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**NEWS MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 2, 2021

RE: Officer Involved Shooting Findings in Dante Jones
SIU Case-FCSO#19-05347

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) was called out to investigate an officer involved shooting that occurred on November 18, 2019 that resulted in the death of Dante Jones. The purpose of the SIU is to investigate officer-involved incidents that occur within Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties which involve great bodily harm or death.

Three Franklin County Sheriff's Deputies, including the involved officer, provided voluntary statements and interviews to SIU investigators as part of the investigation. The Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team (WSP CSRT), WSP Toxicology Laboratory, and members of the SIU Team conducted the investigation.

The SIU team was activated at the request of Franklin County Sheriff Jim Raymond. SIU team members processed two scenes: scene #1, located at Sage Hill Road just south of Wahluke Road, and scene #2 located approximately 1.5 miles to the north at Sage Hill Road north of Hendricks Road where Mr. Jones' vehicle came to a stop in a field. Mr. Jones' car was a Honda Civic and was impounded for later examination by the WSP Crime Scene Response Team.

The Franklin County Prosecutor's Office received the completed SIU reports, as well as additional information throughout 2020 and additional information as recent as a few weeks ago in preparation of final review of this case. We were contacted by Mr. Jones' family members and close friends who reached out to us during the review of

this case. Additional background information was received from them and was considered during our review. We have concluded our review and make the following findings:

Initial Call and Deputy Response-

On November 18, 2019 at approximately 2:45AM, Franklin County Sheriff Deputies were dispatched to a suspicious vehicle call at 2551 West Fir Road, approximately 15 miles north of Pasco in Franklin County. Weather at the time was near freezing with thick fog in places. This location is in the primary jurisdiction of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). Responding to this call were FCSO Sergeant Thomasson, Deputy Gardner, and Deputy Quantrell. Sergeant Thomasson's patrol vehicle is a fully marked SUV with the emergency lights integrated within the interior of the vehicle. Deputy Gardner and Deputy Quantrell have similarly marked SUV patrol vehicles with internal emergency lights.

At 3:08AM, while searching for the suspect vehicle, Sergeant Thomasson was traveling southbound on Taylor Flats and was approached by a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction at 82MPH in a posted 55MPH zone. Sergeant Thomasson turned his marked SUV patrol vehicle around and tried to catch up to the vehicle. Sergeant Thomasson did not activate his patrol vehicle's emergency lights due to the distance he was behind the vehicle and due to the blinding effect reflecting emergency lights had in the fog. By the time Sergeant Thomasson turned around on the highway, he lost visual observation of the vehicle in the fog. Sergeant Thomasson advised other deputies he was trying to catch up to the car and Deputies Gardner and Quantrell began moving in that direction to assist. Sergeant Thomasson thought it was a strong possibility that this was the suspicious car reported earlier on West Fir Road. Deputy Quantrell did not have a radar speed measuring device in his vehicle, but noted as the suspect car passed by him the driver honked the horn. Sergeant Thomasson mentioned over the police radio hearing the driver honk as he passed.

Sergeant Thomasson continued to catch up to the vehicle as he approached the intersection of Taylor Flats and Ringold which is a T-intersection requiring Taylor Flats northbound traffic to stop for a posted stop sign. The suspect car was observed in the roadway as if waiting for Sergeant Thomasson to catch up. As he got closer to the suspect car, it sped off again. The car was anywhere from 200 to 500 yards away from Sergeant Thomasson as he was trying to catch up. Emergency lights had not been

activated and it is unknown whether the suspect would have known a law enforcement vehicle was following him and attempting to catch up. Deputies Gardner and Quantrell were still behind Sergeant Thomasson's vehicle catching up to the location.

At 3:13AM, Sergeant Thomasson advised dispatch he was on R-170 near Davis road and trying to catch a car doing 80 MPH and to advise Adams County the car may be heading that way. Sergeant Thomasson advised dispatch he was not in pursuit as he was not able to get close enough to the car to activate his emergency lights. At 3:15AM, Sergeant Thomasson advised dispatch this may be the same car as the earlier suspicious vehicle call.

At 3:18AM, Deputy Quantrell confirmed seeing Sergeant Thomasson's vehicle and the suspect car ahead of him. Sergeant Thomasson advised Deputies Quantrell and Gardner that he will pull over to allow them to pass as their patrol vehicles had better traction. Sergeant Thomasson noticed Deputy Quantrell and Deputy Gardner had their emergency lights activated as they passed his patrol vehicle.

