



# LAKEWOOD

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



# Press Release

## **Update on Tacoma Police Department Officer Involved Shooting investigation from August 13th:**

**Lakewood, WA. September 17th, 2020:**

This use of force investigation is still active while waiting for lab examinations. There are no significant developments to report.

**Lakewood, WA. September 10th, 2020:**

This use of force investigation is still active while waiting for lab examinations. There are no significant developments to report.

**Lakewood, WA. September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020:**

This use of force investigation is still active while waiting for lab examinations. There are no significant developments to report.

**Lakewood, WA . August 27th, 2020:**

This use of force investigation is still active with requests for lab examinations being made to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab for the ballistic evidence collected. Other forensic evidence is also in need of special examination from outside sources. Reports are being completed with the hopes to present the entire case to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office once the examinations are done in the weeks to come.

Any questions as to the status of this case or this press release can be directed to:

**For Immediate Release 3:00 PM PST, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Lt. Chris Westby

Lakewood PD Criminal Investigations Unit

[CWestby@cityoflakewood.us](mailto:CWestby@cityoflakewood.us)

(253) 830-5088

### **Lakewood, WA . August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020:**

Subsequent to initial Tacoma police reports and Lakewood PD/WSP follow up investigation, the Pierce County Prosecutors Office has charged Dyrell Swinson with murder in the second degree for the incident on 8/12/2020. He was also charged with three counts of assault in the first degree for firing a firearm at police officers, one count of harming a police dog and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree for the incident on 8/13/2020. A warrant has been issued for his arrest and he will be booked into the Pierce County Jail upon his release from the hospital, which is expected in coming days.

In regards to the active ongoing investigation:

Evidence has been collected which indicates that Dyrell Swinson fired a pistol 5 times from a position underneath a vehicle parked in front of a tri-plex in the 3600 block of M Street at uniformed police officers from the Tacoma Police Department, to include a working police K-9. The firearm used by Swinson was confirmed to be a stolen 9mm pistol.

A single Tacoma Police Officer on scene located where the shots were coming from and returned fire with 5 rounds from his duty rifle, striking Swinson several times. Swinson was detained, given first aid and subsequently transported to the hospital for treatment.

The Tacoma Police K-9 Ronja later passed away from injuries sustained from being struck 3 times by gunfire. The Tacoma PD K-9 handler was injured by bullet fragments and treated for minor injuries.

The Tacoma Police Officer involved in the incident is Nathan Reetz. Officer Reetz is 34 years

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old and has been a member of the Tacoma Police Department for two and a half years. He is currently on paid administrative leave per Tacoma Police Department policy.

Involved Tacoma Police Officers were interviewed by Lakewood PD and Washington State Patrol Detectives. The Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team responded and handled the forensic investigation of the scene.

If anyone witnessed this incident and has not yet been contacted by police, please contact Sgt. Rich Hall, Lakewood PD at (253) 830-5044 or Det. Jeff Martin, Lakewood PD at (253) 830-5042.

While there have been charges filed in regards to portions of this incident, this use of force investigation is still active. When completed it will be sent to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review.

Any questions as to the status of this case or this press release can be directed to:

Lt. Chris Westby

Lakewood PD Criminal Investigations Unit

[CWestby@cityoflakewood.us](mailto:CWestby@cityoflakewood.us)

(253) 830-5088

## **Tacoma Police - Officer Involved Shooting**

Police shooting investigation being conducted in the area of the 3600 block of South M Street.

### **Lakewood, WA. August 13, 2020:**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at approximately 1:20 AM, Tacoma Police Officers located a homicide suspect driving in a vehicle. The vehicle fled and after a short pursuit, the vehicle crashed and the suspect fled on foot. A K9 track was started, during which gunfire was exchanged with the suspect in the 3600 block of South M Street. The suspect was struck, as was the Police K9 dog. Both were transported for medical treatment with critical injuries. The K9 handler sustained minor injuries.

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The shooting is being investigated by the Lakewood Police Department and the Washington State Patrol. More details will be released as the investigation continues.

Please contact Lt. Chris Lawler for additional information.

Lt. Lawler can be contacted at the numbers listed below for more information;

Office 253.830.5011

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