



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 23, 2021

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **Incident at S. 9<sup>th</sup> St. and Pacific Avenue on January 23, 2021**

Tacoma, Wash. – The City at this time has the following details available regarding this evening’s incident and all further information will be available through the Pierce County Force Investigation Team.

At approximately 6:19 p.m. this evening, South Sound 911 received numerous reports of an incident occurring at the intersection of South 9<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. There were multiple vehicles and approximately 100 people present blocking the intersection when officers arrived on scene. Tacoma Police officers responding to the location began clearing the intersection of vehicles and people for the safety of those gathered and people trying to use the street.

During the operation, a responding Tacoma police vehicle was surrounded by the crowd. People hit the body of the police vehicle and its windows as the officer was stopped in the street. The officer, fearing for his safety, tried to back up, but was unable to do so because of the crowd. The officer had his lights and sirens activated. While trying to extricate himself from an unsafe position, the officer drove forward striking one individual and may have impacted others. The officer stopped at a point of safety and called for medical aid. One person was transported to an area hospital. That person’s condition is, at this time, unknown.

Tacoma Police Department has contacted the Pierce County Force Investigation Team (PCFIT) and turned the investigation over to them to conduct an independent investigation of this incident.

“I am concerned that our department is experiencing another use of deadly force incident,” said Interim Police Chief Mike Ake. “I send my thoughts to anyone who was injured in tonight’s event, and am committed to our Department’s full cooperation in the

independent investigation and to assess the actions of the department's response during the incident."

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