At 3:19AM, Deputy Quantrell had passed Sergeant Thomasson's vehicle and advised dispatch the vehicle was failing to yield. Deputy Quantrell requested the dispatch channel restricted, meaning it is reserved for the deputies now involved trying to stop the eluding car. Previous radio traffic between the deputies discussed attempts to catch up to the vehicle and to get close enough to activate emergency lights and initiate a traffic stop. Deputy Quantrell reported over the radio that the suspect vehicle tried to "brake check me" (which Deputy Quantrell described during his interview with investigators as an attempt to get the deputy to hit the rear end of the pursued vehicle.) Deputy Quantrell stated in his interview the suspect slammed on his brakes hard and Deputy Quantrell almost rear-ended the suspect vehicle. Deputy Gardner described this incident similarly to Deputy Quantrell and believed the suspect was trying to initiate a collision between patrol vehicles and the suspect vehicle.

Deputy Quantrell's siren can be heard on the recorded radio traffic after he called out the attempt to stop the suspect vehicle. At 3:20AM, Deputy Gardner advised dispatch speeds hitting 73 MPH and entering fog again. At 3:21AM, Deputy Gardner called out speeds reaching 80 MPH approaching Memorial Lane. At 3:22AM, Deputy Quantrell advised the suspect had slowed down to highway speeds and was no longer driving reckless at this point.

Sergeant Thomasson stated in his recorded statement with SIU investigators he advised Deputies Quantrell and Gardner to terminate the pursuit due to low visibility. Sergeant Thomasson's call to terminate the pursuit was not captured on the dispatch recording, however, Deputy Quantrell stated during his interview with investigators he heard the call to terminate the pursuit. Deputy Quantrell stated he requested to follow from a distance and this request was captured on the dispatch recording.

At 3:22:44AM Deputy Quantrell is heard on dispatch recording to say "copy" and immediately requests to follow at a distance. "Copy" is a term used over the radio to communicate that the message was received or an acknowledgment of the transmission. Deputy Quantrell described following at a distance upon terminating a pursuit would mean lights and siren are shut off and deputies would follow from a safe distance behind the vehicle. Sergeant Thomasson stated he confirmed Deputies could follow at a distance but this radio transmission was not captured on the dispatch recording. On the dispatch recording, immediately following Deputy Quantrell's request to follow at a distance, Deputy Quantrell advised the vehicle was stopping in the roadway. There was no break in Deputy Quantrell's radio transmission between the request to follow at a distance and when he advised the suspect vehicle was stopping in the roadway. It is possible Sergeant Thomasson's radio transmission was covered by Deputy Quantrell when he advised the vehicle was stopping in the roadway. At this point in time, the vehicle was being pursued for reckless driving and speeding in the fog. It was unknown whether this was the suspicious car initially reported on West Fir Road.

At 3:23:16AM, Deputy Quantrell advised the suspect car just tried to hit his patrol vehicle. Deputy Quantrell announces over the radio that he has assault 1, which is a Class A serious violent felony. (*RCW 9A.36.010*) At 3:23:25AM, Deputy Quantrell advised Sergeant Thomasson that the suspect continued to try and hit Deputy Quantrell's patrol vehicle. Deputy Quantrell described this situation further during his interview with investigators.

Deputy Quantrell said he had turned off his emergency lights and siren when the suspect car had stopped in the road and he observed the suspect car's reverse lights come on. The suspect car began backing at a high rate of speed towards Deputy Quantrell's patrol vehicle and came to a stop parallel to Deputy Quantrell's driver's side of the patrol vehicle. Deputy Quantrell stated he exited his vehicle with his firearm drawn and approached the front passenger door of the suspect's car. It was unlocked

so he opened the door and began yelling commands "let me see your hands" and "you're under arrest." Deputy Quantrell said he entered the suspect car to grab the ignition key with his left hand to turn off the car.

Deputy Quantrell stated he was halfway in the car when the driver looked at him and did not say anything. The suspect then shifted the gearshift to drive and began accelerating with Deputy Quantrell still halfway in the car. As the car accelerated, the passenger door closed on Deputy Quantrell. Deputy Quantrell stated he feared he was going to be drug under the car or ran over. Deputy Quantrell stated he discharged his firearm in self-defense as he feared serious injury or death. Deputy Quantrell fell out of the car and landed on the pavement as the car accelerated and continued northbound.

At 3:23:55AM, Deputy Quantrell advised over the radio shots fired and suspect had been hit and continued northbound. At 3:24:47AM, Deputy Quantrell advised over the radio the nature of his injuries from falling to the ground. At 3:25:03AM Deputy Quantrell advised suspect car is stopped in the field. At 3:27:18AM, Deputy Quantrell called over the radio suspect is down and to send medics.

