



Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy

## **Compliance Audit Report**

# **Reviewing Investigations of Police Use of Deadly Force**

## **Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team – The Luis Ku Huitzil Case**

**Use of Deadly Force Incident on January 9, 2022, by the Vancouver Police  
Department**

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## Office of the Washington State Auditor

**Pat McCarthy**

April 10, 2025

Commander Michael McCabe  
Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team

### **Report on Use of Deadly Force Investigation Audit**

Attached is the official report on our audit of the investigation into the use of deadly force on January 9, 2022, that resulted in the death of Luis Ku Huitzil.

The audit assessed the Vancouver Police Department's and the Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team's compliance with state laws and rules regarding independent investigations of police use of deadly force as defined in WAC 139-12-030.

Our independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency regarding police use of deadly force investigations. These audits are valuable to the Legislature, law enforcement agencies and the public in assessing police accountability efforts.

If you are a member of the media and have questions about this report, please contact Assistant Director of Communications Adam Wilson at (564) 999-0799. Otherwise, please contact Use of Deadly Force Investigations Program Manager Michael Huynh at (564) 999-0831.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

cc: Monica Alexander, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Training Commission  
Steve Strachan, Executive Director, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Results in Brief

Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team (SWIIRT) investigators and officers involved in the use of force incident complied with most requirements to ensure the investigation of Luis Ku Huitzil's death was independent, transparent, credible and communicated to the public timely, as state laws and rules require. These actions included, but were not limited to, preserving evidence, obtaining statements from witnesses and the involved officers, and providing weekly public updates about the investigation's progress until the case was presented to the prosecutor.

The audit found instances in which SWIIRT did not follow state regulations, as well as opportunities to improve its documentation to demonstrate compliance. Specifically, we found SWIIRT did not:

- Require one investigator to complete a conflict of interest form within 72 hours of starting the investigation
- Document whether it provided Ku Huitzil's family with advance notice of press releases or significant updates about the investigation
- Document that it provided the community representatives advance notice of one of four press releases

We also found that Vancouver Police Department supervisors did not document whether they gave administrative orders to involved officers to not discuss the case with each other or other officers as required by department policy.

### Recommendations

We recommend SWIIRT:

- Require investigators to complete conflict of interest forms within 72 hours of starting the investigation
- Ensure it notifies family members of significant developments in the case and of press releases before sending them to the media, and maintain documentation that it did so
- Maintain logs, emails, narrative reports or other communication records showing it provided community representatives advance notice of all press releases

We recommend SWIIRT member agencies maintain documentation showing supervisors directed involved officers and witness officers to not speak to each other about the use of deadly force incident until they provide statements to investigators.

## BACKGROUND

### Use of Deadly Force Incident

The following summary of events is based on the investigation's case files:

On January 9, 2022, at around 12:30 a.m., a 911 caller reported that his roommate, Luis Ku Huitzil, had threatened the caller's wife with a knife. The caller and his wife barricaded themselves in their bedroom. Three other residents of the house stayed in their bedrooms as well. Vancouver Police Department officers responded to the call, including Timothy Pfeifer, Monica Hernandez, Ryne Briley and Christopher Bohatch.

Officers arrived at the home and believed Ku Huitzil was still inside. They asked the residents to knock on their windows to signify what rooms they were in. Pfeifer saw the blinds open on one window and a child in the room. Officers helped the child crawl through the window, and Pfeifer saw other officers helping the 911 caller and his wife get out of their window, and another adult and child from a third bedroom window.

While Hernandez was speaking with the 911 caller's wife to learn more about what had happened, the wife yelled, "That's him!" Hernandez turned and saw Ku Huitzil holding a knife in each hand. Officers ordered him to drop the knives and put his hands up, but he walked quickly towards Hernandez, other officers and the residents.

Bohatch fired one "less lethal round" using a shotgun beanbag, and Pfeifer, Hernandez and Briley fired a total of 19 shots at Ku Huitzil using their handguns and patrol rifle. Ku Huitzil was hit 15 times in his torso, arms and legs. Officers began first aid until paramedics arrived to take over. They transported Ku Huitzil to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team (SWIIRT), an independent investigation team (IIT) that investigates police use of deadly force incidents in Clark and Skamania counties, responded to the shooting. Investigators from the Clark County Sheriff's Office led the investigation with assistance from the Camas Police Department.

SWIIRT completed the investigation on February 15, 2022, and submitted its files to the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. A deputy prosecutor reviewed the case and wrote in a memo on August 29, 2023, that the prosecutor would not file charges against Pfeifer, Hernandez, Briley and Bohatch.

