



## **King County**

Department of Executive Services

### **Inquest Program**

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 135

Seattle, WA 98104

**206-477-6191**

TTY Relay 711

Webpage: [kingcounty.gov/inquests](http://kingcounty.gov/inquests)

Email: [Inquests@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Inquests@kingcounty.gov)

## **INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF JASON SEEVERS # 18IQ61954**

### **STIPULATION OF THE PARTIES AS TO UNDISPUTED FACTS**

---

Stipulation as to evidence examined by the Washington State Police Crime Lab

After this incident investigators collected associated handguns, fired bullets, and fired cartridge casings. This evidence included Officer Knoblach's handgun, Officer Schickler's handgun, a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun found in the Volkswagen Jetta that Mr. Seavers was driving, three "Blazer" brand 9mm fired cartridge casings collected from the initial incident scene where officers reported that they had been fired upon, and two bullets retrieved from Mr. Seavers' body by the medical examiner during the autopsy process.

All three of these handguns are semiautomatic. When a semiautomatic weapon is fired the bullet is forced through the barrel and down range toward the target. In the firing process, the empty cartridge casing is ejected to allow a new unfired cartridge to load into the chamber of the weapon. This process allows the weapon to be fired repeatedly by simply pulling the trigger; the weapon will continue to fire with each trigger pull until the weapon runs out of ammunition. The ejected fired cartridge casings land near where the weapon was fired. If a handgun is held in a traditional manner the empty cartridge casings generally land to right and somewhat to the rear of the shooter.

Investigators test fired both Officer Knoblach's handgun and Officer Schickler's handgun five times. They collected the resulting test fired bullets and fired cartridge casings and kept the test fires from Officer Knoblach's weapon and Officer Schickler's weapon separated. The scene evidence and the test fired bullets and fired cartridge casings were then packaged and provided to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab through a controlled chain of evidence, together with the Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun. Incident investigators asked the crime lab to analyze the

incident-related evidence to see if the recovered bullets and fired cartridge casings could be traced back to the weapons involved in the incident.

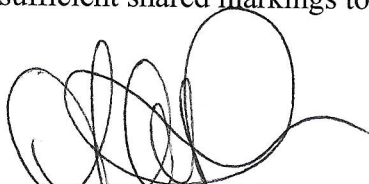
Upon receipt of the evidence, a crime lab technician test fired the Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun to collect a bullet and fired cartridge casing to compare to the incident-related evidence. Individual firearms can leave very distinct impressions on bullets and fired cartridge casings due to the mechanical characteristics unique to the particular weapon. In many cases these mechanical characteristics, called markings, will allow a technician to verify that a particular bullet or fired cartridge casing came from a particular weapon.

Upon comparison, the crime lab technician verified that the three “Blazer” 9mm fired cartridge casings found at the initial incident scene were fired from the from the Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun found in the Volkswagen Jetta that Mr. Seavers was driving.

The crime lab also examined the two fired bullets retrieved from Mr. Seavers’ body by the medical examiner. These bullets were consistent with ammunition provided by the Seattle Police Department to SPD officers, namely .40 caliber “Speer Gold Dot” brand ammunition. The technician ruled out the Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun as the source of the “Speer Gold Dot” bullets because they were .40 caliber rather than 9mm; in other words the bullets were too large to be fired from the 9mm handgun. The technician also compared these bullets to the bullets test fired from Officer Knoblach’s handgun and Officer Schickler’s handgun, both of which are .40 caliber weapons. There were insufficient shared markings to determine which handgun fired the bullets.



Deborah Alexander  
Attorney for the Family



Alexandra Nica  
Jessica Leiser  
Attorneys for SPD



Ted Buck  
Delaney DiGiovanni  
Attorneys for Ofc. Schickler

APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



Julia Garratt  
Inquest Administrator