Sergeant Thomasson, Deputy Quantrell, and Deputy Gardner rendered aid until medics arrived on scene. Othello PD Sergeant Andersen arrived on scene and had a Body Worn Camera (BWC) as well as a dash camera in his vehicle. Dash camera footage showed what appears to be deteriorating visibility approaching the scene from Othello. As Sergeant Andersen approached the stopped FCSO patrol vehicles and the suspect car, Franklin County deputies were observed providing medical treatment to Mr. Jones.

Witness Interviews and Statements-

Deputy Gardner was interviewed and provided a statement to SIU investigators. His patrol vehicle was behind Deputy Quantrell's vehicle when Mr. Jones' car came to a stop in the roadway at an intersection. It appeared to Deputy Gardner that Mr. Jones was waiting for deputies to catch up to him. Deputy Quantrell called out the license plate of the car and then the car took off. Deputy Quantrell stated his emergency lights were activated at this time and after Mr. Jones took off, Deputy Quantrell activated his siren as well.

Deputy Gardner stated the suspect car came to a stop parallel to Deputy Quantrell's patrol vehicle. Deputy Gardner was approximately 75 feet behind the two vehicles. Deputy Gardner exited his patrol vehicle and observed Deputy Quantrell

already inside Mr. Jones' vehicle. He could not hear everything Deputy Quantrell said but remembered hearing "Franklin County" and "hands". Deputy Gardner stated he saw Deputy Quantrell's entire torso inside the suspect's car. Deputy Gardner stated in his recorded interview, "As I exited my patrol vehicle I heard Deputy Quantrell give verbal commands to suspect [Mr. Jones]. Suspect vehicle then recklessly continued northbound dragging Deputy Quantrell as half of his body was still inside the vehicle."

Deputy Gardner stated he saw Deputy Quantrell's body half inside the car when he heard gunshots and saw flashes from inside the car. Deputy Quantrell fell out of the car and it continued northbound. Deputy Gardner ran up to Deputy Quantrell to see if he was ok and then they both returned to their patrol vehicles to pursue Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones continued up the highway for about 1.5 miles before he drifted into a field of young tree saplings. Sergeant Thomasson was the first patrol vehicle that approached Mr. Jones' car and he drove his vehicle to the passenger side door and pinned the doors closed. Sergeant Thomasson broke out the rear passenger side window to get a better view into the car as the number of occupants was unknown at this time. Deputies Gardner and Quantrell arrived on scene and pulled Mr. Jones out of the driver seat of the car. Mr. Jones was the driver and lone occupant of the car. Deputies continued to provide medical treatment until the ambulance arrived on scene.

Deputy Quantrell is an Army veteran and received Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3) medical training during his military service. He had a large medical bag in his patrol vehicle and he and the other deputies applied tourniquets and other bandages to Mr. Jones while awaiting for medics to arrive. Deputies requested an air ambulance evacuation but due to poor visibility the flight crew could not fly to the scene.

SIU Team Photos of Deputy Quantrell and Sergeant Thomasson Injuries-

Several photos were taken of Deputy Quantrell's injuries. Deputy Quantrell sustained injuries to his right hand, in particular the right middle finger that appeared to have the fingernail partially detached in photos labeled IMG_2426 and 2429. Injury is observed to the left knee in photos labeled IMG_2430, 2432, and 2433. An abrasion wound to the left shin is observed in photos labeled IMG_2434, and 2435. An abrasion or scrape wound is observed in photo labeled IMG_2436 and 2437.

Sergeant Thomasson also sustained injuries to which he attributed to when he broke out Mr. Jones' rear passenger window with his flashlight. Various cuts on his right hand fingers are observed in photos labeled IMG_2422, 2423, and 2424.

Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team (WSP CSRT)-

Mr. Jones' car was a Honda Civic and was impounded at the scene for later examination by the WSP CSRT. Several photos were taken of the car. During examination of the car, several items of evidence were collected including an empty shell casing and 3 bullet projectiles. A few significant photos are identified by their respective WSP photo number and are referenced below:

WSP 0031 and 0032- Photos of the rear passenger side window that was broken out by Sergeant Thomasson after the vehicle came to a stop in a field. Sergeant Thomasson provided an account of this in his statement to investigators.

WSP 0068- Fired bullet located on driver's seat. WSP marked this as item #8.

WSP 0070- Driver's seat bullet damage consistent with a bullet trajectory coming from front passenger seat area. Investigators used trajectory rods to illustrate likely path of travel.

