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PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
CRIMINAL DIVISION
W554 King County Courthouse
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September 15, 2017

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

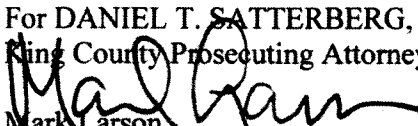
RE: Death of Eugene Dewan Nelson

Dear Executive Constantine:

On September 13, 2017 the King County Prosecutor's Office received investigative materials from the Renton Police Department concerning the shooting death of Eugene Dewan Nelson by Kent Police Officers on August 9, 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 August 9, 2017, Kent Police Officers were called out to a local hookah lounge to arrest Nelson for violation of a protection order and several other outstanding warrants. Nelson exited the lounge via the back door into an alley where officers were waiting for him. After being told he was under arrest, Nelson tried to escape in a nearby car. One officer entered the passenger side of the car while two officers and a K-9 attempted to remove Nelson via the driver-side door. Nelson, continuing to resist arrest, started the car, and began driving it down the alley. The officers on the driver's side were forced to move out of the way, but one officer remained in the passenger seat. Officers pursued the vehicle on foot for a short distance, and then fired shots through the back window. The officer in the passenger seat also fired shots at Nelson. The vehicle came to a stop and officers began life-saving measures. Paramedics were called and continued resuscitation efforts, but Nelson soon 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
Ken Thomas, Kent Chief of Police