## Independent Investigation Teams

Voters approved Initiative 940 in 2018. It ensures that one of an IIT's key functions is to investigate police use of deadly force incidents. The initiative requires investigations of police use of deadly force be conducted by an agency completely independent of the one with the involved officer(s). Regional IITs allow law enforcement agencies to respond quickly to use of deadly force incidents while keeping the involved agency out of the investigation. IITs are made up of command staff, detectives and other crime scene investigators from law enforcement agencies in a given region. An IIT also consists of volunteers, called non-law enforcement community representatives, who help give the community perspective during an investigation.

Washington has 17 IITs throughout the state. Many of these teams existed before recent police reform and accountability laws, including Initiative 940, and allowed law enforcement agencies to pool resources for major investigations. Prohibiting the involved agency from participating in these investigations was meant to improve their impartiality and independence by preventing people who are more likely to have a personal relationship with the involved officers from investigating the incident.

The initiative tasked the Washington State Criminal Justice Commission (CJTC) with adopting rules to govern these investigations. The CJTC adopted Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 139-12-030, which requires independent use of deadly force investigations to meet four key principles:

- Independence – the involved agency cannot have undue influence or the appearance of undue influence on the investigation.
- Transparency – community members are able to assess whether the investigation is conducted in a trustworthy manner and complies with the standards defined in state laws and rules.
- Communication – the IIT must communicate the investigation's progress to the public and family of the person killed or harmed by police use of deadly force.
- Credibility – use of deadly force investigations follow best practices for criminal investigations, and investigators meet necessary training requirements and demonstrate ethical behavior and impartiality.

## Audit Objective

State law (RCW 43.101.460) requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to audit all investigations into police use of deadly force resulting in death, substantial bodily harm or great bodily harm.

To determine whether the Vancouver Police Department and SWIIRT complied with state laws and rules in the investigation of the death of Luis Ku Huitzil, we reviewed investigative files related to the case, reviewed training records held by the CJTC and member police agencies, and interviewed IIT members, including community representatives. We assessed the involved agencies and IIT's compliance with each of the requirements under the key principles in WAC 139-12-030. This included whether the IIT followed the CJTC's published best practices for conducting homicide investigations.

This report outlines the steps the investigation team took to meet each of these key principles. **Appendix A** contains information about our methodology.

## AUDIT RESULTS

Appendix A outlines our Office's authority and methodology for this audit. In short, state law (RCW 43.101.460) requires the Office of the Washington State Auditor to audit all investigations into police use of deadly force resulting in death, substantial bodily harm or great bodily harm. Our charge is to assess whether the investigations complied with relevant rules and laws. The audit only reviewed the investigation. It did not assess the incident itself or whether the use of force was justified.

### Independence

To help ensure the investigation was conducted independently of the involved agency, SWIIRT investigators took control of the scene upon arrival and excluded officers from the Vancouver Police Department. Officers fired shots just before 12:45 a.m. At 1:45 a.m., a Vancouver Police Department lieutenant called to request SWIIRT respond to the shooting. Around 2:05 a.m., dispatch sent an alert to SWIIRT investigators informing it of the officer-involved shooting. Investigators met at the Vancouver Police Department's West Precinct for a briefing before responding to the scene.

SWIIRT investigators took control of the scene and began the investigation around 5:35 a.m., shortly after an uninvolved Vancouver Police Department sergeant removed from the area all Vancouver Police personnel who responded to the 911 call.

We did not find evidence that any SWIIRT member shared investigative information with the Vancouver Police Department, or that any member of the Department took part in the investigation.

### Transparency

SWIIRT invited two community representatives to participate in the investigation and included them in the required processes. However, the team did not document all its actions regarding including the community representatives in the processes, as required. WAC 139-12-030 requires IITs to include at least two community representatives in each investigation. Community representatives are volunteers, not law enforcement agency employees, who provide community perspective on key processes in use of deadly force investigations. They must complete a confidentiality agreement, be present at any briefings with the involved agency, and have access to the completed investigation file.



The SWIIRT commander called two community representatives the day of the shooting, but only one agreed to participate. The next day, the commander called another community representative who agreed to work on the investigation, but subsequently did not respond to emails. He called a fourth community representative four days after the investigation, who agreed to participate.

