

DANIEL T. SATTERBERG  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**King County**

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney  
CRIMINAL DIVISION  
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September 14, 2017

The Honorable Dow Constantine  
King County Executive  
401 5th Avenue, Suite 800  
Chinook Building  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Death of Damarius D. Butts

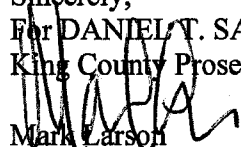
Dear Executive Constantine:

On September 11, 2017, the King County Prosecutor's Office received investigative materials from the Seattle Police Department concerning the shooting death of Damarius Demonta Butts by Seattle Police Officers on April 20, 2017. Pursuant to Executive Order (PHL 7-1-1), this office has reviewed those materials and recommends that an inquest be ordered. The Executive's Order mandates an inquest to investigate "any death involving a member of any law enforcement agency within King County while in the performance of his/her duties."

In this instance, on the afternoon of April 20, 2017, Seattle Police Officers responded to an armed robbery call from a 7-11 store in downtown Seattle. The suspects, a male and female, were confronted by a store clerk and exited the 7-11 before officers arrived. SPD officers found the suspects outside the Federal Building minutes later. The suspect identified as Damarius Butts ignored officers' commands to get onto the ground, and began running. The female suspect began running after Butts and the pursuing officer, but was apprehended. Butts continued to lead officers on a foot chase that ended less than two blocks away inside the receiving area of the loading docks to the U.S. Postal Service Building. Cornered in a small vestibule, Butts fired his weapon and struck an officer's ballistic vest. The officer returned fire and Butts fell to the ground behind some pallets. Additional officers entered the small area and Butts again fired his weapon, striking one officer in the chin and another in the hand. Officers returned fire. Butts died at the scene. I would be happy to meet with you if you would like to discuss this matter in further detail.

If you agree that an inquest should be held in this matter, we shall assign a deputy prosecutor. Please contact our office with your decision as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 477-1970.

Sincerely,  
For DANIEL T. SATTERBERG,  
King County Prosecuting Attorney

  
Mark Larson  
Chief Deputy, Criminal Division

cc: Gail Stone, Law and Justice Policy Advisor, King County Executive Office  
James Bush, Executive Program Assistant II, King County Executive Office  
The Honorable Donna Tucker, King County District Court  
Carmen Best, Deputy Chief, Seattle Police Department