KITSAP CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM



News

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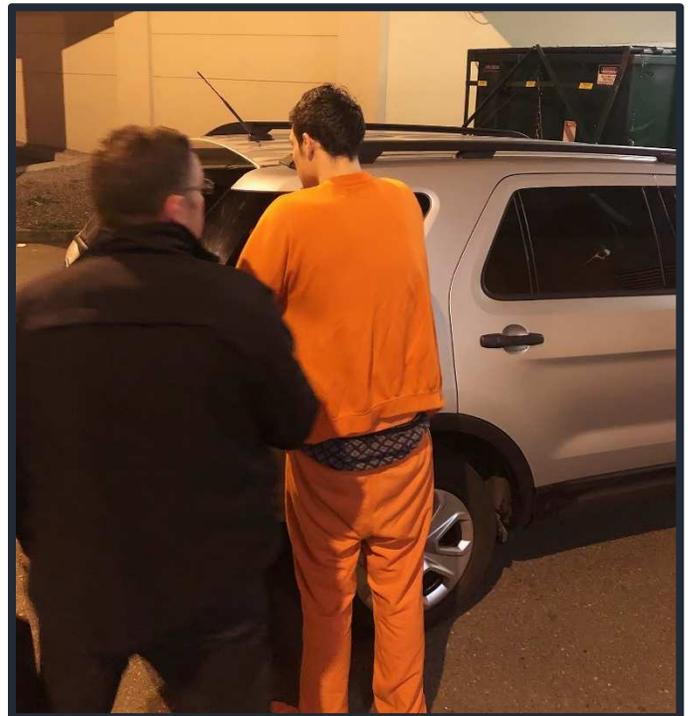
South Kitsap Death investigation arrest

PORT ORCHARD, Wash. -- Detectives with the Kitsap Critical Incident Response Team (**KCIRT**) have arrested a South Kitsap man in connection with an on-going investigation into the death of a 20-year-old South Kitsap woman.

Joseph Anthony Armas, age 22, was taken into custody Tuesday night in Nisqually, Thurston County. He was booked into the Kitsap County Jail on charges of manslaughter, 1st degree (domestic violence) and unlawful possession of a firearm. Bail was set at \$600,000.

The incident occurred Sunday evening inside an apartment in the 2200 block of Sidney Avenue, Port Orchard. The apartment was leased to Ashlee Jo Marie McClelland, the victim. Ms. McClelland and Armas were in a dating relationship.

Armas is prohibited, by court order, from being in possession of any firearm. While handling a gun inside the apartment it discharged and the bullet struck Ms. McClelland in the chest.



Joseph Armas is escorted into the Kitsap County Jail, Tuesday night, for booking on charges of manslaughter and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Armas and another person transported Ms. McClelland in a Toyota Corolla to Harrison Urgent Care in Port Orchard. A Port Orchard police officer in the area conducting traffic control followed the Corolla to the urgent care parking lot to contact the driver concerning the erratic driving of the Corolla. The officer discovered the critically injured woman and immediately initiated emergency first aid.

South Kitsap Fire & Rescue responded, continued emergency first aid care while transporting Ms. McClelland to Tacoma General Hospital, in Pierce County, where she succumbed to her gunshot injury.

The Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed the victim's identity and performed an autopsy. The medical examiner issued a determination that Ms. McClelland died from injuries received from the gunshot injury to her chest. The manner of death is listed as homicide.

Shortly after the incident was reported, Port Orchard Police Chief Geoffrey Marti requested assistance from **KCIRT** to investigate Ms. McClelland's death.

"I am very confident with this investigative process as demonstrated by the detectives operating as part of **KCIRT**," said Chief Marti. "They will continue this investigation to a thorough conclusion and provide a case file for the Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to use in adjudicating this case."

Joseph Armas is scheduled to make a preliminary appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court today at 3 p.m.

KCIRT agencies involved in this investigation:

- Bainbridge Island Police Department
- Bremerton Police Department
- Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
- Port Orchard Police Department
- Poulsbo Police Department
- Washington State Patrol (District 8)

Persons who may have information about this investigation are asked to contact Port Orchard Police Detective Beth Deatherage at 360.876.7011, or Kitsap County Sheriff's Detective Jerry Swayze at 360.337.4479.

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