A checklist completed by the commander indicated that the community representatives completed confidentiality agreements within five days of the investigation. However, the forms were not included in the case file. One community representative that we spoke to said that it is one of the first documents they fill out after agreeing to participate. They also said that they knew they could access the completed investigation file, and that they could ask questions throughout the investigation if they needed any clarification. A SWIIRT investigator said the completed case file is also available through public disclosure requests.

SWIIRT did not hold any briefings with the Vancouver Police Department until the conclusion of the investigation when the team discussed the investigation's findings.

The other community representative did not respond to our request for an interview.

## **Communication**

SWIIRT followed some of the WAC's communication requirements. The WAC requires the involved agency or IIT notify the family of the person who was killed or injured by police use of force and update them on significant developments. The IIT must also post weekly public updates on the investigation's progress, even if there is no new information to report. Community representatives and the family must receive advance notice of these press releases.

SWIIRT assigned a family liaison on the day of the shooting, but it is unclear when the liaison notified the family of Ku Huitzil's death. The case file also indicated some communication with Ku Huitzil's brother and nephew but only documented the instances in which SWIIRT presented the investigation's results to the family. The day of the presentation, SWIIRT also provided the family with phone numbers for the medical examiner's office and the prosecutor so they could contact them and request the entire case file through public disclosure if they wanted to.

SWIIRT issued five press releases during the five-week investigation, meeting the requirement to update the public at least weekly. The press releases provided Ku Huitzil's name, a description of the events leading up to the shooting, the involved officers' names, an update on the investigation's progress and when the investigation was completed and sent to the Clark County Prosecutor. None of the press releases included criminal background information about Ku Huitzil, which would have been prohibited by the WAC. We also reviewed the Clark County Sheriff's Office's and Vancouver Police Department's social media profiles and did not find any criminal background information related to the investigation.

We did not find documentation that SWIIRT provided advance notice of any of the press releases to Ku Huitzil's family as required, or documentation that it provided advance notice of one of the press releases to the community representatives. SWIIRT published one press release before the community representatives started participating in the investigation. Of the remaining four, the SWIIRT commander noted that he provided the community representatives with copies of three of the press releases before they were sent to the media, and an email showed he requested they review the releases before their publication. There was no indication that he notified the community representatives of one press release, but the community representative we spoke to said SWIIRT sent them copies of all press releases before their publication. We did not find support indicating the family received notices of the press releases.

## **Credibility**

### **Crime Scene Investigation**

As required by the WAC, members of the involved agency and SWIIRT secured and maintained the integrity of the scene. The Vancouver Police Department placed crime scene tape across roadways and secured the scene perimeter with officers. Officers also maintained a log recording the names of people entering and exiting the scene.

Vancouver officers also canvassed the area for bullet holes, and two officers followed the ambulance to the hospital. They stayed with Ku Huitzil and secured the hospital room until SWIIRT investigators relieved them.

Once investigators arrived at the home, they scanned the scene using a 3D scanner and took aerial photos and video with a drone. Investigators collected evidence, including shell casings, two knives, clothing and medical supplies. They placed all the evidence in containers, sealed them with evidence tape and initialed the tape. Investigators also collected surveillance video footage from neighbors. Two cameras captured audio and video of the shooting and the events leading up to it.

Investigators also photographed the involved officers at the Vancouver Police Department and counted the remaining rounds of ammunition in their firearms. They collected their firearms and magazines as evidence.

### **Interviewing Involved Officers and Witnesses**

The Vancouver Police Department made some efforts to ensure involved officers and witnesses gave statements independently. CJTC's best practices require involved officers to be separated and removed from the scene, and they prohibit involved and witness officers from discussing the case with any other witnesses until they provide statements to investigators.

The Vancouver Police Department's policy aligns with the best practices. The policy states that reasonable efforts should be made to separate and transport involved officers to a suitable location. In addition, supervisors should give administrative orders not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or employees. We reviewed the case file and did not find documentation that

such orders were given. However, the involved officers were separated and investigators conducted interviews with all witnesses and involved officers shortly after the shooting, which limited opportunities for discussion.

A Vancouver sergeant arrived on scene after the shooting and separated the four involved officers. He placed each officer with other officers who were not involved in the incident and ordered those officers to take the involved officers to the Vancouver Police Department's West Precinct to meet with guild representatives. SWIIRT investigators interviewed all nine witness officers on the day of the shooting and received written narrative reports from all responding officers. All the narrative reports were dated January 9, 2022, the day of the shooting. Investigators also interviewed all the involved officers within four days of the shooting. They interviewed Pfeifer on the day of the shooting, Hernandez three days after the shooting, and Briley and Bohatch four days after the shooting.