WSP 0133- Evidence item #9 captures a fired bullet observed on the driver's floor near the driver's door in front of the trunk release and gas lever release handle on the floor.

WSP 192- Trajectory rod photo of driver's seat defect.

WSP 0185, 0186, 0188-0197- Photos displayed a trajectory rod to capture pathway of bullet consistent with a projectile fired from the front passenger seat area. Mr. Jones' injuries observed during the autopsy are consistent with a person who was seated in the driver's seat at the time shots were fired.

WSP 0199-0203- Photos of a spent shell casing on the front passenger floor. This item was marked as item #14 in the photographs.

WSP Crime Lab Report 219-003184(Request 0002) analyzed the recovered fired bullets and concluded the fired bullets are consistent in weight and design with .40 caliber class (to include the 40 S&W caliber) jacketed hollow point bullets. Deputy Quantrell was issued a Glock model 22, .40 caliber pistol. Tests concluded the spent shell casing identified as item #14 located on the front passenger floor, as well as the three other shell casings recovered in the roadway, were fired from Deputy Quantrell's firearm.

The front passenger window was observed in the upright position and intact at the time of the WSP examination. The front passenger window was also observed by

Sergeant Thomasson in the upright position when he approached Mr. Jones' car after it came to a stop in the field. No bullet holes or bullet defects were discovered or observed from the exterior of the car. A defect was located at the top of the rear passenger window frame where the window seals near the top of the door frame. This defect tested negative for traces of lead and copper which is a common testing method in determining whether the defect was caused by a bullet. This defect may have occurred when Sergeant Thomasson struck the window to gain visibility into the car.

During examination of Mr. Jones' car, other defects were observed in the driver's seat and driver's door. Testing was conducted to detect the presence of copper and lead. A lower defect in the driver's door tested positive for copper and lead and the defect matched one of the trajectory rod placements consistent with a fired bullet's trajectory passing through the driver's seat and hitting the door.

WSP Crime Lab Report (Request 0001 *Amended*) authored by Forensic Scientist Mitchell Nesson, makes the following assumptions in his conclusions based upon information available at the time of his report:

1. All documented bullet defects were the result of a single incident, SIU case #19-05347.
2. All 3 cartridge cases collected in the roadway by SIU were fired by Deputy Quantrell's firearm.
3. Dante Jones was seated in the driver's seat at the time he sustained multiple gunshot wounds; and
4. All cartridge cases were recovered from this shooting incident.

Mitchell Nesson formulated his conclusions recognizing the following limitations: The body of Mr. Jones was removed prior to CSRT examination, which limited the observation of an injuries in situ which may have correlated to observed bullet defects within the vehicle.

The following conclusions are based, in part, on the opinions and interpretations of the analyst from the examination of the vehicle, the autopsy report of Mr. Jones, and information provided by representatives of the Tri-Cities SIU:

1. Deputy Quantrell made contact with Dante Jones on the passenger side of the vehicle (According to information provided by SIU).

2. No bullet holes were observed on the exterior of the vehicle (Based on collected evidence from the vehicle examination and observations made by Mitchell Nesson, the Forensic Scientist who authored the WSP Report).
3. Four .40 S&W caliber cartridge cases were recovered. One cartridge case was recovered on the front passenger floor previously identified as item #14. The other three cartridge cases were located in the roadway where the shooting occurred. (This is based on information provided by the SIU and the collected evidence from the vehicle examination and observations made by Mitchell Nesson during the examination).
4. Two bullet paths through the driver seat were from the passenger side to the driver side (Based on collected evidence from the vehicle examination and observations made by Mitchell Nesson during the examination).
5. All of the bullet paths associated with the multiple gunshot wounds to Dante Jones were from his right to left (Franklin County Autopsy Report (CF19-213) for Dante Jones authored by Sigmund Menchel, MD., Dated 1/12/2020).

The Report concludes four shots were likely fired into the vehicle striking Mr. Jones multiple times from the open front passenger door/window while he was in the driver seat. In follow up discussions with Mitchell Nesson, his findings are consistent with the shooter firing from the front passenger area, either while inside the car in the front passenger area or through the open front passenger door or window.

A total of three fired bullets were recovered from inside the vehicle. One was collected from the top of the driver seat as item #8 and another was collected from the driver floorboard as item #9. A penetrating bullet defect was located in the center of the driver seat. The seat was cut into and the fired bullet was recovered as item #15 for a total of three fired bullets recovered by WSP CSRT. A fourth bullet, described in the autopsy report as a copper jacketed projectile, was recovered during the autopsy.

