



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Tacoma Police Department  
Tacoma, Washington  
[cityoftacoma.org/police](http://cityoftacoma.org/police)

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 16, 2020

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **Homicide Investigation**

Tacoma, Wash. – On September 18, 2020, just before 6:30 p.m., a Tacoma police officer was flagged down reference an unresponsive male in a parking lot on Puyallup Avenue underneath the I-705 overpass. A citizen was providing CPR to a male who was on the ground. The officer continued CPR until Tacoma Fire Medics arrived on scene and took over.

The 59-year-old male was declared deceased at the scene.

Detectives and crime scene technicians responded to the scene.

The Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office identified the male as Richard Piel.

On December 15, 2020, the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office ruled Piel's death a homicide.

The investigation is ongoing.

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