They also canvassed the area and interviewed neighbors. Some neighbors heard gunshots, but none of them witnessed the shooting.

### **Case File Integrity**

Only authorized personnel accessed the case file while the investigation was active. During an active investigation, the WAC requires an IIT's case file to be restricted from everyone except for IIT members involved with the investigation. SWIIRT policy requires the lead agency to maintain all original reports, statements and other documents, and limit access to the records to the lead agency and appropriate assisting agency personnel.

SWIIRT member agencies can restrict access within their records management system to a specific group or person to meet the security requirements. We reviewed access logs for the investigation and found no unauthorized access.

We did not find evidence that any SWIIRT members received prohibited information during the investigation. The WAC prohibits IIT members from remaining on an investigation if they receive compelled information that could contaminate the investigation.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

All participating SWIIRT investigators and both community representatives completed conflicts of interest forms, but one investigator filled out a form after the 72-hour deadline. The WAC requires investigators and community representatives to complete a "conflict of interest" assessment about any connection to the officers that are under investigation within 72 hours of starting the investigation. The assessment should include questions about prior interactions or relationships with the officers, as well as address social conflicts, work conflicts and biases. The WAC also requires IITs to use the CJTC's standard conflict of interest form or create one that meets or exceeds its standards. Community representatives and the IIT commander are required to review investigators' conflict of interest assessments to determine if any investigators should be removed from the case.

The SWIIRT commander asked investigators verbally if they knew any of the involved officers on the day of the shooting. He excluded one sergeant from participating in the case as he was a family friend of one of the involved officers. All but one of the investigators filled out and signed the assessment forms two days after the shooting, meeting the 72-hour requirement. One of the community representatives also signed her form two days after the shooting. The other community representative along with an investigator signed their forms four days after the shooting. However, the community representative was not participating in the investigation until that day.

The commander noted he reviewed forms on January 11 and 13, but signed the forms on the latter date. The first community representative reviewed and signed the investigators' forms on January 11, and the other community representative reviewed and signed the forms on January 13, which was after the 72-hour deadline. However, the community representative was not participating in the investigation until that day. We will not make a recommendation regarding the review.

There were no conflicts noted with the involved officers and SWIIRT used the CJTC's standard conflict of interest assessment that includes all the required questions.

See **Appendix B** for a complete list of the requirements we reviewed and a summary chart of our audit results.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend SWIIRT:

- Require investigators to complete conflict of interest forms within 72 hours of starting work on the investigation
- Ensure it notifies family members of significant developments in the case and of press releases before sending them to the media, and maintain documentation that it did so
- Maintain logs, emails, narrative reports or other communication records showing it provided community representatives advance notice of all press releases

We recommend SWIIRT member agencies maintain documentation showing supervisors directed involved officers and witness officers to not speak to each other about the use of deadly force incident until they provide statements to investigators.

# INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM RESPONSE



## CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

[clark.wa.gov/sheriff](http://clark.wa.gov/sheriff)

707 W 13th Street • PO Box 410 • Vancouver, WA 98666  
564.397.2366 • fax 564.397.2367

Sheriff John Horch

**To:** Michael Huynh, Program Manager  
Office of the Washington State Auditor  
P: (509) 999-0831 | [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov)

**From:** Commander Michael McCabe  
Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Investigations Division  
P: (564) 397-6017

**Subject:** Use of Deadly Force Incident on January 9, 2022, by the Vancouver Police Department.  
The Luis Ku Huitzil Case

**Re:** SWIIT response to recommendations and areas of non-compliance as noted in the audit.

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The Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team (SWIIRT) is a multi-agency task force responsible for conducting independent investigations of police use of deadly force incidents, per Washington State Initiative 940 and the Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act (LETCSA).

Our mission is to ensure an independent, transparent, and objective investigation. Our team is committed to upholding public trust by conducting unbiased investigations and ensuring accountability with state-mandated standards for independent oversight of such cases.

Upon the conclusion of our investigation, findings are presented to the prosecuting attorney, who determines whether criminal charges are warranted.

The Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team (SWIIRT) investigated the Luis Ku Huitzil death. The State Auditor's Office has reviewed our investigation. SWIIRT has received a copy of its report, including recommendations from the audit for the SWIIRT.

### **SWIIRT has reviewed the State Auditor's recommendations, which were as follows:**

1. Require investigators to complete conflict of interest forms within 72 hours of starting the investigation.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this recommendation. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules.