Autopsy Report-

Dr. Sigmund Menchel, MD is the forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy of Dante Jones on November 19, 2019. During the examination several gunshot wounds are observed and noted. At the time of autopsy it was not known how many gunshots may have occurred as the SIU investigation was ongoing. The injuries noted below are without specification as to whether the injuries are from the same bullet or

different bullet paths. The gunshot wounds and injuries noted below are how they are referenced by Dr. Menchel in his autopsy report.

Gunshot A- This entrance wound is located on the right upper arm, situated 6 ½ inches below the top of the shoulder. Path of gunshot wound A is right to left and upward. The gunshot path ends with an exit wound of the medial aspect of the right upper arm, labeled as gunshot wound E. The gunshot exit wound is situated 5 and ¼ inches below the top of the shoulder.

Gunshot B- This penetrating gunshot wound is on the right side of the chest. This gunshot entrance wound is situated 8 and ¼ inches below the top of the shoulder, 17 and ¼ inches below the vertex of the head and 7 and ¾ inches right of the midline. The path of gunshot wound B is right to left and downward. Injuries associated with gunshot wound B include a fracture to rib #6 on the right side and entry and exit wounds of the right lung. A medium caliber mushroomed and copper jacketed projectile is recovered from the thoracic vertebral column above the diaphragm (T10). *It is noted gunshot wound B may represent a re-entry wound associated with gunshot wound A.*

Gunshot C- This is a perforating gunshot wound of the lateral aspect of the right thigh. The gunshot entrance wound is situated 33 and ½ inches above the heel of the foot. The path of gunshot wound C is right to left and downward. The gunshot path ends with an exit wound of the posterior aspect of the right thigh, (labeled as gunshot wound H). The gunshot exit wound is situated 32 and ¾ inches above the heel of the foot.

Gunshot D- This is a perforating gunshot wound of the right arm. The gunshot entrance wound is situated 13 and ½ inches below the top of the shoulder. The path of the gunshot wound is right to left and upward. The gunshot path ends with an exit wound of the medial aspect of the right arm, (labeled as gunshot wound F). A series of intervening abrasion/contusions are noted on the skin of the right antecubital fossa. These injuries may be associated with gunshot wound D. The gunshot exit wound is situated 12 and ¾ inches below the top of the shoulder.

Gunshot Wound X- This is a perforating gunshot wound of the left inguinal region. The gunshot entrance wound is situated 33 and ¼ inches above the heel of the foot. The path of gunshot wound X is front to back, downward and slightly right to left. The gunshot path ends with an exit wound of the posterior aspect of the left thigh, (labeled as gunshot wound G). The gunshot exit wound is situated 31 and 1/4 inches above the left heel.

Gunshot Wound Y- This is a superficial gunshot wound of the right side of the abdominal wall. This wound is situated 1 inch right of midline and 19 inches below the top of the shoulder. The path of gunshot wound Y is right to left and downward. This gunshot path ends with an exit wound off the left side of the abdominal wall (described as gunshot wound Z).

Graze Gunshot Wound ZZ- There is a graze gunshot wound of the right inguinal region. The graze injuries may be associate with gunshot wound X.

At the time of the autopsy, the SIU investigation was ongoing and many parts of the investigation were incomplete and not available for Dr. Menchel's review. We contacted Dr. Menchel as part of our review of this case, to follow up on his written report and findings. We discussed the SIU report, in particular, the findings from the WSP CSRT and their examination of Mr. Jones' vehicle and how it related to his autopsy conclusions. At the time of autopsy, it was unknown as to how many gunshots were fired. The WSP report concluded four shots were fired based on the assumption that all cartridge cases had been recovered which is consistent with the SIU investigation.

Dr. Menchel was asked to review his report and findings with the information that four shots were fired in this event. He referred to some of the photos referenced above from the WSP CSRT examination of Mr. Jones' car. Dr. Menchel concludes that the injuries observed during autopsy were consistent with four shots being fired and the person firing the shots was firing from the area to the right of Mr. Jones.

There are no findings as to proximity to Mr. Jones at the time shots were fired, only that bullet trajectories and the injuries observed during autopsy are consistent with shots coming from the right of Mr. Jones. The front passenger door and window were intact, and the window was observed in the upright position at the time the car was contacted by Sergeant Thomasson. Deputy Gardner heard gunshots and saw flashes of light coming from inside Mr. Jones' car as he saw Deputy Quantrell being dragged as Mr. Jones drove off.

