



For Immediate Release

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Oversight entity finds April 2020 shooting of Shaun Fuhr by a Seattle police officer was consistent with policy

SEATTLE – Today the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) released findings from its administrative investigation into the fatal shooting of Shaun Fuhr by a Seattle Police Department (SPD) officer. After evaluating the facts and circumstances of the incident, [OPA found](#) the officers' conduct followed SPD policy and training.

The incident occurred on April 29, 2020, in south Seattle. A female called 911 reporting that her intoxicated former partner had fired a gun at her, physically assaulted her, and fled with her child. Officers were dispatched to the scene. The man—now identified as Shaun Fuhr—was located in the vicinity. Officers soon observed Mr. Fuhr running through an alley holding the child with one hand at his side. They gave chase and ordered him to stop multiple times, but he did not comply. Believing that Mr. Fuhr was an imminent deadly threat to the child, one officer discharged his firearm, which fatally struck Mr. Fuhr. The child was not physically harmed.

OPA determined that given the totality of the circumstances, further de-escalation at the time of the shooting was not safe or feasible. Moreover, OPA found the use of deadly force was reasonable, necessary, and proportional. Mr. Fuhr had previously engaged in violence towards the child's mother, he was believed to be armed and dangerous, the officers could not see his right hand, he had repeatedly refused to surrender, and he was holding the child in a manner that raised concerns for the child's welfare. OPA also considered the officer's extensive SWAT training for similar scenarios and his belief that without immediate action, the child would be at serious risk of imminent harm.

OPA recognizes that this incident is a tragedy for all involved. However, the weight of the evidence informs the determination that no policies or laws were violated.

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