



**INDEPENDENT FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM – KING COUNTY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Bellevue Police Department Officer-Involved Shooting Case: C23041709.**

**Update 02/22/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. IFIT-KC does not anticipate any additional information until the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory has concludes its examination of evidentiary items. There will be no additional updates until the results of these test are received or if any new information is discovered.

**Update 02/13/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. There is not additional information at this time.

**Update 02/08/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. There is no additional information at this time. The associated IFIT-KC case number is C23041709.

**Update 01/31/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. There is no additional information at this time.

**Update 01/24/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. There is no additional information at this time.

**Update 01/18/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. There is no additional information at this time.

IFIT-KC must conduct its investigation keeping in line with the following guidelines: Transparency, communication, independence, and credibility are integral parts of an investigation, and things we strive to provide for our community.

Due to the nature of the investigation, we are restricted in the information we can provide. To provide additional education and transparency for our community, we want to share details about our IFIT-KC team and the guidelines they must abide by.

IFIT-KC, which is made up of CJTC-defined credible investigators, is one of two (2) teams under the [Public Integrity Team of the King County Prosecutor's Office](#). Created in 2021, the team has two important duties:

1. Assist in the independent investigation of police use-of-force cases that result in:

---

*INDEPENDENT FORCE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM - KING COUNTY*

*Bellevue – Clyde Hill – Duvall – Issaquah – Kirkland – King County Sheriff's Office – Lake Forest Park  
Medina – Mercer Island – Redmond – Snoqualmie – University of Washington – Washington State Patrol*

- Death
  - Substantial physical injury
  - In-custody deaths
2. Analyze if the police action was justified or if criminal charges should be filed.

The IFIT-KC team adheres to the requirements of [WAC 139-12](#) and the [Criminal Justice Training Commission's 'Best Practices'](#) guidelines.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue our investigation.

**Update 01/12/2024:**

The IFIT-KC Investigation into the shooting from December 5, 2023, in Bellevue continues. There is no additional information at this time.

**UPDATE 01/03/2024:**

The IFIT-KC investigation into the Bellevue Police Department shooting continues. There are no new updates for this week.

**UPDATE 12/27/2023:**

On December 5, 2023, at approx. 6:35pm, Bellevue Police Officers responded to the Kelsey Creek Shopping Center in the 14900 block of Main Street. 911 calls reported a male walking around the complex with a knife. Witnesses have reported seeing the man advance towards an officer while continuing to display the knife, which prompted the officer to discharge their duty weapon, striking the man. First Aid and CPR were administered, but failed to revive the man and he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The decedent was identified as 44-year-old Joseph Ejeh, from Seattle. Other Bellevue PD Officers and community members witnessed the shooting.

IFIT-KC investigators continue to interview witnesses and review digital evidence that captured the scene.

**UPDATE 12/19/2023:**

There are no updates this week.

**UPDATE 12/15/2023:**

The investigation into the officer involved shooting from December 5, 2023, is still ongoing. Members of IFIT-KC are interviewing witnesses and collecting video evidence for review. Evidence was collected on the date of the incident and continues to be processed by investigators.

**UPDATE 12/11/2023:**

There are no new updates.

**ORIGINAL RELEASE 12/06/2023:**

According to the preliminary investigation, the Bellevue Police Department was dispatched to the area of the 15500 Block of Main Street around 6:35 PM on December 5, 2023, for a report of a man walking around with a knife out. Several Bellevue PD officers arrived in the area to contact the subject. Upon arrival at least one Bellevue PD Officer contacted the subject, who was reported to be a 44-year-old male. At some point the male advanced on the officer holding a knife in his hand. The officer then fired his weapon, striking the man. First AID and CPR were administered by the officers on scene and the fire department was called in. Unfortunately, the male was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Bellevue PD Officer who fired his weapon has been placed on administrative leaving pending this investigation.

Effective December 6, 2023, Sgt. Eric M. White will be the Public Information Officer for this IFIT-KC investigation.

Public notifications will be released weekly until the conclusion of the investigation. Media Inquiries regarding the Independent Investigation should be directed to IFIT-KC, Sgt. Eric M. White, (206) 263-2560, or at [kcsomro@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcsomro@kingcounty.gov).

---

**INDEPENDENT FORCE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM - KING COUNTY**

*Bellevue – Clyde Hill – Duvall – Issaquah – Kirkland – King County Sheriff's Office – Lake Forest Park  
Medina – Mercer Island – Redmond – Snoqualmie – University of Washington – Washington State Patrol*

February 22, 2024

Per Chapter 139-12 WAC, please note that information regarding any officer-involved shooting cannot be released by an independent investigation team without first notifying the non-law enforcement community representative assigned to the investigation and the family liaison of the involved subject. IFIT -KC will endeavor to incorporate questions received from the media into subsequent press releases.

---

*INDEPENDENT FORCE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM - KING COUNTY*

*Bellevue – Clyde Hill – Duvall – Issaquah – Kirkland – King County Sheriff's Office – Lake Forest Park*

*Medina – Mercer Island – Redmond – Snoqualmie – University of Washington – Washington State Patrol*