

# KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



LEESA MANION (she/her)  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

JUSTICE  
COMPASSION  
PROFESSIONALISM  
INTEGRITY  
LEADERSHIP

January 27, 2025

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

Re: Law Enforcement Use of Force Fatality Regarding Jesse Sarey

Dear Executive Constantine:

On May 31, 2019, Jesse Sarey was shot and killed by Auburn Police Department Officer Jeffrey Nelson. On August 20, 2020, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) charged Mr. Nelson with murder and felony assault. A jury convicted Mr. Nelson of the charges on June 27, 2024, and he was sentenced to a total of 200 months in custody on January 23, 2025.

Under Executive Order PHL-7-1-5-EO §6.1, an inquest referral may be delayed when active criminal charges are pending against a law enforcement officer. The Order is silent regarding when or if the remaining requirements in the Order must be completed. Further, given that a jury convicted Mr. Nelson, the KCPAO is uncertain whether an inquest is required.

In an abundance of caution, the KCPAO is fulfilling its obligations pursuant to PHL-7-1-5-EO §7.1. Accordingly, the KCPAO is satisfied that the investigation is complete and recommends that an inquest be initiated pursuant to the King County Charter §895, which requires a mandatory inquest unless, under PHL-7-1-5-EO §6.1, you determine that the role of law enforcement was de minimis and did not contribute in any discernable way to a person's death.

Per PHL-7-1-5-EO §8.4, upon your request, we will forward the investigative file to the Inquest Program Manager. Such requests can be sent to [PAOPublicIntegrity@kingcounty.gov](mailto:PAOPublicIntegrity@kingcounty.gov).

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 477-1174. I would be more than happy to meet with you if you would like to discuss this matter in further detail.

Sincerely,

For LEESA MANION  
King County Prosecuting Attorney

*Daniel J. Clark*

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Daniel J. Clark  
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Mainstream Criminal Division

Enclosure: Internal Memorandum

cc: Mark Caillier, Chief of Police, Auburn Police Department  
James Bush, Communications Specialist, King County Executive's Office  
Lily Clifton, Executive Assistant, King County Executive's Office  
Marcus Stubblefield, Criminal Justice Manager, King County Executive's Office  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Executive, King County Executive's Office  
David Hackett, General Counsel, King County Executive's Office  
Dee Sylve, Inquest Program Manager, King County Executive Services  
Matthew Anderson, Inquest Attorney, King County Executive Services