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2. Ensure it notified family members of significant developments in the case and of press releases before sending them to the media and maintain documentation that it did so.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this recommendation. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules.
3. Maintain logs, emails, narrative reports, or other communication records showing it provided community representatives advance notice of all press releases.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this recommendation. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules.
4. SWIIRT's member agencies give administrative orders to involved witness officers to refrain from speaking to each other about the use of deadly force incidents until they provide statements to investigators.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this recommendation. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules.

**Areas of non-compliance with State standards are as follows:**

The State Auditors found instances where SWIIRT did not follow state regulations and opportunities to improve its documentation to demonstrate compliance. Specifically, the State Auditors found that SWIIRT did not:

1. SWIIRT failed to require one investigator to complete a conflict-of-interest form within 72 hours of starting the investigation.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with the assessment; we have no explanation for this discrepancy.
2. SWIIRT failed to document whether it provided Ku Huitzil's family with advanced notice of press releases or significant updates about the investigation.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this recommendation. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules.
  - b. It is worth noting that the family believes SWIIRT provided prior notice, but no one could find documentation demonstrating compliance with the statutes.
3. SWIIRT could not provide documentation showing that the community representatives received advanced notice of one of four press releases.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this recommendation. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules.
    - i. SWIIRT has and will continue to improve its communication process with the community representatives.
4. SWIIRT could not provide documentation to demonstrate that the Vancouver Police Department gave administrative orders to involved officers not to discuss the case with each other or other officers as required by department policy.
  - a. SWIIRT concurs with this assessment. Current SWIIRT practices do comply with CJTC best practices and published OII rules. In addition, we will:
    - i. advise the involved agency officers and witness officers not to discuss the case with anyone before talking with SWIIRT



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- ii. documents that the involved agency did so and provide SWIIRT with documentation demonstrating compliance.

The Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team (SWIIRT) acknowledges the areas for improvement and will work to ensure that all future investigations comply with established Washington State standards.

SWIIRT believes in transparency and that all investigations must be done in a trustworthy manner and comply with the standards defined in state law and rules. To that end, SWIIRT will learn from this audit and improve performance in future investigations.

We appreciate the work of the State Auditor's Office and thank all involved for the opportunity to address these compliance issues and recommendations.

Very Respectfully,



**Michael McCabe**  
Enforcement Commander  
Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Desk: 564-397-2211 X6117  
Mobile: 564.888.1978  
[www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff](http://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff)



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## APPENDIX A: AUTHORITY, SCOPE, OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

### Authority

In 2018, Washington voters passed Initiative 940, which, in part, required investigations of police use of deadly force be conducted by an agency completely independent of one with the involved officer(s). It tasked the Washington State Criminal Justice Commission (CJTC) with adopting rules to govern these investigations. In 2019, the CJTC created a workgroup, including stakeholders from community groups and law enforcement agencies to adopt rules for independent investigations. The rules were outlined in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 139-12-030 and took effect in January 2020.

The rules were designed to help ensure investigations are independent, transparent, credible and communicated timely to the public and affected people. The rules define the elements of an independent investigation, and explain the duties of the involved agency and independent investigation team (IIT) after police use deadly force that results in death, substantial bodily harm or great bodily harm. In 2021, the Legislature amended state law (RCW 43.101.460) to require our Office audit investigations into police use of deadly force to ensure compliance with the new rules.

### Scope

This audit assessed whether the Vancouver Police Department and the Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response Team (SWIIRT) complied with state laws and rules regarding the investigation of the use of deadly force that resulted in the death of Luis Ku Huitzil. It reviewed whether the law enforcement agencies met the criteria for independent investigations as outlined in WAC 139-12-030.

By law, the audit only reviewed the investigation. It did not review the use of deadly force incident nor assess whether the use of force was justified.

### Objective

This audit examined whether the Vancouver Police Department and SWIIRT complied with state laws and rules regarding independent investigations of police use of deadly force.

## Methodology

To determine whether the Vancouver Police Department and SWIIRT complied with state laws and rules regarding independent investigations of police use of deadly force, we reviewed investigative files related to the case and interviewed IIT members. We interviewed IIT members to understand their investigative process and how they documented their procedures and findings. We also spoke to the IIT's community representatives to confirm whether they were involved in required processes of the investigation. In the case files, we searched for evidence demonstrating the IIT followed the legal requirements. We also reviewed training records from the CJTC and member police agencies.

