



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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May 31, 2017

The Honorable Donna Tucker
Presiding Judge, King County District Court
COURTHOUSE
Room 1034

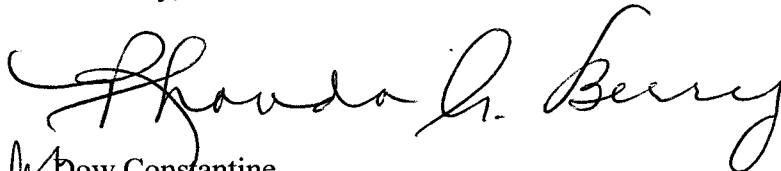
RE: **Death of William L. Stokes**

Dear Judge Tucker:

I hereby order an inquest into the shooting death of William L. Stokes by a Kent Police Officer on March 23, 2017. My decision is based on a recommendation by the Prosecuting Attorney that this case meets the conditions outlined in Executive Order PHL 7-1-1 requiring an inquest. The Prosecuting Attorney's recommendation is enclosed.

Please contact Mark Larson, Assistant Chief Deputy, Criminal Division, at 206-477-1970, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: Ken Thomas, Chief, Kent Police Department
George Delgado, Des Moines Chief of Police
The Honorable Dan Satterberg, King County Prosecuting Attorney (KCPAO)
Mark Larson, Chief Deputy, Criminal Division, KCPAO
Gail Stone, Law & Justice Policy Advisor, King County Executive Office (KCEO)
Alex Fryer, Director of Communications, KCEO

DANIEL T. SATTERBERG
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
CRIMINAL DIVISION
W554 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 296-9000

May 19, 2017

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

RE: Death of William L. Stokes

Dear Executive Constantine:

On May 17, 2017 the King County Prosecutor's Office received investigative materials from the Federal Way Police Department concerning the shooting death of William L. Stokes by a Kent Police Officer on March 23, 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, Des Moines Police responded to a 911 call from Stokes' roommate, Shawn Herbert. Herbert reported that Stokes had refused to let him out of his room and had threatened to kill Herbert and himself. After several attempts by Des Moines Police to resolve the hostage situation with negotiation and the deployment of Tasers, Valley SWAT was called to assist. Shortly after SWAT officer Brian Lewis arrived, Stokes opened the door armed with a machete raised above his head. After ignoring numerous verbal commands and attempting to secure himself back in the house where Herbert was still captive, Stokes was shot by SWAT Officer Lewis of the Kent Police Department. Stokes collapsed inside the front door of the residence and was later pronounced dead at the scene. I would be more than 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
Ken Thomas, Sheriff, Kent Chief of Police
George Delgado, Des Moines Chief of Police