Toxicology- As part of the autopsy, blood samples were collected from Mr. Jones. A toxicology report was obtained from NMS Labs, a private lab frequently used by the Franklin County Coroner's Office. Positive findings of both amphetamine and methamphetamine were detected as follows:

Amphetamine- 230 ng/mL

Methamphetamine- 700 ng/mL

The following information was provided by NMS Labs and was included in their toxicology report. This information provides additional understanding about the reported drug levels and is general background information rather than specific to Mr. Jones.

NMS Labs Reference Comments:

Amphetamine - Cardiac Blood:

Amphetamine (Adderall, Dexedrine) is a Schedule II phenethylamine CNS-stimulant. It is used therapeutically

in the treatment of narcolepsy and obesity and also in the treatment of hyperactivity in children. Amphetamine has a high potential for abuse. When used in therapy, initial doses should be small and increased gradually. In the treatment of narcolepsy, amphetamine is administered in daily divided doses of 5 to 60 mg. For obesity and children with attention deficits, usual dosage is 5 or 10 mg daily.

Following a single oral dose of 10 mg amphetamine sulfate, a reported peak blood concentration of 40 ng/mL was reached at 2 hr. Following a single 30 mg dose to adults, an average peak plasma level of 100 ng/mL was reported at 2.5 hr. A steady-state blood level of 2000 - 3000 ng/mL was reported in an addict who consumed approximately 1000 mg daily.

Overdose with amphetamine can produce restlessness, hyperthermia, convulsions, hallucinations, respiratory and/or cardiac failure. Reported blood concentrations in amphetamine-related fatalities ranged from 500 - 41000 ng/mL (mean, 9000 ng/mL). Amphetamine is also a metabolite of methamphetamine, benzphetamine and selegiline.

Methamphetamine - Cardiac Blood:

d-Methamphetamine is a DEA schedule II stimulant drug capable of causing hallucinations, aggressive behavior and irrational reactions. Chemically, there are two forms (isomers) of methamphetamine: l- and d-methamphetamine. The l-isomer is used in non-prescription inhalers as a decongestant and has weak CNS-stimulatory activity. The d-isomer has been used therapeutically as an anorexigenic agent in the treatment of obesity and has potent CNS-, cardiac- and circulatory-stimulatory activity. Amphetamine and norephedrine (phenylpropanolamine) are metabolites of methamphetamine. d-Methamphetamine is an abused substance because of its stimulatory effects and is also addictive.

A peak blood concentration of methamphetamine of 20 ng/mL was reported at 2.5 hr after an oral dosage of 12.5 mg. Blood levels of 200 - 600 ng/mL have been reported in methamphetamine abusers who exhibited violent and irrational behavior. High doses of methamphetamine can also elicit restlessness, confusion, hallucinations, circulatory collapse and convulsions.

Ring Camera Video-

On November 18, 2019 at 12:40AM, Mr. Jones is observed on a Ring camera at a residence located on the 200 block of Barth Ave in Richland, WA. In this video, Mr. Jones introduced himself by name through the video doorbell. He appeared to be wearing the same clothing as he was wearing at the time he was contacted by deputies in Franklin County. He appeared to be talking to himself but most of the conversation was unintelligible as to what is being said. The homeowner told him through the video doorbell that there was nobody here that he knew. He eventually walked away and returned to a vehicle on the street.

These observations on video were consistent with the behaviors attributable to an individual under the influence of high doses of methamphetamine. Discussions with family and friends revealed Mr. Jones had previously used alcohol and cocaine but there was no reference to prior methamphetamine use. We discussed this case with the WSP Toxicology lab. The levels of methamphetamine found in Mr. Jones would be extremely high for a person who had never used methamphetamine. This high level of methamphetamine in a non-abuser would have caused a higher likelihood to elicit restlessness, confusion, hallucinations, circulatory collapse and convulsions as described above by NMS Labs. These findings are consistent with our discussion with the WSP Toxicology Lab.

Dante Jones was described by friends and family as a pleasant person who served his country honorably as a United States Marine. He is reported to have had a positive attitude toward police and a commitment to following the law. His friends stated he has struggled with return to civilian life after serving two tours overseas. He visited the Veteran Affairs (VA) centers to obtain medical treatment for substance abuse of alcohol and cocaine and suffered from PTSD. Methamphetamine was not a part of his VA records or reported to be an issue by his friends. This is still an unanswered question as to where he obtained methamphetamine and whether he had any prior use of this substance. Those closest to Mr. Jones do not understand the behaviors he exhibited on this night.