## APPENDIX B: WAC 139-12-030 COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

### Independence

Requirement	Compliant?
The involved agency and/or other first responders will provide or facilitate first aid at the scene if necessary.	<b>Yes</b>
The involved agency will relinquish control of the scene.	<b>Yes</b>
The involved agency will not participate in the investigation.	<b>Yes</b>
Any specialized equipment belonging to the involved agency will be approved by the community representatives and the independent investigation team (IIT) commander before it is used in the investigation.	<b>Not applicable</b>
Information shared by the IIT to the involved agency will be limited to briefings about the progress of the investigation.	<b>Not applicable</b>
The IIT commander will honor requests from the involved agency to release body cam video or other investigation information of urgent public interest.	<b>Not applicable</b>

### Transparency

Requirement	Compliant?
A minimum of two non-law enforcement community representatives will be assigned to the IIT.	<b>Yes</b>
The community representatives will:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review conflict of interest statements submitted within 72 hours of the commencement of each investigation</li> </ul>	<b>No</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be present at the briefings with the chief or sheriff of the involved agency(ies)</li> </ul>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have access to the investigation file when it is completed</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be provided a copy of all press releases and communication sent to the media prior to release</li> </ul>	<b>Unable to determine</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review notification of equipment use of the involved agency</li> </ul>	<b>Not applicable</b>
The community representatives will sign a confidentiality agreement at the beginning of the investigation.	<b>Yes</b>
The IIT will provide public updates about the investigation at a minimum of once per week, even if there is no new progress to report.	<b>Yes</b>
When an independent investigation is complete, the information will be made available to the public in a manner consistent with applicable state law.	<b>Yes</b>

## Communication

Requirement	Compliant?
A family member of the person against whom deadly force has been used will be notified of the incident as soon as possible.	<b>Yes</b>
The IIT will assign a family liaison within the first 24 hours of the investigation.	<b>Yes</b>
The family liaison will keep the family informed about all significant developments in the investigation.	<b>Unable to determine</b>
The family liaison will give the family advanced notice of all scheduled press releases.	<b>Unable to determine</b>
Neither the involved agency nor the IIT will provide the media with criminal background information of the person against whom deadly force has been used, unless it is specifically requested, and release of the information is required by the Public Records Act or other applicable laws.	<b>Yes</b>
The involved agency will notify the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) in accordance with RCW 10.114.021 if the person against whom deadly force is used is a member of a federally recognized tribe.	<b>Not applicable</b>
A member of the IIT will be assigned as a tribal liaison within the first 24 hours and keep the tribe (or a representative of the tribe's choice) informed about all significant developments of the investigation.	<b>Not applicable</b>

## Credibility

Requirement	Compliant?
The involved agency and other first responders will secure the incident scene and maintain its integrity until the IIT arrives.	<b>Yes</b>
The involved agency and other first responders will locate and preserve evanescent evidence.	<b>Yes</b>
The IIT will follow these accepted best practices for homicide investigations published and annually updated by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center (CJTC):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until all statements have been taken, involved and witness officers shall not discuss the case with any other witnesses.</li> </ul>	<b>Unable to determine</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The involved agency or first responders will separate involved officer(s) and remove them from the immediate scene.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IIT will obtain statements from subjects and witnesses. Audio and/or video recording is preferred and should be attempted.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews of involved officers should follow the policies of their individual agency, collective bargaining agreement and case law.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with emergency medical personnel, fire department personnel, and first responding officers should address conditions at the incident scene.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IIT will canvass the immediate area for potential witnesses who have not come forward and obtain information or statements as available.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the event of death, consult with the coroner or medical examiner at the scene and at, or subsequent to, the autopsy. A member of the IIT must attend the autopsy and take all appropriate investigative steps, consistent with other criminal investigations.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until the case file is delivered to the prosecutor, access to the IIT case file should be restricted to the IIT members involved.</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
If any member of the IIT receives prohibited information, the investigator receiving the prohibited information must immediately report it to their supervisor and the member must discontinue participation in the investigation.	<b>Not applicable</b>
Within 72 hours of the start of each investigation, investigators and community representatives must complete a “conflict of interest” assessment tool regarding any connection to the officers being investigated that assesses work and social conflicts and biases.	<b>No</b>
The IIT commander will review the conflict of interest assessment within 72 hours of the start of the investigation.	<b>No</b>
The community representatives and the IIT commander will discuss the conflict of interest assessments.	<b>Not applicable</b>

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the Washington State Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the people of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov). Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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