Legal Review-

The laws governing use of force by law enforcement officers is found in RCW 9A.16.040:

Justifiable homicide or use of deadly force by public officer, peace officer, person aiding—Good faith standard.

(1) Homicide or the use of deadly force is justifiable in the following cases:

(a) When a public officer applies deadly force in obedience to the judgment of a competent court; or

(b) When necessarily used by a peace officer meeting the good faith standard of this section to overcome actual resistance to the execution of the legal process, mandate, or order of a court or officer, or in the discharge of a legal duty; or

(c) When necessarily used by a peace officer meeting the good faith standard of this section or person acting under the officer's command and in the officer's aid:

(i) To arrest or apprehend a person who the officer reasonably believes has committed, has attempted to commit, is committing, or is attempting to commit a felony;

(ii) To prevent the escape of a person from a federal or state correctional facility or in retaking a person who escapes from such a facility;

(iii) To prevent the escape of a person from a county or city jail or holding facility if the person has been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a felony; or

(iv) To lawfully suppress a riot if the actor or another participant is armed with a deadly weapon.

(2) In considering whether to use deadly force under subsection (1)(c) of this section, to arrest or apprehend any person for the commission of any crime, the peace officer must have probable cause to believe that the suspect, if not apprehended, poses a threat of serious physical harm to the officer or a threat of serious physical harm to others. Among the circumstances which may be considered by peace officers as a "threat of serious physical harm" are the following:

(a) The suspect threatens a peace officer with a weapon or displays a weapon in a manner that could reasonably be construed as threatening; or

(b) There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed any crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm.

Under these circumstances deadly force may also be used if necessary to prevent escape from the officer, where, if feasible, some warning is given, provided the officer meets the good faith standard of this section.

(3) A public officer covered by subsection (1)(a) of this section shall not be held criminally liable for using deadly force without malice

and with a good faith belief that such act is justifiable pursuant to this section.

(4) A peace officer shall not be held criminally liable for using deadly force in good faith, where "good faith" is an objective standard which shall consider all the facts, circumstances, and information known to the officer at the time to determine whether a similarly situated reasonable officer would have believed that the use of deadly force was necessary to prevent death or serious physical harm to the officer or another individual.

(5) This section shall not be construed as:

(a) Affecting the permissible use of force by a person acting under the authority of RCW 9A.16.020 or 9A.16.050; or

(b) Preventing a law enforcement agency from adopting standards pertaining to its use of deadly force that are more restrictive than this section.

Dr. Sigmund Menchel found the cause of death was due to multiple gunshot wounds and was determined to be a homicide. Homicide does not equate to murder but means a person died as a result of the act(s) of another person or persons.

My office was tasked with reviewing whether or not this case was a justifiable homicide using the good faith standard. This is an objective standard where we consider all of the information and the circumstances known to the officer at the time the officer used deadly force. We then evaluate whether a reasonable officer would have believed the use of deadly force was necessary to prevent death or serious physical harm to the officer or another individual.

Deputy Quantrell asked Sergeant Thomasson if they should contact Adams County to advise this vehicle may be heading in their direction. Based on the speed and changing weather conditions, deputies recognized this may continue north into Adams County. Sergeant Thomasson advised dispatch to contact Adams County early in this case before deputies initiated a traffic stop with emergency lights. Sergeant Thomasson discussed with Deputies Gardner and Quantrell over the radio about what situation they had with the reckless driving already observed in the foggy weather conditions.

After weather conditions deteriorated by reduced visibility, Sergeant Thomasson called over the radio to terminate the pursuit. At the time, Mr. Jones was wanted only for reckless driving and possibly connected to the suspicious vehicle complaint reported earlier on West Fir Road. Deputy Quantrell asked Sergeant Thomasson if he could follow from a distance and almost immediately Mr. Jones' car came to a stop in the roadway. Approximately 30 seconds after this radio transmission, Deputy Quantrell

advised Mr. Jones tried to hit his patrol vehicle. Deputy Quantrell described this as an assault one. A person is guilty of assault in the first degree when he or she, with intent to inflict great bodily harm assaults another with a firearm or *any deadly weapon* or by any force or means likely to produce great bodily harm or death. *RCW 9A.36.011(1)(a)* full statute below.

RCW 9A.36.011 Assault in the first degree

(1) A person is guilty of assault in the first degree if he or she, with intent to inflict great bodily harm:

(a) Assaults another with a firearm **or any deadly weapon or by any force or means likely to produce great bodily harm or death;** or

(b) Transmits HIV to a child or vulnerable adult; or

(c) Administers, exposes, or transmits to or causes to be taken by another, poison or any other destructive or noxious substance; or

(d) Assaults another and inflicts great bodily harm.

(2) Assault in the first degree is a class A felony.

A deadly weapon is further defined by statute. Deadly weapon means any explosive or loaded or unloaded firearm, and shall include any other weapon, device, instrument, article, or substance, ***including a "vehicle" as defined in this section***, which, under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used, or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or substantial bodily harm. *RCW 9A.04.110(6)*.

Deputy Gardner stated he saw the reverse lights come on as Deputy Quantrell exited his patrol vehicle. Deputy Quantrell had entered the front passenger door and Deputy Gardner heard Deputy Quantrell giving verbal commands to Mr. Jones. Deputy Gardner heard gunshots coming from inside the car as it drove off recklessly dragging Deputy Quantrell half outside the car. (*See Deputy Gardner's statement*).

As Sergeant Thomasson pulled up to the stopped deputy patrol vehicles in the roadway, he observed Mr. Jones' car speed away northbound on Sagehill. He saw Deputy Quantrell get up off the ground and then accelerated to catch Mr. Jones' fleeing car. (*See Sergeant Thomasson's statement*).

Deputy Quantrell stated in his interview that as deputies were trying to initiate a traffic stop on Mr. Jones, he was forced into oncoming traffic when Mr. Jones swerved at Deputy Quantrell's patrol vehicle. Based on statements from Deputies Gardner and

Quantrell as well as the recorded radio traffic, it appears Mr. Jones was using his car as a deadly weapon against the deputies.

When Mr. Jones car came to a stop in the roadway to the left of Deputy Quantrell's patrol vehicle, Deputy Quantrell approached the passenger side of Mr. Jones' car. Deputies Gardner and Quantrell had both witnessed reckless driving by Mr. Jones including brake checking and reversing on the highway. Deputy Gardner saw Mr. Jones attempt to hit Deputy Quantrell's patrol vehicle and narrowly avoided collision. It would have been dangerous and unreasonable for Deputy Quantrell to go behind or in front of Mr. Jones' path of travel to reach the driver's side as this would have placed Deputy Quantrell in the opposite lane of travel in foggy conditions at nighttime.

Deputy Quantrell stated he intended to grab the keys with his left hand to prevent Mr. Jones from leaving. When Mr. Jones shifted the gear into drive and began to speed off, this pinned Deputy Quantrell in the doorway between the open car door and the front passenger seat. His duty gear hindered his exit from the car. We have copied an excerpt from Deputy Quantrell's statement, lines 574-581:

"And I tried his door handle, and his door was ope- unlocked. So I opened his door and started givin' verbal commands. Uh, during this time, I watched him look in, didn't say anything, and then put the car into drive. While he put it into drive, he quickly accelerated, and the door slammed shut on top of me - with me, uh, pinning me in between the vehicle. Uh, it was at that time I discharged my firearm. Uh, I advised dispatch, "Shots fired." I think, uh, Deputy Gardner also did. Uh, dispatch asked if we needed aid. I advised 'em to stand by as suspect vehicle was takin' off again."

Deputy Quantrell recorded interview, Nov. 22, 2019.

We have reviewed the statements provided by Deputy Quantrell, Deputy Gardner, and Sergeant Thomasson. We have also considered Dr. Menchel's autopsy report and the WSP CSRT reports that documented the injuries to Mr. Jones and the bullet trajectories inside Mr. Jones' car. It is our conclusion that a reasonable officer in this same situation would have believed the use of deadly force was necessary to prevent death or serious physical harm to the officer.

Mr. Jones ignored earlier attempts by deputies to conduct a traffic stop. This law enforcement contact may have resulted in a reckless driving citation or speeding ticket.

Deputies would have inquired into the suspicious circumstances on West Fir Road. Mr. Jones turned a routine traffic stop into a deadly assault against law enforcement officers. His vehicle was used as a deadly weapon as he attempted to ram patrol vehicles. Mr. Jones used his car as a deadly weapon when he attempted to drive off with Deputy Quantrell halfway inside the car. Deputy Quantrell was at risk of serious injury or death at the time he discharged his duty weapon. Deputy Quantrell is therefore cleared of any charges based on the use of force in this case.

This case is especially tragic as the life of a military veteran was taken by another veteran. Many veterans return home with injuries often not seen but manifest to their family and friends. We urge anyone, and especially veterans suffering from the effects of serving their country, to seek professional services for addiction or other mental health needs. We want to personally thank Mr. Jones' family members and friends who contacted our office and have been patient during the review of this case.

Thank you,



Shawn Sant, Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney