



Washington State Office of

**INDEPENDENT
INVESTIGATIONS**

*Created to conduct fair, thorough, transparent, and competent
investigations of deadly use of force by law enforcement.*

Final Case Report

Use of Deadly Force by the
Centralia Police Department

Deceased- Alecandro Castaneda

Date of Incident: January 12, 2025

Case # OII-2025-0001

Washington State Office of Independent Investigations

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REDACTED VERSION

*This public version has been redacted to protect civilian identities and to remove
autopsy photographs in accordance with RCW 68.50.105.*

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I. Summary

On the morning of January 12, 2025, Centralia Police Department (Centralia PD) officers were dispatched to a physical domestic disturbance at 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16, in Centralia, Washington. The caller, JB, told the 911 dispatcher Alecandro Castaneda had pushed her and was breaking doors inside the apartment. Centralia PD K-9 Officer Ruben Ramirez responded to the call and entered the apartment. Inside the apartment, Officer Ramirez encountered Castaneda at the doorway to a bedroom. Officer Ramirez told Castaneda he was under arrest and to go outside. Castaneda said no.

When Officer Ramirez attempted to take Castaneda's arm, Castaneda pulled away and retreated into the bedroom. Officer Ramirez drew his TASER and ordered Castaneda to the ground. Castaneda did not comply and initiated a physical encounter. During the struggle that ensued, Officer Ramirez discharged his TASER and fell or was pushed to the floor.

While on the floor, Officer Ramirez drew his firearm and fired it twice. Both shots struck Castaneda, one in the left thigh and one in the chest. Castaneda was pronounced dead at the scene by medics after life-saving measures were attempted.

Centralia PD notified the Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII) of the incident at 11:21 a.m., approximately 21 minutes after Officer Ramirez reported shots were fired. OII investigators responded and assumed authority over the criminal investigation of this incident. During the investigation, OII investigators collected Officer Ramirez's firearm and TASER. No weapons associated with Castaneda were found in the immediate area where the struggle occurred.

OII conducted an independent investigation of the fatal use of deadly force that occurred on January 12, 2025, with the intent to provide the prosecuting authority with the information necessary to make an informed decision about whether criminal charges should be filed.

This Final Case Report is an overview of what occurred and the ensuing OII investigation.

II. Associated Case Numbers

Office of Independent Investigations:	OII-2025-0001
Centralia Police Department:	25A00354
Lewis County Sheriff's Office:	25C505/25C497 ¹
Chehalis Police Department:	25B220
Lewis County Coroner's Office:	25-0013
Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory:	725-000018

¹ Centralia PD requested that Lewis County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) investigate "the underlying offense, which led to the request for law enforcement response." Incident #25C497 is the case number for that investigation. See LCSO Incident Report.

III. Use of Deadly Force Incident

The following account of what occurred is largely derived from the 911 call, radio communications, interviews with JB and officers' Body Worn Camera (BWC) video.

A. Pre-Incident Background

On the morning of January 12, 2025, JB, age 27, was at home with her six-year-old son at 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16, in Centralia, Washington. JB and her son had lived at this address with Alecandro Castaneda since July 2024. JB and Castaneda were in a romantic relationship.²

At 10:55 a.m., JB called 911 and asked for a response to her apartment. JB and the 911 dispatcher had the following exchange:³

JB: Hi, I need you to come escort this guy and get him out of my house 'cause he just broke my door and pushed me, and I'm pregnant....

Dispatcher: Does he have any weapons?

JB: No, but he keeps being really aggressive and my son's in the other room. [unintelligible] pushing me [unintelligible]....

Dispatcher: Do you need an ambulance at all?

JB: No, I'm okay. But he is getting scratched up. He just busted the door.

Throughout the conversation between JB and the 911 dispatcher, a male voice could be heard in the background yelling and swearing.

JB told the dispatcher that Castaneda was not on the lease "so it shouldn't be really a problem on getting him escorted out of here."

During the 911 call, JB reported that Castaneda was "breaking all my doors." She also said, "he's pushed me to the floor, like, to the floor, like multiple times, [unintelligible] my stomach." The male appeared to deny pushing her to the floor but stated, "I pushed you on the stomach." The dispatcher confirmed with JB "[h]e pushed your stomach and you're pregnant."⁴

While still on the phone with JB, Lewis County 911 Communications broadcasted "civil dispute North Ash Street" over Centralia PD's radio communications system.⁵ Centralia PD Officer Ramirez acknowledged the broadcast approximately seven seconds later and the dispatcher provided the following information over the radio:

² OII-2025-0001, Supplement 5, Investigator Patrick Moen.

³ Transcript of 911 call is attached as Appendix A.

⁴ Transcript of 911 call, Appendix A.

⁵ Transcript of Call Detail Report (CDR) and Radio Communications, attached as Appendix B, timestamp 10:56:29.

"401 North Ash Street number one six. Male versus female. Male broke the door and shoved the female. Aid declined. Unknown weapons. Male's screaming and yelling in the background. Partner still on the line."⁶

The dispatcher noted on the computer-aided dispatch (CAD)⁷ that the female was pregnant. Centralia PD Sergeant Patricia Finch said over the radio she was responding to the call approximately one minute after Officer Ramirez.⁸

While enroute, Officer Ramirez asked dispatch whether there was a description of the male. The dispatcher provided the following information:

Dispatcher: Partner is still working on that, but he's still in the house, verbal.

Officer Ramirez: Received.

Dispatcher: Radio, 320. RP is advising the male half now is breaking all the doors.⁹

At 10:59 a.m., Officer Ramirez advised dispatch he was arriving at the apartment.¹⁰

B. Officer Ramirez's Entry into Apartment and Contact with Alecandro Castaneda

Officer Ramirez parked his patrol car just outside of Apartment 16, which is on the first floor of a two-story four-plex. Officer Ramirez got out of his patrol car, leaving his K-9 partner in the back seat.

⁶ Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications, Appendix B, timestamp 10:56:40.

⁷ CAD notes are sent from dispatchers to law enforcement personnel by way of mobile computer terminals.

⁸ Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications, Appendix B, timestamp 10:57:32.

⁹ Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications, Appendix B, timestamp 10:59:05. "320" refers to Officer Ramirez's standard unit designator. Standardized unit designators are used in radio communications, instead of officer names, for brevity and comprehensibility. "RP" is generally understood to mean "reporting party."

¹⁰ Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications, Appendix B, timestamp 10:59:11.



Figure 1. Satellite image depicting the location of Apartment 16 in the complex at 401 North Ash Street, Centralia, WA.

Officer Ramirez went directly to Apartment 16 and entered through the closed, unlocked front door. Based on BWC video, Officer Ramirez did not knock on the door or announce his presence prior to entering or after he entered the apartment.¹¹

Officer Ramirez walked through the living room and into a hallway between two bedrooms, where he encountered JB, who was still on the phone with the 911 dispatcher.¹²

¹¹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 10:59:35.

¹² BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 10:59:42.

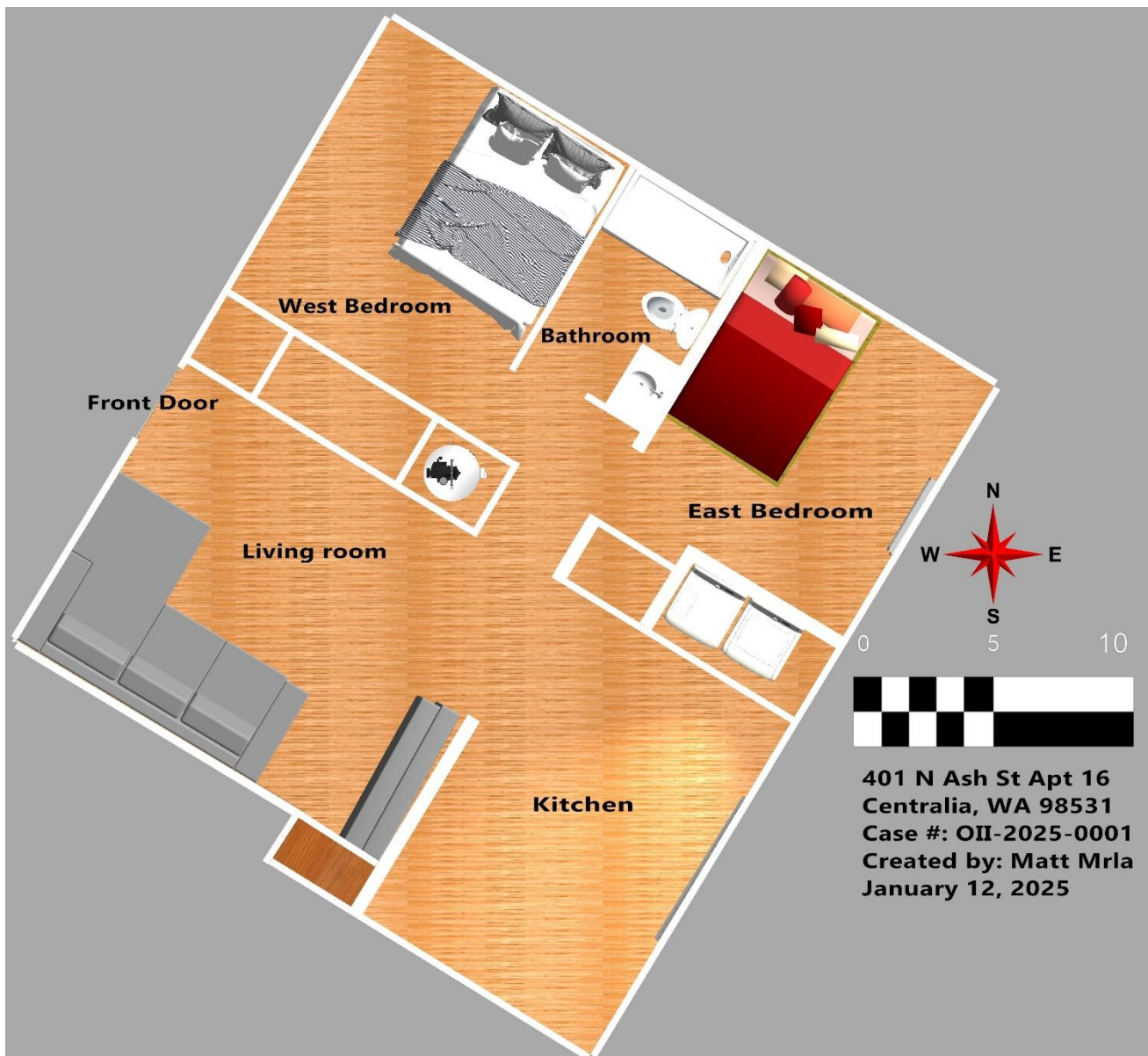


Figure 2. Two-dimensional overhead diagram of the interior layout of Apartment 16. Created by OII Investigator Matt Mrla from the Trimble 3D laser scan data using Trimble Forensics Reveal software. See Section IV.C. Crime Scene Processing and Evidence Collection.

Officer Ramirez asked JB, "Where's he at?" JB replied, "He's in there."¹³ The east bedroom door was ajar and there was apparent damage to the door.

¹³ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 10:59:42.



Figure 3. East bedroom door, as captured by Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 10:59:41.

Castaneda opened the bedroom door and spoke to Officer Ramirez from the threshold of the door.¹⁴ The following exchange was captured on BWC video:¹⁵

Castaneda:	What's up?
Officer Ramirez:	Come on out.
Castaneda:	Why?
Officer Ramirez:	Because I'm talking to you out here. Let's go outside.
JB:	Go with them for a minute.
Officer Ramirez:	Let's go.
JB:	And calm down.
Castaneda:	Don't fucking touch me.
Officer Ramirez:	You're under arrest. Let's go outside.
	It doesn't work [referring to a light switch Officer Ramirez appeared to
Castaneda:	attempt to turn on].
Officer Ramirez:	Let's go, outside.
Castaneda:	Why?
Officer Ramirez:	Cause I'm asking you.
Castaneda:	No.

¹⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 10:59:45.

¹⁵ A transcript of Officer Ramirez's BWC video is attached as Appendix C.

Officer Ramirez: Let's go.

Castaneda: No.

Officer Ramirez: Dude. Do not push it.

Castaneda: I'm not pushing anything.

Officer Ramirez: Let's go outside.

Castaneda: She was pushing me in here, bro.

Officer Ramirez: Right.

Castaneda: And I was over here, just chilling. She came in here.

Officer Ramirez: Well, let's go outside.

Castaneda: Came in here. Touched my shit [unintelligible].

Officer Ramirez: Let's go outside. Let's go outside. Let's go. Let's go.

Castaneda: Don't touch me.

Officer Ramirez: Dude. Let's go outside.

Castaneda: Don't touch me.

From the BWC video, it appears Officer Ramirez attempted to escort Castaneda out by reaching for Castaneda's left shoulder. Castaneda pushed Officer Ramirez's hand away and backed up, while continuing to say, "don't touch me."¹⁶

Castaneda continued to back up and stepped up onto the bed, with his back to the wall in the corner of the room. Officer Ramirez drew his TASER¹⁷ and pointed it in Castaneda's direction, approximately 26 seconds after first contacting him at the doorway to the east bedroom.¹⁸

¹⁶ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:09.

¹⁷ A TASER is a less-lethal weapon that delivers an electrical pulse through two barbed projectiles or by pressing the contacts at the end of the weapon directly against the skin. The electrical pulse is designed to disrupt a person's voluntary muscle control. Officer Ramirez was armed with a TASER X26P. (See Section IV.C.3 Evidence Collection.)

¹⁸ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:11.

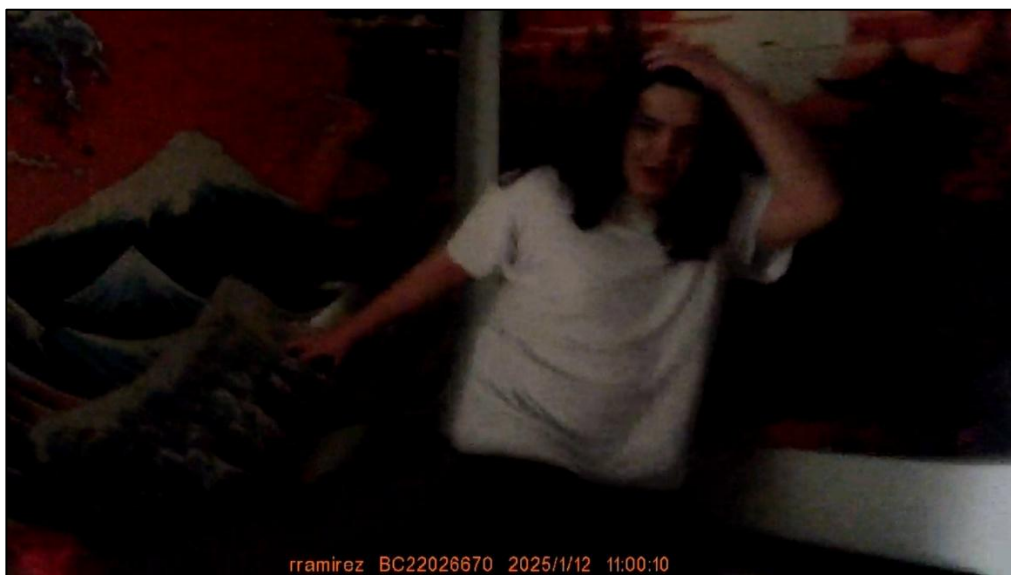


Figure 4. Castaneda on the bed in the corner of the room. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:10.

Officer Ramirez continued to give instructions while the TASER was pointed at Castaneda:

Castaneda:	Really?
Officer Ramirez:	Yeah.
Castaneda:	Really?
Officer Ramirez:	Get on the ground.
Castaneda:	Why?
Officer Ramirez:	Get on the ground.
Castaneda:	There's a bed in here.
Officer Ramirez:	Do it now.
Castaneda:	There's a bed.
Officer Ramirez:	Let's go. ¹⁹

C. Physical Contact Between Officer Ramirez and Castaneda

While Officer Ramirez was pointing his TASER at Castaneda, Castaneda suddenly moved forward across the bed toward Officer Ramirez and appeared to swipe at the TASER with his left hand (see figure 5 below).²⁰

¹⁹ Transcript of Officer Ramirez's BWC video, Appendix C.

²⁰ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:19.



Figure 5. Castaneda's left arm swinging towards Officer Ramirez's TASER. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:19.

Officer Ramirez discharged his TASER.²¹



Figure 6. TASER near or on Castaneda's left shoulder. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:20.

Officer Ramirez and Castaneda began to physically struggle between the bed and the wall of the bedroom.

D. Use of Deadly Force

It appears from BWC video that, during the struggle, Officer Ramirez fell, chest down, onto the floor in the east corner of the bedroom. Officer Ramirez supported himself by placing his left hand on the floor approximately six seconds into the physical altercation (see figure 7).²² Loud grunting can be heard.

²¹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:20.

²² BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:24.



Figure 7. Officer Ramirez's left hand on the bedroom floor. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:24.

From the BWC video, it appears Officer Ramirez rotated to his left, while still near the floor. A shot can then be heard.²³ This is approximately eight seconds from the time Castaneda appeared to swipe at Officer Ramirez's TASER and the physical struggle began.

Shortly after the shot, the firearm can be seen on the BWC video.²⁴ Based on the orientation of the firearm (see figure 8), Officer Ramirez was holding the firearm in his right hand. The baseboards, floor, and the bottom of the bedroom wall are visible just beyond the firearm, indicating Officer Ramirez's BWC was close to the floor at the time:



Figure 8. Slide and rear sight of Officer Ramirez's firearm immediately after the first shot. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:28.

²³ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:27.

²⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:28.

After the shot was fired, Officer Ramirez's left hand moved in and out of the video frame quickly while the sound of the slide²⁵ of a firearm moving back and forth can be heard.²⁶ This is consistent with Officer Ramirez pulling the slide of his firearm back and releasing it, commonly done to fix a malfunction with a semi-automatic pistol. This likely caused an unfired cartridge to be ejected onto the floor.²⁷ During this time, Castaneda can be heard saying "Okay. Oh fuck."

A second shot can be heard approximately one to two seconds later.²⁸ At the time of the second shot, Officer Ramirez's BWC was pointed toward the north corner and ceiling of the bedroom (figure 9). This suggests Officer Ramirez continued rotating to his left and his back was facing the floor when the gun was fired.



Figure 9. BWC pointed towards bedroom ceiling at the time of the second gunshot. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:30.

Immediately after the second shot, Officer Ramirez's BWC turned toward the doorway of the bedroom. Based on the angle of the BWC video, Officer Ramirez was sitting or kneeling on the floor between the bed and the northeast wall of the bedroom (see figure 10).

²⁵ The slide is the reciprocating part on top of a semi-automatic pistol. When cycled backward and forward, the action of the slide ejects the chambered cartridge and loads the next cartridge from the inserted magazine.

²⁶ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:30.

²⁷ An unfired cartridge with the same headstamp (WIN 45 AUTO +P) as the ammunition in Officer Ramirez's firearm was located on the floor when the scene was processed. See Section IV.C Crime Scene Processing and Evidence Collection.

²⁸ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:30.



Figure 10. Screen capture from Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:00:32, shortly after second shot can be heard.

Officer Ramirez reported "shots fired" on the radio moments after the second shot.²⁹

The encounter between Officer Ramirez and Castaneda lasted 45 seconds from their initial contact at the bedroom door to the second shot.

E. After the Use of Deadly Force

Officer Ramirez remained in his position on the floor for a little over a minute after the shooting.³⁰ During this time, JB came to the bedroom door and Officer Ramirez told her to get outside. Officer Ramirez requested medical aid over the radio.³¹ JB asked Officer Ramirez about Castaneda's condition several times, as Officer Ramirez continued to ask her to go outside.³²

Sergeant Finch arrived in the bedroom approximately one minute after the second shot was fired.³³ Officer Ramirez stood up as Sergeant Finch entered the bedroom (see figure 11).

²⁹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:33.

³⁰ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:31-11:01:39.

³¹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:01:08.

³² BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:01:14.

³³ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:01:42.



Figure 11. Screen capture from Sergeant Finch's BWC video timestamp, 11:01:42.

Officer Ramirez told Sergeant Finch "he's been shot twice" and asked her to search the rest of the house to make sure there were no other people inside to secure it for aid.³⁴ At 11:02 a.m., Sergeant Finch declared the scene secure and Centralia PD Officer August Shulda entered the living room.³⁵ According to Sergeant Finch, aid had not yet arrived. At that time, Officer Ramirez said the following:

"Glove up. He's been shot twice. One low and one up high. Um, he attacked me. I tased, I tased him when he attacked. He was on me and then after that he had me in a headlock and reaching, reaching for my gun. The gun was dropped and I picked it up and shot him."³⁶

After the shooting, Castaneda was lying face down on the floor of the bedroom. Sergeant Finch and Officer Ramirez rolled Castaneda over in preparation of rendering aid.³⁷ While examining Castaneda, Officer Ramirez identified the apparent gunshot wounds by saying, "once in the chest" and "once in the leg."³⁸

Sergeant Finch instructed Officer Shulda to remove some of the furniture and other items from the bedroom to make space as she and Officer Ramirez started lifesaving measures, including applying a tourniquet to Castaneda's left leg.³⁹

³⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:01:45.

³⁵ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:02:14.

³⁶ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:02:20. See section III.H.2. Statements of Officer Ramirez for additional statements.

³⁷ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:02:48.

³⁸ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:03:04.

³⁹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:03:36.

Lewis County Sheriff's Office (Lewis County SO) Deputy Tyson Brown arrived and entered the apartment at 11:04 a.m.⁴⁰ Officer Ramirez obtained a medical supply kit from his own car, including a chest seal. As Officer Ramirez prepared the chest seal, Deputy Brown checked Castaneda for a pulse and said, "Pulse faint. Pulse is faint."⁴¹ Officer Ramirez said, "Come on guys, let's try to save this guy."⁴²

Riverside Fire Authority (RFA) medic units entered the apartment shortly thereafter.⁴³ Medical personnel evaluated Castaneda and started chest compressions at 11:07 a.m.⁴⁴ Medics provided manual ventilation and administered intravenous medications while continuing chest compressions. After approximately 40 minutes, medical personnel stopped attempts to resuscitate Castaneda at 11:48 a.m.⁴⁵

When the medic units arrived and took over lifesaving measures, Officer Ramirez left the apartment.⁴⁶ He returned to his car and spoke to Deputy Brown:⁴⁷

Officer Ramirez:	Why? Fuck. Just trying to get out. Nine shifts left. That's all I fucking had, man. I hope that dude's gonna be fine man. He's just a fucking kid. Just stupid. What was he thinking?
Deputy Brown:	You know as well as I do, man. Sometimes it's out of your control.
Deputy Brown:	Where, where, where are you hurt at?
Officer Ramirez:	You know, I.
Deputy Brown:	Okay.
Officer Ramirez:	He attacked me.
Deputy Brown:	You, you got, you got, you got, you got some blood dripping from your lip and so.
Officer Ramirez:	I don't know. He just, he just jumped at me in, into the wall and.
Deputy Brown:	Okay.
Officer Ramirez:	Was reaching around for my gun. I tased him and that didn't work. So, when my gun, I knew it was gonna come out, so I.

⁴⁰ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:04:23.

⁴¹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:06:21.

⁴² BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:06:24.

⁴³ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:06:45.

⁴⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Shulda, timestamp 11:07:15.

⁴⁵ Riverside Fire Authority's EMS Care Report, pg. 1.

⁴⁶ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:07:09.

⁴⁷ Transcript of Officer Ramirez's BWC video, Appendix C.

Deputy Brown: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: He wasn't getting off.

Deputy Brown: You get hit anywhere else?

Officer Ramirez: No.

Deputy Brown: Just wanna check to see, see where aid can, needs to check you out if need be, so. You want aid come take a look at you in a bit?

Officer Ramirez: Yeah, I probably should.

Deputy Brown: Okay. Alright man.

Officer Ramirez: Fuck.

Deputy Brown: I'm not going anywhere until you're good, man, so.

Officer Ramirez: It just happened so fast.

RFA and American Medical Response (AMR) medics checked Officer Ramirez for injuries outside of the apartment. Officer Ramirez was transported to Providence Centralia Hospital by AMR at 11:40 a.m.⁴⁸

Centralia PD Officer Julie Jacobo took photographs of Officer Ramirez prior to him being transported to the hospital. Officer Ramirez had blood coming from the right side of his mouth and what appeared to be drywall dust and debris on his right pants leg, the back of his pants, and on his right boot.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ AMR EMS Patient Care Report, p 6-7.

⁴⁹ Photographs of Officer Ramirez taken by Centralia PD Officer Jacobo.



Figure 12. Photo taken by Centralia PD Officer Jacobo.

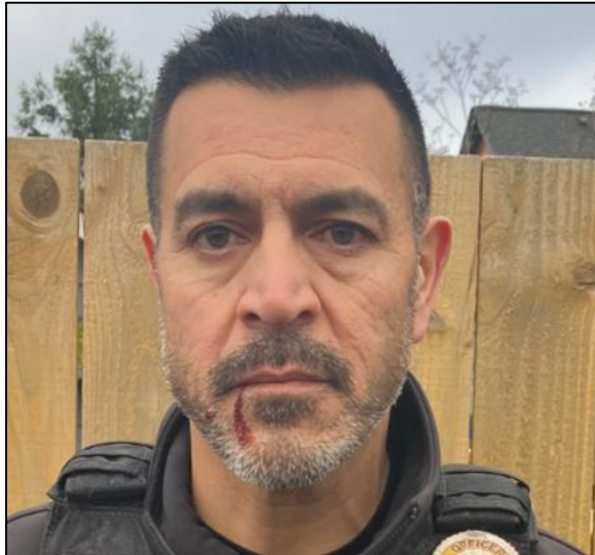


Figure 13. Photo taken by Centralia PD Officer Jacobo.



Figure 14. Photo taken by Centralia PD Officer Jacobo.



Figure 15. Photo taken by Centralia PD Officer Jacobo.

F. Incident Timeline

The following is a timeline from when JB called 911 until medical units arrived.

10:55:30 JB called 911.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ See Transcript of 911 Call in Appendix A.

10:56:36 Officer Ramirez dispatched to 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16.⁵¹

10:57:32 Sergeant Finch advised dispatch she was enroute.⁵²

10:59:05 Officer Ramirez arrived at the apartment complex.⁵³

10:59:36 Officer Ramirez entered Apartment 16.⁵⁴

10:59:45 Officer Ramirez encountered Castaneda at the doorway to the bedroom.⁵⁵

11:00:11 Officer Ramirez pointed his TASER at Castaneda.⁵⁶

11:00:19 Castaneda appeared to initiate physical contact with Officer Ramirez.⁵⁷

11:00:20 Office Ramirez deployed his TASER in the area of Castaneda's left shoulder.⁵⁸

11:00:27 First shot fired.⁵⁹

11:00:30 Second shot fired.⁶⁰

11:00:33 Officer Ramirez advised, "Radio shots fired."^{61 62}

11:01:08 Officer Ramirez requested aid.⁶³

11:01:35 Sergeant Finch entered Apartment 16.⁶⁴

11:02:09 Officer Shulda entered Apartment 16.⁶⁵

⁵¹ Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications in Appendix B, timestamp 10:56:36.

⁵² Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications, Appendix B, timestamp 10:57:32.

⁵³ Transcript of CDR and Radio Communications, Appendix B, timestamp 10:59:05.

⁵⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 10:59:36.

⁵⁵ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 10:59:45.

⁵⁶ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:11.

⁵⁷ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:19.

⁵⁸ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:20.

⁵⁹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:27.

⁶⁰ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:30.

⁶¹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:33.

⁶² Mixed radio traffic of Officer Ramirez, Dispatch, Sergeant Finch, and Officer Shulda begins at 11:00:33.

⁶³ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:01:08.

⁶⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Sergeant Finch, timestamp 11:01:35.

⁶⁵ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Shulda, timestamp 11:02:09.

11:03:36 Officer Ramirez and Sergeant Finch place a tourniquet and begin lifesaving measures.⁶⁶

11:04:24 LCSO Deputy Brown entered Apartment 16.⁶⁷

11:06:45 RFA personnel arrived.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:03:36.

⁶⁷ BWC video of Lewis County SO Deputy Brown, timestamp 11:04:24.

⁶⁸ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:06:45.

IV. OII Investigation

A. Notification and Response

On January 12, 2025, at 11:21 a.m., Centralia PD Commander Dave Clary called the OII law enforcement notification line. Commander Clary informed OII investigators a male subject had been shot by a Centralia PD officer and the subject's condition was critical. CPR was in progress at the time of the call.⁶⁹ OII investigators responded to the scene at 401 North Ash Street and to Centralia PD at 118 W. Maple Street, Centralia for officer processing. The first OII investigator arrived at 401 North Ash Street at 12:04 p.m.⁷⁰ Members of surrounding agencies, including Lewis County SO, responded and maintained responsibility for the scene until relieved by OII. Centralia PD provided scene security. OII assumed incident command responsibilities from Lewis County SO at 1:08 p.m.

B. Conflict of Interest Assessment

The objectivity and credibility of OII investigations depends on identifying and avoiding conflicts of interest. OII requires that all personnel assigned to an investigation disclose potential conflicts of interest with any person or entity involved in the OII investigation.

Potential conflicts are assessed by supervisors and a team member may be restricted, limited or disqualified from further participation in the investigation if a conflict of interest is identified. Preliminary assessments are done at the time of the initial response and other intervals. In addition, investigation team members have an ongoing duty to report any potential conflicts of interest at any time during the investigation.

Conflict-of-interest assessments were conducted throughout this investigation. Two investigators were disqualified from participation due to identified conflicts of interest. An OII family liaison was removed from the case after it was determined they may have received statements from JB that could make the liaison a potential witness.

C. Crime Scene Processing and Evidence Collection

OII investigators arrived at the apartment complex at 401 North Ash Street. OII Investigators used yellow crime scene tape to restrict vehicle and foot access to the northwest buildings and center courtyard area.⁷¹ The inner perimeter, which had been established by Centralia PD officers, included the interior of Apartment 16 and remained in place throughout the investigation.

⁶⁹ OII-2025-0001, Event Report, Regional Supervisor Matt Musselwhite.

⁷⁰ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 1, Investigator Angela Hilliard.

⁷¹ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 2, Investigator Jason Spalding.

At 11:36 a.m., OII investigators requested the Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team (WSP CSRT) respond to assist.⁷² WSP CSRT arrived on scene at approximately 3:45 p.m. and processed the scene. WSP CSRT members completed a preliminary conflict-of-interest assessment prior to processing the scene. No conflicts of interest were identified.

OII investigators obtained a search warrant for 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16.⁷³ Once a search warrant was signed, the scene was processed by WSP CSRT in coordination with OII investigators.⁷⁴

1. Photography

WSP CSRT took a total of 401 photographs.⁷⁵ This included photographs of the parking lot, the layout of Apartment 16, the location of potential evidence, and the physical condition of the apartment, including wall damage, bloodstains, and weapons.



Figure 16. Front entryway of Apartment 16. From WSP CSRT scene photographs.

⁷² WSP CSRT was established to respond to calls for crime scene assistance from any law enforcement agency within Washington State to ensure a thorough and complete investigation regardless of any resource limitations. It is staffed by trained civilian forensic scientists, and their expertise is especially useful when processing complex or multiple scenes. OII will generally use WSP CSRT to process its scenes. However, OII investigators are also trained and qualified to process a scene themselves if WSP CSRT is unnecessary, unduly delayed or excluded due to a conflict of interest.

⁷³ See section IV.F. Search Warrants.

⁷⁴ WSP CSRT report 725-000018.

⁷⁵ OII-2025-0001, Supplemental 6, Investigator Rob Jones.



Figure 17. Front living room of Apartment 16. From WSP CSRT scene photographs.



Figure 18. Hallway to apartment bedrooms. From WSP CSRT scene photographs.

2. Laser Scanning

WSP CSRT used a Trimble X 7 3D laser scanner to document the scene. Using Trimble Forensics Reveal software, OII investigators were able to create two and three-dimensional diagrams, as seen in figures 2 and 19. These diagrams assist in providing an understanding of the positional relationships of the evidence and accurate measurements of the scene.

3. Evidence Collection

WSP CSRT documents and collects items of evidence where they are located at their arrival. Objects in the east bedroom were moved by Centralia PD officers prior to OII's arrival to make room for life saving measures.⁷⁶ Officers can be seen on BWC video moving a computer desk, desktop computer, computer monitor, gaming chair, keyboard and mouse, large JBL speaker, box fan, and window shades.⁷⁷ Officer Shulda also moved Officer Ramirez's TASER from the floor to the bed.⁷⁸

The WSP CSRT identified, photographed, documented and collected items of evidence as described below.

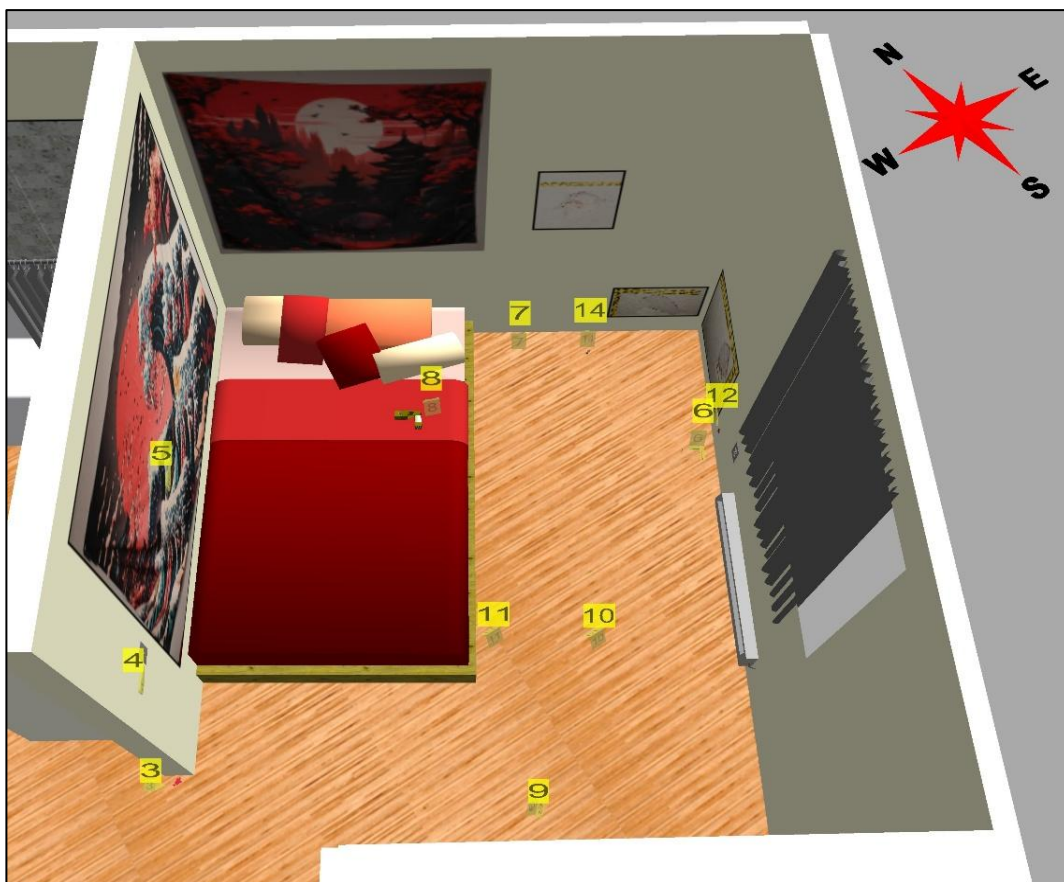


Figure 19. Diagram created by OII Investigator Mrla using Trimble Forensics Reveal software.

⁷⁶ Transcript of recorded interview with Sergeant Finch, line 61-68 and transcript of recorded interview with Officer Shulda, line 42-44.

⁷⁷ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:02:47; BWC video of Centralia PD Sergeant Finch, timestamp 11:02:44; and BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Shulda, timestamp 11:03:07.

⁷⁸ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Shulda, timestamp 11:11:43.

Evidence Legend

1. Security camera - South corner of living room (not pictured)
2. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstain - On damaged hallway water heater door (not pictured)
3. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstain - On floor in threshold to back bedroom
4. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstain - On light switch inside bedroom
5. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstain - On tapestry hanging on northwest wall
6. WIN 45 AUTO +P fired cartridge casing - On floor near southeast wall
7. WIN 45 AUTO +P fired cartridge casing - On floor against northeast wall
8. TASER X26P with cartridge - On bed initially underneath a pillow
9. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstained t-shirt - On floor under decedent
10. Apple iPhone - In decedents right shorts pocket
11. Wallet with identification - On floor beside decedent's left pocket
12. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstain - On southeast wall slightly south of large area of damage
13. Phenolphthalein positive bloodstain - On bathroom door (not pictured)
14. WIN 45 AUTO +P unfired cartridge casing - On floor near northeast wall

Figure 20. Evidence legend created from the WSP CSRT evidence list.

a. Bloodstains

WSP CSRT documented several bloodstains throughout the apartment, including on two doors in the apartment.

Additional blood stains were located on the floor in the door threshold and southwest corner of the east bedroom. In the east bedroom WSP CSRT also documented a bloodstain on the damaged light switch cover plate, on the tapestry along the west wall, and low on the east wall to the south of other damage to that wall, as described below. WSP CSRT collected samples from several bloodstains for further analysis.⁷⁹

b. TASER Evidence

A yellow and black TASER (model X26P and SN:B13000AED) was found under a red pillow on the bed's northeast side in Castaneda's bedroom.

As noted above, a TASER is a less-lethal weapon that delivers an electrical pulse through two barbed projectiles or by pressing the contacts at the end of the weapon directly against the skin. The electrical pulse is designed to disrupt a person's voluntary muscle control. This requires both TASER probes to contact the subject, creating a path for electrical current to flow.

When WSP CSRT located the TASER, the cartridge was attached, and the wires were tangled across the bed and floor. One probe was under a blue box fan. The second probe was embedded in the left sleeve of Castaneda's white t-shirt beneath Castaneda's upper body.

⁷⁹ WSP CSRT report #725-000018, 03/28/25.



Figure 21. WSP CSRT photograph WSP_0211.JPG of wires leading to TASER under red pillow.



Figure 22. WSP CSRT photograph WSP_0267.JPG of Taser after removing the pillow.

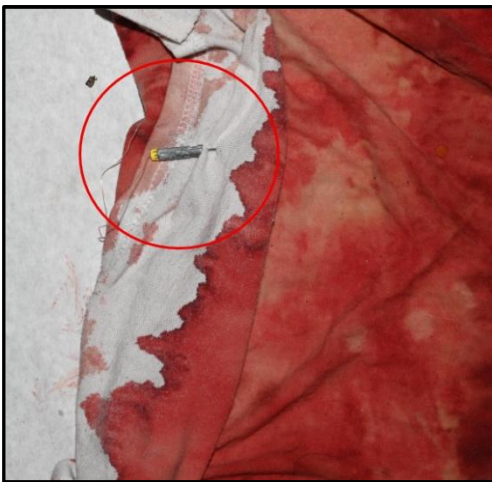


Figure 23. WSP CSRT photograph WSP_0374.JPG of probe attached to white t-shirt.



Figure 24. Officer Shulda photograph IMG_2500.JPG of probe under blue box fan.

c. Firearm Evidence

WSP CSRT found two fired cartridge cases on the floor in the northeast corner of the room (see figure 25). Both fired cartridges were marked with the same headstamp "WIN 45 AUTO +P."⁸⁰ WSP CSRT found an unfired cartridge with the same headstamp on the floor nearby (see figures 26 -27).

⁸⁰ A headstamp is an imprint on the bottom ("case head") of a cartridge casing and typically includes the manufacturer and the caliber of the bullet.



Figure 25. WSP CSRT photograph of two fired cartridge cases marked with yellow evidence markers. Item 7 is along the north wall and item 6 is near the east wall of the east bedroom.

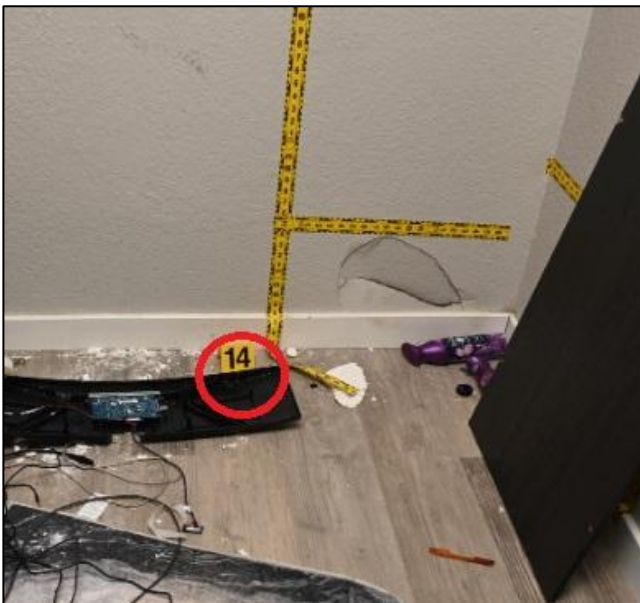


Figure 26. WSP CSRT photograph showing location of item 14, unfired cartridge, near the north wall.



Figure 27. WSP CSRT photograph of item 14.

d. Bullet Defects

OII and WSP CSRT investigators examined the walls, floor and ceiling of the east bedroom for potential bullet defects. No defects were identified, other than those to Castaneda's body and clothing.

e. Apartment Damage

The hallway, bathroom and east bedroom doors were damaged, including a large hole in the east bedroom door.

WSP CSRT also documented several areas of damage to the drywall in the east bedroom, including three holes in the northeast and southeast walls (see figure 28).

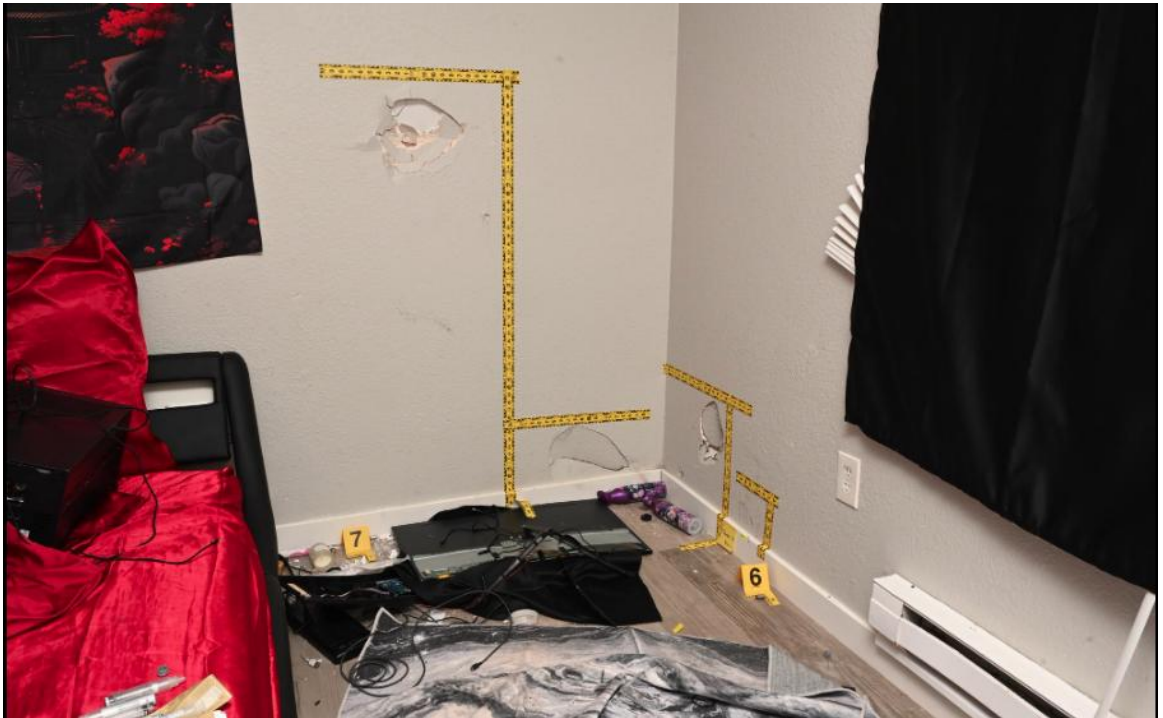


Figure 28. WSP CSRT photograph of damage to walls in east bedroom.

Footage from Officer Ramirez's BWC video only shows damage on the upper northeast wall prior to the physical confrontation between the officer and Castaneda (see figure 29).⁸¹

⁸¹ BWC video of Centralia PD Officer Ramirez, timestamp 11:00:10.

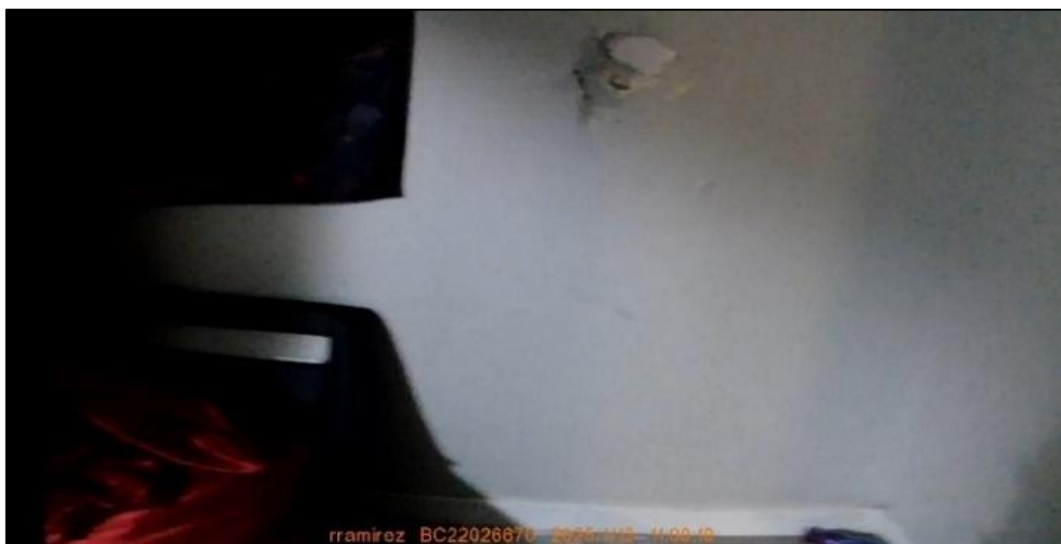


Figure 29. East corner of bedroom from Officer Ramirez's BWC prior to physical altercation.

Video from Sergeant Finch's BWC taken approximately two minutes after the shooting captured two new areas of damage at the bottom of the wall in the east corner of the bedroom (see figure 30):⁸²



Figure 30. East corner of bedroom from Sergeant Finch's BWC after the physical altercation.

From the BWC video captured by Officer Ramirez and Sergeant Finch, it appears the damage to the lower walls occurred during the physical altercation between Officer Ramirez and Castaneda:

⁸² BWC video of Centralia PD Sergeant Finch, timestamp 11:02.36.



Figure 31. WSP CSRT photograph showing damage to the drywall in the east corner of the bedroom.

WSP CSRT collected several additional items from the residence, including a mobile phone, a wallet with identification, clothing cut during medical aid, and multiple swabs and samples for potential DNA analysis.

All items collected by WSP CSRT were turned over to OII on January 12, 2025, upon completion of scene processing.⁸³ (See figure 20 Evidence Legend above for list of items collected by WSP CSRT.)

D. Involved and Responding Agencies Activities

Prior to the arrival of OII investigators, Centralia PD, Lewis County SO and Chehalis Police Department (Chehalis PD) officers took steps to obtain and preserve evidence relating to the incident.⁸⁴ The following is a summary of these steps. Relevant information from these efforts is incorporated into other sections of this case report.

Centralia PD:

- Officer Jacobo took photographs of Officer Ramirez prior to his transport to the hospital. She also collected his uniform while he was at the hospital and turned it over to OII investigators.
- Officer Shulda took photographs of the apartment and evidence items.
- Sergeant Finch collected Officer Ramirez's duty belt and firearm, external vest carrier and protective gloves and provided them to OII Lewis County SO deputy Brown. Sergeant Finch also briefly interviewed JB.

⁸³ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 6, Investigator Jones.

⁸⁴ This is permissible pursuant to RCW 43.102.120(2).

Lewis County SO:

- Deputy Brown took photographs of the scene, contacted neighbors and interviewed JB. (Deputy Brown was tasked with conducting the investigation of any underlying offense.⁸⁵) He also transferred items collected by Sergeant Finch to OII investigators.

Chehalis PD:

- Officer Gene Frolov identified potential witnesses in nearby apartments and was present for Sergeant Finch's interview with JB.

E. Officer Processing

1. General

Officer processing refers to the investigative steps of documenting the physical appearance and condition of uniforms and equipment of involved officers. These steps include:

- Taking photographs of the involved officers to document their appearance with emphasis on uniform defects, injuries, equipment, and potential trace evidence.
- Documenting the condition of the officer's firearm and associated magazines or other loading devices.
- Determining and documenting the number of firearm cartridges in each officer's magazines or reloading devices. This can include pistol, rifle, and less-lethal tools depending on the incident being investigated.
- Collecting firearms, equipment, uniforms, and other items as necessary depending on the nature of the incident.

2. Officer Ramirez

Officer Ramirez arrived at Centralia PD for processing after being physically evaluated at Providence Centralia Hospital. Before being transported to the hospital by ambulance, Centralia PD Officer Jacobo photographed Officer Ramirez in uniform while wearing his duty gear (see Section III.F, figures 12-15.)

After those photographs, Officer Ramirez removed his duty belt (with holster and firearm) and tactical vest carrier and gave them to Centralia PD Sergeant Finch who then gave them to Lewis County SO Deputy Brown before leaving the scene.⁸⁶ OII Investigator Hilliard collected those items and a pair of latex gloves worn by Officer Ramirez from Deputy Brown on scene.⁸⁷

⁸⁵ Incident report Lewis County SO #25C505.

⁸⁶ BWV video Centralia PD Sergeant Finch, time stamp 11:31:30; BWC video of Lewis County SO Deputy Brown, timestamp 11:42:45.

⁸⁷ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 1, Investigator Hilliard.

OII investigators were informed Centralia PD Officer Jacobo collected Officer Ramirez' uniform while he was at Providence Centralia Hospital and Officer Ramirez' wife was in possession of his boots. Both items were provided to OII investigators at Centralia PD on January 12, prior to processing.⁸⁸

Officer Ramirez, with his legal counsel present, arrived at Centralia PD for processing at 2:45 p.m. OII investigators photographed Officer Ramirez in the clothes he was wearing at that time. OII investigators documented the following:

- Officer Ramirez's legal counsel told OII investigators Officer Ramirez had suffered a "hit to the head."⁸⁹
- The top of Officer Ramirez's right hand appeared bruised and swollen.⁹⁰
- Officer Ramirez's lower right lip had a fresh cut and there was a small abrasion on his chin just below the lip.⁹¹
- Officer Ramirez moved slowly while being processed.⁹²



Figure 32. Officer Ramirez processing. OII image DSC_0033.



Figure 33. Officer Ramirez processing. OII image DSC_0037.

⁸⁸ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 1, Investigator Hilliard and Supplement 6, Investigator Jones.

⁸⁹ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 6, Investigator Jones and Supplement 12, Regional Supervisor Francesca Nix.

⁹⁰ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 1, Investigator Hilliard and Supplement 6, Investigator Jones.

⁹¹ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 1, Investigator Hilliard and Supplement 6, Investigator Jones.

⁹² OII-2025-0001, Supplement 1, Investigator Hilliard.



Figure 34: Officer Ramirez processing. OII image DSC_0034.

Officer Ramirez's duty firearm was a Sig Sauer P220 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol with serial number G220244 (figure 35). There was an unfired cartridge in the chamber and an inserted magazine. The magazine had a maximum capacity of eight .45 caliber cartridges, therefore the maximum capacity of Officer Ramirez's firearm was nine cartridges (eight in the magazine and one in the chamber). At the time of processing, the magazine contained five cartridges. This is consistent with the two fired cartridges and one unfired cartridge located at the scene.

Officer Ramirez had two additional magazines on his person at the time of the incident. Both magazines were attached to his tactical vest carrier and fully loaded with 8 cartridges each (figure 36). All the cartridges had the same headstamp of "WIN 45 AUTO+P."



Figure 35: Officer Ramirez's firearm, magazine, and six unfired cartridges. OII image ALH_0025.



Figure 36. Additional magazines from tactical vest carrier.

3. Remaining Officers

Centralia PD Sergeant Finch and Officer Shulda responded to 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16, after the shooting on January 12, 2025. They were both at the scene immediately after the incident and provided medical aid to Castaneda. Therefore, they were photographed and their ammunition counted.⁹³

⁹³ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 4, Investigator Josh Dossett.

F. Area Canvass

OII investigators conducted an area canvass of 401 North Ash Street, Centralia, WA 98531 and nearby residences on January 12, 2025, and in the following days. The purpose of the canvass was to gather evidence, identify witnesses, and recover any available security video.

OII investigators contacted a total of 40 residents at 401 North Ash Street and 11 residents outside the apartment complex. (See figure 37 for canvass area.)

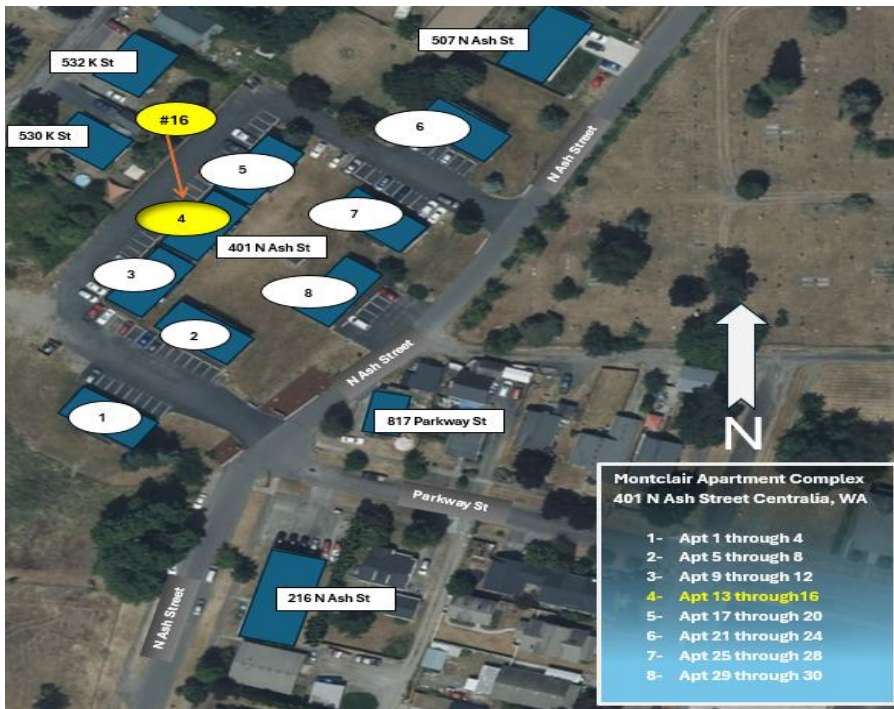


Figure 37. Residences included in OII's canvass of the area surrounding the scene of the incident.

Most of the residents only had limited information. For instance, some residents reported hearing a possible argument and loud music from the area of Apartment 16. Some reported hearing what could have been a gunshot(s).⁹⁴

The statements of the residents in Apartments 13 and 14 are described in more detail below. (See Section M Civilian Witnesses.)

OII investigators did not identify any relevant security video.

⁹⁴ OII-2025-0001 Supplement Reports 2, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24, Investigators Spalding, Glenda Nissen, Richard Bjorkman and Eric Pitts.

G. Search Warrants

OII investigators obtained several search warrants during this investigation:

1. 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16, Centralia, WA

On January 12, 2025, OII obtained a search warrant for 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16, in Centralia, Washington. The warrant authorized a search for items that demonstrated who lived in the residence, firearms or items associated with the presence or use of firearms, and forensic evidence such as fingerprints, DNA, and other trace evidence.⁹⁵ A description of the items seized is contained in Section C. Crime Scene Processing and Evidence Collection.

2. Officer Ramirez's Medical Records

On January 16, OII investigators requested that Officer Ramirez sign a waiver for his medical records related to this incident. Officer Ramirez did not sign the waiver but provided a two-page "After Visit Summary." To ensure an accurate and thorough investigation, OII investigators obtained search warrants for Officer Ramirez's medical records from Providence Centralia Hospital, Riverside Fire Authority and American Medical Response.⁹⁶ The warrants authorized seizure of records directly or indirectly related to injuries sustained by Officer Ramirez on January 12, 2025.

H. Apartment 16 Security Camera

During the processing of the apartment, OII investigators noticed a security camera in the south corner of the living room. JB provided OII investigators with information about the system and signed consent for OII to obtain the security camera video, however she did not believe the camera was functional at the time of the incident. OII investigators submitted a request to the service provider (Comcast) to preserve any relevant video from the security camera. OII investigators confirmed with Comcast that the system was not functional and no video footage was available.

I. Officer Statements

1. General Note on Officer Statements

In a criminal matter, police officers have the same constitutional rights as any other citizen. The 5th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibits compelling a person to be a witness against themselves in a criminal case.⁹⁷ Therefore, an officer can voluntarily choose to provide a statement to criminal investigators or not, just like any other person.

⁹⁵ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 5, Investigator Moen.

⁹⁶ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 5, Investigator Moen.

⁹⁷ U.S. Const. amend. V.

Law enforcement agencies may compel an officer that they employ to provide a statement in an administrative investigation for the purpose of determining if the officer's actions were in accordance with their policy and training. A police officer may be terminated for failing to answer compelled questions relating to job performance. Answers provided through a compelled statement can be used against the officer in an administrative or civil proceeding but cannot be used in any criminal prosecution of that officer. Similarly, any information or discoveries obtained directly or indirectly from a compelled statement cannot be used against the officer in a criminal proceeding.⁹⁸

OII has established standard processes to prevent information obtained from compelled statements from tainting the criminal investigation.

2. Statements of Officer Ramirez

Officer Ramirez declined to provide a voluntary statement to OII investigators.

Officer Ramirez made several voluntary statements while on scene that were captured on BWC video, and he also provided information about the incident to medical personnel.

a. On scene

As described above, shortly after Sergeant Finch arrived on scene, Officer Ramirez told her "[H]e attacked me. I tased, I tased him when he attacked. He was on me and then after that he had me in a headlock and reaching, reaching for my gun. The gun was dropped and I picked it up and shot him."⁹⁹

Officer Ramirez also described Castaneda's injuries to Lewis County SO Deputy Brown, stating, "Shot twice. Once in, once in the chest, once in the leg."¹⁰⁰

Officer Ramirez later told Deputy Brown "He just, he just jumped at me in, into the wall and...was reaching around for my gun. I tased him and that didn't work. So, when my gun, I knew it was gonna come out, so I...He wasn't getting off...It just happened so fast."¹⁰¹

b. To medical providers

Riverside Fire Authority (RFA) were the first medical personnel on scene. When Officer Ramirez was evaluated by RFA, records indicate he told them he was slammed into a

⁹⁸ This is often referred to as a Garrity statement based on U.S. Supreme Court decision Garrity v. New Jersey, 385 U.S. 493 (1967).

⁹⁹ Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:02:20.

¹⁰⁰ Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:04:33.

¹⁰¹ Officer Ramirez's BWC video, timestamp 11:07:54.

wall by Castaneda and Castaneda then landed on top of him. Officer Ramirez reported Castaneda was on top of him for approximately five seconds.¹⁰²

Officer Ramirez told American Medical Response (AMR) personnel he was responding to a call and upon arrival he was involved in an altercation with an individual who tackled him into a wall. According to the records, Officer Ramirez stated he hit the right side of his head and right upper arm against the wall hard enough to create a hole in the drywall.¹⁰³

At Providence Centralia Emergency Center, Officer Ramirez reported he was at work when he got wrestled by an assailant. The records note "[p]atient states he was wrestled against a wall got his head pushed into the wall and his body slammed up against it. He complains of right arm pain and pain behind his left knee. He is unsure how each of the event causing his pain have been (sic). He denies being hit with any tools otherwise." The records also note Officer Ramirez stated he was "'tackled into a wall or window.' Pt reports he hit his head on the right side. Pt endorses pain to his right shoulder and his left knee."¹⁰⁴

(See Section P. Officer Ramirez's Injuries for additional statements by Officer Ramirez pertaining to his injuries.)

3. Responding Officers

a. Centralia PD Sergeant Finch

After being processed by OII investigators on January 12, 2025, Centralia PD Sergeant Finch agreed to be interviewed by OII investigators. The following is a summary of that interview:¹⁰⁵

Sergeant Finch was in her office at the Centralia PD building doing paperwork when officers were dispatched to 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16. The Centralia PD building is at 118 West Maple Street in Centralia, Washington, which is less than one mile from 401 North Ash Street.¹⁰⁶

Sergeant Finch said the original call was a male "busting down a door or something to that effect," it was physical and the reporting party was pregnant. Sergeant Finch never had the call up on her in-car computer.

¹⁰² Riverside Fire Authority EMS Care Report for Officer Ramirez, incident number 2025-0143.

¹⁰³ American Medical Response EMS Patient Care Report for Officer Ramirez, incident number 20250112008.

¹⁰⁴ Providence Centralia Hospital Emergency Department Report, p 7, 9.

¹⁰⁵ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 4, Investigator Dossett, transcript of Sergeant Finch interview.

¹⁰⁶ Per Google Maps (www.google.com/maps), the driving distance from 118 W. Maple St to 401 N Ash St is .6 mile by way of W Maple St and Parkway St.

While waiting for the gate to open at the department lot, she notified dispatch that she was “going code”¹⁰⁷ because the male was actively breaking things in the house.

As she drove toward the scene, she heard Officer Ramirez report “shots fired” on the radio. She heard the phrase a second time and confirmed the address with dispatch. She was a couple of blocks away at that point.

When she arrived at the complex, Sergeant Finch saw there was a small child outside crying. She ran inside the apartment and saw a woman in the living room. She called out, “Rube, where are you?” using Officer Ramirez’s nickname. He said, “I’m back here” and asked her to clear the rest of the apartment to make sure no one else was inside, which she did. Officer Shulda then walked through the front door.

Sergeant Finch went back to the bedroom and Officer Ramirez told her there were two shots fired, one to the lower leg and one to the chest.

Sergeant Finch saw the male subject lying on the floor face down. She and Officer Ramirez turned him over and began providing aid. Sergeant Finch was able to see both gunshot wounds. She got her tourniquet and applied it above the leg wound. She described other officers getting a chest seal for the other wound.

Sergeant Finch asked Officer Shulda to move furniture out of the way, including “an office chair, maybe an office table or desk,” to make space for the aid crew to enter. She said she never heard the person on the ground speak but did hear some agonal breathing.¹⁰⁸

Sergeant Finch said that she spoke with JB at the scene about what had led up to JB calling 911.

b. Centralia PD Officer Shulda Statement¹⁰⁹

Centralia PD Officer Shulda agreed to be voluntarily interviewed by OII investigators on January 12, 2025. The following is a summary of that interview:

Officer Shulda said he was at the office writing a report when the call came out as a dispute. He said that for a call like that, “we’re gonna mostly all respond.” He left the office and was pulling out of the gate when he heard Officer Ramirez call out “shots fired” over the radio. He did not have his computer up yet, so he confirmed the address by radio and “started flying that direction.”

When he arrived at the apartment complex, he saw two patrol cars already on scene and ran to the door with his gun drawn. He said he didn’t know what he was going into since

¹⁰⁷ “Going code” typically refers to responding with emergency lights and sirens activated.

¹⁰⁸ Agonal breathing is an abnormal breathing pattern, characterized by gasping and labored breaths, which usually indicates someone is suffering from a severe medical emergency.

¹⁰⁹ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 4, Investigator Dossett; Transcript of recording interview of Officer Shulda.

all he had heard was “shots fired” and knew other officers were already inside. Inside the apartment, he saw Sergeant Finch clearing the rest of the unit and determined there were no other people inside besides “the other party,” a child and a dog. He recalled asking them to exit the residence. He recalled the woman inside the apartment, later identified as JB, as crying and in shock.

By that point, Officer Ramirez and Sergeant Finch were in the bedroom beginning lifesaving efforts. Officer Shulda saw that a tourniquet had been applied but was not sure who had placed it. He began moving furniture to create more space for fire and medics to work when they arrived. Because the bedroom lights were not working, he pulled down the curtains and blinds to let in sunlight and used his flashlight to assist.

Officer Shulda said he went out once or twice to look for additional medical supplies, including a chest seal, but it was Officer Ramirez who ultimately got one from his medical pack. Officer Shulda cut away Castaneda’s shirt and used the curtain to wipe blood from the chest wound before Officer Ramirez applied the chest seal. After medics arrived, Officer Shulda took photographs with his department phone, starting inside the bedroom and working his way outward. He noted that the space was crowded and tried to document the scene before it became too disturbed. He located and photographed two shell casings but did not touch or collect any evidence. After photographing the scene, he stepped outside and remained available for further direction.

J. Records Relating to Incident and Response

OII investigators requested and reviewed all records related to this incident from Centralia PD. Records received included BWC video, video from in-car cameras (front facing and rear facing camera), officer-generated reports, scene photographs, prior law enforcement contact details, and other documentation.

OII investigators also obtained records from all law enforcement agencies that responded, including Lewis County SO, Chehalis Police Department, and the Washington State Patrol. These records included incident reports, BWC video, in-car video footage, and in-car instant messaging, if available.

In addition, OII investigators obtained records from Lewis County 911 Communications, including audio recordings of 911 calls, call detail reports, 10-code definitions,¹¹⁰ as well as fire department, medic, and law enforcement radio traffic.

¹¹⁰ 10-codes are numeric radio codes commonly used by law enforcement to communicate common phrases quickly and clearly over the radio.

K. Identification of Castaneda

JB identified Castaneda by name during the 911 call she made at 10:55 a.m. on January 12, 2025. JB was unable to provide his date of birth during the call.

While processing the scene, investigators found a black wallet near Castaneda's body. The wallet contained several forms of identification, including a Washington State identification card issued on September 11, 2024, bearing the name Alecandro Castaneda.

At the autopsy on January 15, 2025, the forensic pathologist collected fingerprints and submitted them to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) for confirmation of Castaneda's identity. The Lewis County Coroner's Office (Lewis County CO) confirmed Castaneda's identity on January 16, 2025, by FBI fingerprint analysis.



Figure 38. Photo from Castaneda's Washington State identification card.

L. Next of Kin Notification

On January 12, 2025, OII consulted with the Lewis County CO regarding next of kin notification. Lewis County CO advised they would notify Castaneda's family of his death.

On January 13, 2025, the Lewis County CO informed OII they notified Castaneda's mother of his death by phone. OII family liaisons subsequently contacted Castaneda's family to ensure they had a direct resource for support and to ask questions about the ongoing investigation. During this contact, the family liaison confirmed that Castaneda was not an enrolled tribal member and did not have any other known tribal affiliations.

M. Autopsy

On January 15, 2025, Dr. Emmanuel Lacsina conducted the autopsy at the request of the Lewis County CO. The autopsy was conducted at the Thurston County Coroner's Office.

Castaneda had two gunshot wounds.¹¹¹ One bullet entered the left thigh, and one entered the upper right side of his chest. Two projectiles were recovered from his body.

The path of the gunshot wound to the upper chest from an anatomical position (meaning if he was standing straight up) was front to back, downwards and outward to the left. There was no visible gunpowder or soot around the entrance wound.¹¹²

The path of the bullet wound to the front of the left thigh was front to back and sharply upward. This bullet fractured the left femur.

There was also bruising and abrasions to Castaneda's right forearm, right upper arm, elbow, wrist, hand and fingers.

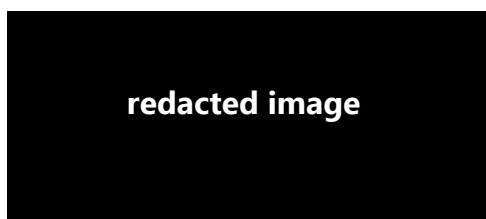


Figure 39. Castaneda's right arm. Autopsy Photograph 57.



Figure 40. Castaneda's right hand. WSP CSRT Photograph 0257.

¹¹¹ Lewis County Autopsy Report, Case# 25-0013.

¹¹² See Section V.N Crime Laboratory Analysis for more information on the presence of absence of gunpowder or soot.

There are no injuries noted that appear to correspond to a TASER probe.

Toxicology reports are a routine part of autopsies. Toxicology results for Castaneda indicate a presumptive positive presence of cotinine (200 ng/mL), a metabolite of nicotine.

N. Civilian Witnesses

1. JB

OII investigators Moen and Pitts interviewed JB at 1:40 p.m. on January 12, 2025, at the apartment complex.¹¹³ OII also obtained the audio recordings of Centralia PD Sergeant Finch (Chehalis PD Officer Frolov was also present) and Lewis County SO Deputy Brown's interview with JB on this same date. Sergeant Finch interviewed JB at 11:12 a.m.¹¹⁴ Deputy Brown interviewed her at 12:15 p.m.¹¹⁵

OII investigators Jones and Mrla conducted a follow-up interview with JB in Pe Ell, Washington on February 11, 2025.¹¹⁶

The following is a summary of what JB told OII investigators:

On January 12, 2025, JB was at home at 401 North Ash Street, Apartment 16, with her six-year-old son and Castaneda. JB and Castaneda were living together, and she was approximately four months pregnant at the time of the incident. According to JB, she and Castaneda had been arguing for a few days, including the morning of January 12. JB described the argument as "back and forth" and said they were being "mean" to each other.¹¹⁷ Although they had argued before, it had never been physical.

On the morning of January 12, JB and Castaneda had been arguing and Castaneda threw some items around the room and broke the door, injuring his arm and fist.¹¹⁸ He also pushed her to the bed.¹¹⁹ After Castaneda had pushed JB and thrown a desk, she decided to call the police.¹²⁰ While JB was on the phone with 911, Castaneda punched a closet and bathroom door. JB described being scared because Castaneda had never acted that way before.¹²¹

While she was still on the phone, the officer arrived and seemed "pretty calm....He just came in there like a dad and he noticed like nobody was still actively doing anything....So he went

¹¹³ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 5, Investigator Moen; transcript of recorded interview with JB 01/12/2025.

¹¹⁴ BWC video of Centralia PD Sergeant Finch, timestamp 11:12:15.

¹¹⁵ Transcript of JB interview from Lewis County SO Deputy Brown BWC video, 01/12/2025.

¹¹⁶ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 47, Investigator Jones; transcript of recorded interview with JB 02/11/2025.

¹¹⁷ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 01/12/2025, p 2; transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 7.

¹¹⁸ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 34.

¹¹⁹ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 34-37.

¹²⁰ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 40.

¹²¹ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 44.

in there like talking.”¹²² JB said Castaneda was “smirking” when talking to the officer “like he was going to talk back to him.”¹²³ JB went into the other bedroom and shut the door to let them talk.

JB said she then heard noises “like bumping” and Castaneda said her name. JB then heard two gunshots “really fast.”¹²⁴

JB ran to the hallway and saw Castaneda lying on the bedroom floor on his stomach. Officer Ramirez was by the bed in the corner.¹²⁵ JB said she could hear Castaneda breathe deeply, which scared her. She said Officer Ramirez looked like he was dazed, and his head was in his hand. JB said “he was laid back on the bed. Like he got thrown or something on the floor or something had happened.... he looked like he was in pain.”¹²⁶ Officer Ramirez told JB to take her son and leave the apartment, which she did.

JB told investigators she believed there was damage to the wall in the bedroom from Officer Ramirez’s head because he had “white stuff in his hair.”¹²⁷

In addition to the interviews, JB assisted the investigation by providing a hand-drawn layout of the bedroom, a recent photograph of the bedroom, and consent to a forensic review of her cell phone.

2. AB

AB lives in Apartment 13 at 401 North Ash Street, directly next door to Apartment 16. OII investigators interviewed AB, on January 12, 2025,¹²⁸ and a follow-up on January 16, 2025.¹²⁹

The following is a summary of her interviews:

¹²² Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 46.

¹²³ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 47. JB also told Deputy Brown that she could tell Castaneda was going to be “difficult” when he was talking to Officer Ramirez. Transcript of JB interview from KCSO Deputy Brown BWC video, 01/12/25, p 14.

¹²⁴ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 50.

¹²⁵ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 54.

¹²⁶ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/11/2025, p 55.

¹²⁷ Transcript of recorded interview with JB, 02/22/2025, p 40.

¹²⁸ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 14, Investigator Bjorkman; transcript of recorded interview with AB 01/12/2025.

¹²⁹ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 15, Investigator Bjorkman; transcript of recorded interview with AB 01/16/2025.



Figure 41. AB's apartment (Apartment 13) in relation to where the shooting occurred (Apartment 16).

On January 12, 2025, AB was at home and on the phone when she heard what she knew to be gun shots. (AB had previously worked in human services and law enforcement-related work.) AB noted the time was 11:01 a.m.¹³⁰

Earlier that morning, AB heard loud music and what she described as arguments from the direction of Apartment 16. At some point she heard a male voice say "stop" in a direct tone.¹³¹ AB also described hearing muffled noises and what she interpreted as scuffling or movement, though she was uncertain if the sounds came from within the apartment or another part of the building.

After she heard the shots, AB ran to her window and saw a police car already outside. She opened her door and saw a child outside with no socks or shirt on and brought him into her apartment. The mother (JB) also came to her apartment and stood in front of the door while more officers went into Apartment 16. According to AB, JB was crying and "freaking out."¹³² AB said JB expressed concern for both Officer Ramirez and Castaneda, asking if each was okay.

Shortly afterward, AB saw Officer Ramirez exit Apartment 16. AB said the officer's face was "something I'll never forget."¹³³ She said she cannot say how he was feeling but it looked like

¹³⁰ Transcript of recorded interview with AB 01/12/2025, p 1.

¹³¹ Transcript of recorded interview with AB, 01/16/2025, p 2.

¹³² Transcript of recorded interview with AB, 01/16/2025, p 3.

¹³³ Transcript of recorded interview with AB, 01/16/2025, p 2-3.

"horror," "shock," and "sadness." She also noted that he was limping and had "white stuff on his shoulders and his hair."¹³⁴ She believed the white stuff was drywall.¹³⁵



Figure 42. From Centralia PD Officer Shulda's BWC camera, timestamp 11:05:10. AB standing in the doorway of Apartment 13 as Officer Ramirez walked through the parking lot.

JB and her son stayed with AB for several hours as the scene was being processed and the investigation unfolded.

3. KH

OII obtained Chehalis PD reports and BWC video from officers Gene Frolov and Sean McGrath. OII Investigators learned Officer Frolov contacted the immediate neighbors to Apartment 16 and obtained contact information that he passed on to Centralia PD. OII Investigators reviewed this contact information and Officer Frolov's BWC video, confirming he contacted KH on January 12, 2025. KH lives in Apartment 14 at 401 North Ash Street, directly above AB's apartment and south of Apartment 16, where the incident occurred.

OII investigators made several attempts to interview KH but those efforts were unsuccessful. The following is a summary of Officer Frolov's interview with KH.¹³⁶

KH was walking up the stairs to his apartment to put his dogs away when he heard two loud noises he believed were gunshots. He described hearing the first sound as he took one step, and the second as he took another. He said the noises startled him, and that he felt "shook up" afterward. When asked for confirmation by Officer Frolov, KH said he wasn't sure exactly what he had heard but believed they were loud and sudden.¹³⁷

KH had been walking his dogs for about 15 minutes prior to the incident and did not hear any yelling or disturbances before the gunfire. He said although sounds typically carry

¹³⁴ Transcript of recorded interview with AB, 01/16/2025, p 3.

¹³⁵ Transcript of recorded interview with AB, 01/16/2025, p 7.

¹³⁶ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 47, Investigator Jones.

¹³⁷ BWC video of Chehalis PD Officer Frolov, timestamp 11:24:09.

through the apartment walls, he had not heard anything unusual that morning. KH also noted he did not personally know the residents of Apartment 16.

4. Attempt to Interview JB's Child

OII investigators coordinated with the Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center to arrange a child forensic interview of JB's six-year-old son. Although JB initially agreed to allow her child to be interviewed, he was never made available despite several attempts.

5. Interview of SL

On January 30, 2025, OII investigators conducted a voluntary, recorded interview with SL, Castaneda's mother, in Chehalis, Washington. SL was accompanied by legal counsel, and an OII family liaison was present. The purpose of the interview was to gather background information relevant to the investigation.

SL said Castaneda maintained regular contact with family, including a phone call the weekend before his death, during which he reported having a good day and preparing to return to work. Castaneda faced challenges in recent years, including efforts to manage his mental health and maintain stability in his personal life. SL provided investigators with communication records between her son and JB and signed consent forms for a forensic search of Castaneda's phone and medical records.

6. OII Tip Line

OII will establish a telephone message line for each incident it investigates. This "tip line" provides a method for the public to contact investigators with information about the incident under investigation and is included in the news release issued to the media.

The tip line for this investigation was established on January 15, 2025. On January 21, 2025, OII received a call on the recorded tip line from an unidentified male. This is the only call received on the tip line.

The male left a message requesting information about the officer-involved shooting, expressing frustration over the lack of updates. OII investigators spoke with the male on the phone, who identified himself as DL. DL told OII investigators he and Castaneda were friends and agreed to meet with OII to talk in person. OII investigators made several attempts to speak to DL on phone or in person but were unable to contact the male again.¹³⁸

¹³⁸OII-2025-0001, Supplement 6, Investigator Jones.

O. Forensic Search of Cell Phones

1. JB's Cellular Phone

On January 12, 2025, JB provided OII with signed consent to a forensic examination of her cell phone.¹³⁹ OII investigators conducted a forensic examination of the phone using Cellebrite, a digital forensic tool designed to securely extract and analyze data. These extractions can often provide investigators with evidence, including text messages, call logs, location data and additional electronic communications relevant to an investigation.

OII Investigators extracted data from JB's phone and returned the phone to her the following day.¹⁴⁰

2. Castaneda's Cellular Phone

On February 12, 2025, Castaneda's mother provided OII with signed consent to forensically examine Castaneda's cellular phone.¹⁴¹ OII investigators extracted and analyzed data for the 30 days prior to and including January 12, 2025.

Investigators reviewed messages exchanged between Castaneda and JB on the morning of January 12, 2025. At 9:52 a.m., JB sent a series of messages expressing frustration. Castaneda responded with messages that included, "I'm not going to come on to you just talking shit and yelling," followed by "No thanks" and "Blocked".

OII investigators also located several audio recordings created on the morning of the incident. One recording, time-stamped at 9:55 a.m., was approximately 16 minutes long and captured a verbal exchange between JB and Castaneda. In that recording, JB asked Castaneda for help with household chores.¹⁴²

P. Body-worn Camera (BWC) and In-Car Camera review

Centralia PD officers are equipped with Getac BC-02 BWCs, which record video and audio of interactions between officers and the public. These cameras automatically capture the previous 30 seconds of video before manual activation, though audio begins recording only after activation. In-car cameras are installed in Centralia PD patrol vehicles as part of the Getac system.¹⁴³ These

¹³⁹ JB Consent to Search Digital Device, 01/12/2025.

¹⁴⁰ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 7, Investigator Mrla and Supplement 18 Investigator Mike Donaldson.

¹⁴¹ SL Consent to Search Digital Device, 02/12/2025

¹⁴² OII-2025-0001, Supplement 18 Investigator Donaldson.

¹⁴³ Getac Technology Corporation is a mobile technology and video solutions company that provides body-worn and in-car audio and video recording systems to law enforcement agencies.

cameras capture both forward-facing and back seat footage, documenting a patrol car's movements on the roadways and back-seat passengers inside the car.

OII requested all relevant BWC and in-car camera footage from Centralia PD and responding agencies. The videos were uploaded to the Axon Justice¹⁴⁴ evidence management system. The requested files included videos from all officer's present during the incident, including those who responded after the shooting. OII investigators cataloged and separated those files by officer name for systematic review. OII investigators also requested additional footage related to prior interactions between law enforcement and Castaneda.

OII investigators conducted a detailed review of the footage to analyze key events. OII investigators examined videos frame by frame to document officer movements, verbal exchanges, and other relevant factors. OII investigators also compared multiple video perspectives to build a comprehensive timeline of the incident.

To ensure accuracy, OII investigators conducted a time synchronization review of all video sources. Each BWC and in-car camera video included a digital timestamp, which was cross-referenced with dispatch logs, radio transmissions, and other evidence. Investigators verified that the timing of each recording was consistent with the overall timeline of events. Any discrepancies in timestamps were noted and adjusted to align with the most reliable sources.

Q. Crime Laboratory Analysis

1. Fingerprints

OII submitted a request to the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division (WSP CLD) for a fingerprint analysis on Officer Ramirez's Sig Sauer P220 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol. The purpose of this examination was to determine if anyone other than Officer Ramirez had touched the firearm during the physical altercation with Castaneda. The friction ridge detail on the pistol was not suitable for comparison.^{145 146} This means that there was not enough clear and reliable detail for an examiner to compare it with another impression and potentially make an identification or exclusion.

2. Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)

Officer Ramirez's firearm, a Sig Sauer P220 pistol, was submitted to the WSP CLD for DNA testing to determine whether Castaneda's DNA was present on the firearm. No blood was

¹⁴⁴ Axon Justice is a secure digital evidence platform used to organize, review, and share evidence – such as video footage – with authorized parties, including OII and prosecuting attorneys.

¹⁴⁵ WSP CLD Lab Report 725-000018, 02/07/25.

¹⁴⁶ Crime Laboratory Report Glossary- "Suitable for comparison is the decision made by an examiner that a friction ridge impression contains sufficient observable data to be utilized for comparison and a source conclusion can potentially be reached.

found on the firearm. The DNA profile obtained from swabbing the grip, trigger and rear of slide was interpreted as originating from at least five individuals and is not suitable for comparisons.

The DNA profile obtained from swabbing the front half of the slide, frame, and rim of the barrel was interpreted as originating from three individuals. The statistical analysis from comparing this profile with Castaneda's DNA reference sample is uninformative because it equally supports the propositions that Castaneda is a contributor and is not a contributor.¹⁴⁷ In other words, the results were inconclusive and do not prove or disprove that Castaneda touched the firearm.

3. Ballistics/Toolmarks and Operability

OII submitted a request to the WSP CLD for a ballistic comparison between Officer Ramirez's Sig Sauer pistol and the two fired cartridge cases recovered by WSP CSRT in the east bedroom, the unfired cartridge recovered by WSP CSRT in the bedroom and two bullets recovered from Castaneda's body during autopsy. A ballistic examination occurs when a forensic scientist attempts to determine if a particular bullet or cartridge case was fired from a specific firearm based on markings on the bullet or cartridge casing that are unique to ammunition fired from that specific firearm.

WSP CLD forensic scientists determined Officer Ramirez's Sig Sauer pistol was operable. The two fired cartridge cases located at the scene, the fired bullet associated with Castaneda's chest wound and the fired bullet jacket associated with Castaneda's leg wound were all fired by Officer Ramirez's pistol.¹⁴⁸

WSP CLD was unable to determine whether the unfired cartridge located at the scene had been cycled through Officer Ramirez's pistol due to insufficient markings.¹⁴⁹

4. Firing Distance Determination

A white shirt worn by Castaneda during the shooting was collected by WSP CSRT and secured by OII Investigators on January 12, 2025. This T-shirt contains a bullet defect to the upper right chest area as depicted below (figure 43).

¹⁴⁷ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, 04/24/25.

¹⁴⁸ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, 06/11/25.

¹⁴⁹ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, 06/11/25.

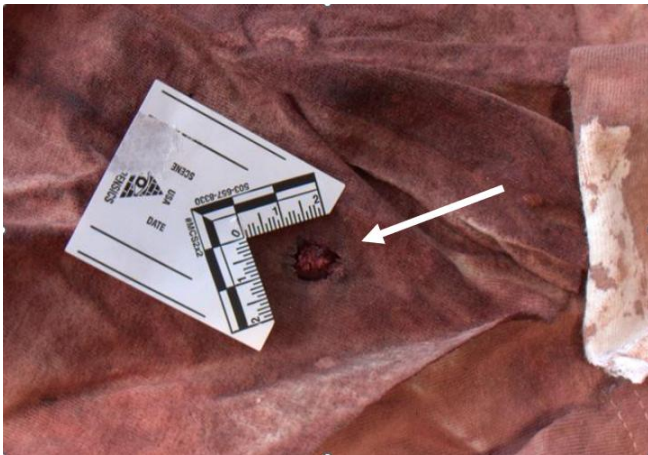


Figure 43: Close-up of bullet defect to Castaneda's white T-shirt. OII photograph DSC_0095.

OII collected the shorts that Castaneda had been wearing from the Thurston County Coroner Gary Warnock following the autopsy.¹⁵⁰

The shorts contained a bullet defect to the left thigh area as depicted below (figure 44-45).



Figure 44. Castaneda's shorts with location of bullet defect. Autopsy photograph 39.



Figure 45. bullet defect. Autopsy photograph 41.

OII requested WSP CLD conduct testing to determine the firing distance between the muzzle of Officer Ramirez's pistol to the bullet defects in Castaneda's T-shirt and shorts. Firing distance can sometimes be helpful to determine the sequence of shots or to corroborate a description of events.

WSP CLD forensic scientists conducted an examination and analysis of the bullet defects to Castaneda's T-shirt and shorts. These defects were microscopically examined and a large

¹⁵⁰ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 9, Investigator Mrla.

amount of unburnt/partially burnt gunpowder particles were observed surrounding each defect.¹⁵¹

WSP CLD forensic scientists conducted drop-off distance testing with Officer Ramirez's Sig Sauer pistol. The drop-off distance is the distance where a particular firearm and ammunition combination will no longer deposit detectable and observable gun powder residues on a specific target material. For purposes of this testing, Centralia PD voluntarily provided the same type of ammunition that was used during the use of force incident, WIN 45 AUTO +P.¹⁵²

WSP CLD forensic scientists classify firing distances as (1) contact (when the muzzle was in direct contact with the target material), (2) intermediate (when the muzzle was within the drop-off distance but greater than contact), and (3) distant (when the muzzle was farther away from the target material than the drop-off distance). Firing distances of contact and intermediate indicate the presence of detectable and observable gun powder residues on the target material.¹⁵³

a. Firing Distance of Leg Wound

WSP CLD determined the drop-off distance for Officer Ramirez's pistol, similar ammunition and material similar to that of Castaneda's shorts was approximately 6 feet. The muzzle to target firing distance of the defect to Castaneda's shorts was intermediate.¹⁵⁴ This means that the shot was fired from a distance greater than direct contact but no more than approximately 6 feet.

b. Firing Distance of Chest Wound

WSP CLD determined the drop-off distance for Officer Ramirez's pistol, similar ammunition and material similar to that of Castaneda's T-shirt was approximately 7 feet. The muzzle to target firing distance of the shot to Castaneda's T-shirt was intermediate.¹⁵⁵ Therefore, testing indicated the shot was fired from a distance greater than direct contact but no more than approximately 7 feet.

c. Lab Testing Accuracy

In its report, WSP CLD noted that "testing to determine the drop-off distance was conducted in a laboratory setting. A variety of scenario-based variables may have

¹⁵¹ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, Electronic Case Packet (Supplemental Notes), received 06/20/2025.

¹⁵² OII-2025-0001, Supplement 55, Investigator Jones.

¹⁵³ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 81, Regional Supervisor Musselwhite.

¹⁵⁴ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, 06/11/25.

¹⁵⁵ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, 06/11/25.

affected the evidence, which could change the drop-off distance greater than any measurement uncertainty in the performed laboratory tests.”¹⁵⁶

This means that a variety of real-world variables may have affected the evidence, which could change the drop-off distance more than the typical margin of error in controlled laboratory tests.

Based on the information available, a precise muzzle-to-target distance from Officer Ramirez’s pistol to the bullet defects to Castaneda’s clothing could not be determined. The WSP CLD forensic scientist determined neither shot was at contact and, within a laboratory environment, the maximum distance from the muzzle to Castaneda’s T-shirt would have been approximately 7 feet and the maximum distance from the muzzle to Castaneda’s shorts would have been approximately 6 feet. WSP CLD was unable to determine the sequence of the shots.¹⁵⁷

R. Officer Ramirez’s Injuries

Following the use of deadly force, Officer Ramirez was evaluated by Riverside Fire Authority (RFA) medics at the scene before being transported to Providence Centralia Hospital by American Medical Response (AMR). As indicated in Section IV.F.2, OII investigators obtained a search warrant for records pertaining to any injuries sustained by Officer Ramirez during this incident.

According to the records, Officer Ramirez reported to RFA that he had pain to the right side of his head, right shoulder, and left leg. He stated that the most pain was in his left leg. He told RFA medics he had been slammed into a wall and that the other individual landed on top of him. Officer Ramirez denied losing consciousness during the incident. Medics noted a small laceration on the right side of his lower lip with dried blood extending to his chin, a minor wound on his cheek, and drywall dust on his clothing.¹⁵⁸

According to the records obtained by OII, Officer Ramirez told AMR paramedics he was tackled into a wall and hit the right side of his head and right upper arm against the wall, hard enough to create a hole in the drywall. He also reported twisting his left leg, causing pain in his left knee. There was redness noted where he hit his head but no hematoma¹⁵⁹ or pain. Paramedics noted Officer Ramirez had stiff movements due to pain. Records indicate he was alert and oriented during the examination and showed no obvious signs of major trauma. Officer Ramirez reported right upper arm pain, left posterior (back) knee pain, and hitting his head. Assessments by paramedics determined the pain to Officer Ramirez’s right upper arm and left knee was due to blunt force trauma.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁶ WSP CLD Crime Lab Report 725-00018, 06/11/25.

¹⁵⁷ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 81, Regional Supervisor Musselwhite.

¹⁵⁸ Riverside Fire Authority EMS Care Report, incident number 2025-0143.

¹⁵⁹ Hematoma is a medical term for bruising.

¹⁶⁰ American Medical Response EMS Patient Care Report, incident number 20250112008.

At Providence Centralia Hospital, Officer Ramirez was evaluated by emergency department staff. According to the records, he reported he was "wrestled against a wall got his head pushed into the wall and his body slammed up against it."¹⁶¹ He also reported he was "tackled into a wall or window." His chief complaints were right arm pain and pain behind his left knee. Based on information from his wife, he was also evaluated for a head injury. As there was no loss of consciousness, nausea or vomiting, a CT scan was not ordered. The doctor did not observe any delayed responses or any focal deficits. Facial lacerations to the right side of his face were noted.

Officer Ramirez was diagnosed with:

- Knee pain, unspecified chronicity, unspecified laterality (primary)
- Bursitis of left knee, unspecified bursa
- Concussion without loss of consciousness, initial encounter¹⁶²

After being discharged, Officer Ramirez was transported to Centralia PD headquarters for officer processing. (See Section IV.D Officer Processing.)

S. Physical Characteristics of Officer Ramirez and Castaneda

1. Officer Ramirez

According to records from Providence Centralia Emergency Center on January 12, 2025, Officer Ramirez's physical attributes were documented as follows:¹⁶³

55 years of age

Height is 5'8"

Weight is 176 lbs

2. Castaneda

The following information about Castaneda was included in the autopsy report:¹⁶⁴

23 years of age

Height is 5'8"

Weight is 237 lbs

T. Additional Record Collection

As a routine part of its investigations, OII obtains and review records relating to the person killed, critical witnesses, and officers involved in the incident so the prosecutor has the necessary information to make an informed decision about whether criminal charges should be filed. This

¹⁶¹ Providence Centralia Hospital Emergency Center records.

¹⁶² Providence Centralia Hospital Emergency Center records.

¹⁶³ Providence Centralia Emergency Department Facesheet, p 10.

¹⁶⁴ Lewis County Autopsy Report, Case# 25-0013.

includes criminal history, officer training, use of force and discipline records as well as employing agency policies in effect at the time of the incident. A complete copy of all records obtained is provided to the prosecuting authority. OII will include in its Final Case Report any records that appear to be directly related to the use of deadly force under investigation.

1. Criminal History

OII investigators reviewed JB's and Castaneda's criminal history. There were no records that were obviously relevant to this investigation.¹⁶⁵

2. Castaneda's Previous Interactions with Law Enforcement

OII investigators collected and reviewed law enforcement records related to Castaneda's known prior contacts with law enforcement, including an incident in 2023 when he was physically uncooperative with officers' attempts to detain him. OII investigators reviewed these records to see if any of the prior contacts were connected to the events of January 12, 2025. None of the records reviewed by OII investigators were directly related to the incident.

3. Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC)

OII investigators collected WSCJTC Training History Reports for Officer Ramirez. These records include employment history, state law enforcement certifications, and completion of WSCJTC-mandated training. Relevant information from these reports is incorporated into other sections of this case report, as appropriate to the investigative findings.

4. Officer Ramirez Training and Employment History

Officer Ramirez has been employed with Centralia PD since 1998. WSCJTC records indicate Officer Ramirez graduated from the Basic Reserve Officer Academy on May 22, 1998, and from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy on March 29, 2002. Officer Ramirez holds an active peace officer certification from the WSCJTC.¹⁶⁶

Centralia PD is the only organization listed under Officer Ramirez's Law Enforcement Employment history.¹⁶⁷ At the time of the incident, Officer Ramirez was a K9 handler and his K9 partner was Pax. Officer Ramirez has also been a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team member and a defensive tactics instructor.

OII investigators obtained training records from WSCJTC and Centralia PD.¹⁶⁸ Officer Ramirez's training records contained training courses in firearms handling and retention,

¹⁶⁵ Obtained from the Interstate Identification Index (III or Triple I), a national index of state and federal criminal histories maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

¹⁶⁶ WSCJTC Training History Report.

¹⁶⁷ WSCJTC Training History Report.

¹⁶⁸ Centralia Police Department Employee Profile.

arrest tactics, crisis intervention, community relations, rendering first aid and defensive tactics.¹⁶⁹ The records included the following recent trainings:

- Crisis Intervention – Annual CIT 2hr Online Course (WSCJTC), completed 01/02/2025
- Red Dot Pistol Training (Centralia PD), completed 10/04/2024
- TASER Re-Certification (Centralia PD), completed 09/23/2024
- Critical Response Unit Training (Centralia PD), completed 05/22/2024
- Basic Handgun Qualification (Centralia PD), completed 05/22/2024
- Tactical First Aid (Centralia PD), completed 04/03/2024
- Defensive Tactics – Use of Force Review & Level 1 Tactics (Centralia PD), completed 01/31/2024
- Basic Patrol Rifle Qualification (Centralia PD), completed 09/27/2023
- Use of Deadly Force – CPD Policy Training (Centralia PD), completed 09/23/2022
- Defensive Tactics – Close Quarter Combat (Centralia PD), completed 07/08/2022
- Violence De-escalation – Patrol Tactics 24-hour In-Service (WSCJTC), completed 05/06/2022
- Crisis Intervention – Annual CIT refreshers (WSCJTC), completed each year from 2018 to 2024
- Field Training Officer Academy – 40 hours (WSCJTC), completed 10/05/2018

These records were reviewed by OII and are retained in the investigative case file for prosecutorial review. No determinations were made by OII regarding training insufficiency or performance.

5. Disciplinary and Impeachment Records

OII investigators requested Officer Ramirez's disciplinary records from Centralia PD. Centralia PD's Human Resources Department informed OII there were currently no disciplinary records in Officer Ramirez's file.¹⁷⁰

OII obtained the current Potential Impeachment Disclosure¹⁷¹ (PID) list from the Lewis County Prosecutor's Office. OII reviewed the PID list and none of the officers directly involved in this case were listed.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁹ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 36, Investigator Dossett.

¹⁷⁰ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 36, Investigator Dossett.

¹⁷¹ A prosecutor has a constitutional duty to disclose all potentially exculpatory evidence and impeachment evidence favorable to a criminal defendant, including information pertaining to officers. This is often referred to as "Brady" material based on a U.S. Supreme Court case, Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83, 83 S. Ct. 1194, 10 L. Ed. 2d 215 (1963). All county prosecutors are required to develop a protocol addressing potential impeachment disclosures and law enforcement must report such information about its officers to the prosecutor. RCW 10.93.180.

¹⁷² OII-2025-0001, Supplement 36, Investigator Dossett.

6. Prior Use of Force Records

OII investigators obtained Officer Ramirez's Use of Force Records, to include two prior use of deadly force incidents that resulted in a fatality. The Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney previously reviewed both fatalities. These records were reviewed and will be provided to the prosecuting authority.¹⁷³ None of the records reviewed by OII investigators were directly related to the incident.

7. Centralia Police Department Policy Manual

OII investigators obtained a copy of the Centralia PD Policy Manual to serve as a reference during the investigation. The manual was not analyzed by OII for compliance or policy violations. It was collected to provide context for investigative findings and will be made available to the prosecuting attorney for their independent review and consideration.

V. Legal Considerations

A. OII Authority

When the use of deadly force by a peace officer results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm, an independent investigation must be completed to inform any determination of whether the use of deadly force met the good faith standard established in RCW 9A.16.040 and satisfied other applicable laws and policies. The investigation must be completely independent of the agency whose officer was involved in the use of deadly force. RCW 10.114.011.

OII is authorized to conduct criminal investigations of an officer's use of deadly force against any person if the officer was on duty, or if the officer was off duty but was exercising the powers of a Washington peace officer or if the incident involved department-issued equipment or other property. RCW 43.102.080.

Based on its limited resources, OII is presently only investigating use of deadly force cases that result in a fatality within Region 1.¹⁷⁴

B. Scope of Investigation

The scope of any criminal investigation is determined by the elements of the potential crimes under investigation and any potential defenses to those crimes. OII investigations include a review of the entire incident, including events preceding the incident that may have contributed to or influenced the outcome. RCW 43.102.080(4).

¹⁷³ OII-2025-0001, Supplement 67, Investigator Jones.

¹⁷⁴ OII's Region 1 consists of 12 counties: Wahkiakum, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Clallam.

The goal of an OII investigation is to provide the prosecuting authority with all information necessary to make an informed decision about whether criminal charges should be filed.

OII will not provide an opinion about whether criminal charges should be filed or whether an officer complied with law or policy as those determinations are the responsibility of other authorities including the prosecuting attorney and the agency that employs the officer.

C. Potential Crimes Under Investigation

The following are potential criminal charges pertaining to the death of a person at the hands of another. The inclusion of a description of these offenses in the OII Final Case Report is not intended to convey an opinion as to whether any criminal offense occurred.

- Murder in the first degree (premeditation) is committed when, with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, someone causes the death of such person or of a third person. RCW 9A.32.030 (a); WPIC 26.01.
- Murder in the first degree (extreme indifference) is committed when, under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to human life, someone engages in conduct which creates a grave risk of death to any person and thereby causes the death of a person. RCW 9A.32.030 (b); WPIC 26.05.
- Murder in the second degree (intentional) is committed when, with intent to cause the death of another person but without premeditation, someone causes the death of such person or of a third person. RCW 9A.32.050(a); WPIC 27.01.
- Murder in the second degree (felony murder) is committed when someone commits or attempts to commit a felony and, in the course of or in furtherance of such crime or in immediate flight therefrom, they or another participant, causes the death of a person other than one of the participants. RCW 9A.32.050(b); WPIC 27.03.
- Manslaughter in the first degree is committed when someone recklessly causes the death of another person. RCW 9A.32.060; WPIC 28.01.¹⁷⁵
- Manslaughter in the second degree is committed when someone, with criminal negligence, causes the death of another person. RCW 9A.32.070; WPIC 28.05.

¹⁷⁵ Manslaughter may include a person who reasonably believes they are in imminent danger and needs to act in self-defense, "but recklessly or negligently used more force than was necessary to repel the attack." State v. Schaffer, 135 Wn.2d 355, 358, 957 P.2d 214, 215 (1998). See also State v. Chambers, 197 Wn. App. 96, 122, 387 P.3d 1108, 1121 (2016).

D. Lawful Detention or Arrest

An officer must have reasonable suspicion to lawfully detain a person. Reasonable suspicion means a substantial possibility that criminal conduct has occurred or is about to occur, based on specific and articulable facts and rational inferences from those facts.¹⁷⁶ Reasonableness is determined by the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time.¹⁷⁷

An officer must have probable cause to effect an arrest without a warrant. Probable cause means sufficient facts to lead a reasonable person with the expertise and experience of the officer to conclude that the subject is involved in criminal activity.¹⁷⁸ There is no requirement that an officer make an arrest as soon as probable cause is established.¹⁷⁹

Probable cause is a higher standard than reasonable suspicion, but it is still less than the standard required to convict a person of a crime. None of these standards are capable of precise definition; they are fluid concepts requiring interpretation based on the relevant facts.

E. Permissible Use of Force by an Officer

Permissible use of force by an officer is governed by RCW 10.120.020. While this law does not establish criminal liability,¹⁸⁰ it may be relevant to a prosecutor's determination of whether an officer's actions complied with policy or met a "reasonable officer" standard, as described below.

RCW 10.120.020(1) states that a peace officer may use physical force to the extent necessary to, among other reasons, protect against a criminal offense when probable cause exists; effect an arrest; prevent an escape; execute warrants; prevent or stop a person from fleeing a lawful temporary investigative detention, provided that the person has been given notice that they are being detained; or protect against an imminent threat of bodily injury to any person.

RCW 10.120.020(2) states that a peace officer may only use deadly force when necessary to protect against an immediate threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person. "Immediate threat of serious physical injury or death" means that, based on the totality of the circumstances, it is objectively reasonable to believe that a person has the present and apparent ability, opportunity, and intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person.

¹⁷⁶ State v. Kennedy, 107 Wn.2d 1 (1986).

¹⁷⁷ State v. Lee, 147 Wn. App. 912 (2008), rev. denied, 166 Wn.2d 1016 (2009).

¹⁷⁸ RCW 10.31.100; State v. Gentry, 125 Wn.2d 570, 607, cert. denied, 516 U.S. 843 (1995).

¹⁷⁹ State v. Quezadas-Gomez, 165 Wn. App. 593 (2011), review denied, 173 Wn.2d 1034 (2012).

¹⁸⁰ "The legislature does not intend to abrogate the criminal liability protections afforded to peace officers in chapter 9A.16 RCW. Instead, the legislature hereby reaffirms its intent to establish RCW 10.120.020 as a distinct and more restrictive civil standard to inform the policies and practices applicable to all peace officers operating within state agencies and local governments." RCW 10.120.010 Intent – 2022 c4.

RCW 10.120.020(3) also requires peace officers to use reasonable care when using force against a person. That includes:

- Using all de-escalation tactics that are available and appropriate under the circumstances before using physical force, when possible;
- Using the least amount of physical force necessary to overcome resistance under the circumstances. This includes a consideration of the characteristics and conditions of a person for the purposes of determining whether to use force against that person and, if force is necessary, determining the appropriate and least amount of force possible to effect a lawful purpose;
- Terminating the use of physical force as soon as the necessity for such force ends;
- Use less lethal alternatives that are available and appropriate under the circumstances before using deadly force; when possible.

F. Justifiable Homicide

"Homicide" means the killing of a human being by another.¹⁸¹ A homicide may be a murder or manslaughter, or it may be justified, meaning it is lawful.

There are two different standards that govern when a homicide is justified, depending on whether the act is committed by a peace officer and whether it is committed by any person.

Peace officers are entitled to invoke both standards if criminally charged with a death resulting from a use of deadly force.

In both circumstances, the prosecutor must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the homicide was not justified.

1. Justifiable Homicide or Use of Deadly Force by a Peace Officer

In general, use of deadly force by an officer is justified when necessarily used to arrest or apprehend someone whom the officer reasonably believes has committed or attempted to commit a felony, or to overcome actual resistance to the discharge of a legal duty, and the use of force meets the good faith standard.¹⁸²

- "Good faith" is an objective standard which shall consider all the facts, circumstances, and information known to the officer at the time to determine whether a similarly situated reasonable officer would have believed that the use of deadly force was

¹⁸¹ RCW 9A.32.010.

¹⁸² RCW 9A.16.040(5)(a); "The legislature recognizes that RCW 9A.16.040 establishes a dual standard with respect to the use of deadly force by peace officers and private citizens, and further recognizes that private citizens' permissible use of deadly force under the authority of RCW 9.01.200, or 9A.16.050 is not restricted and remains broader than the limitations imposed on peace officers." [1986 c 209 § 3.]

necessary to prevent death or serious physical harm to the officer or another individual.¹⁸³

- Necessary means that no reasonably effective alternative to the use of force appeared to exist and that the amount of force used was reasonable to effect the lawful purpose intended.¹⁸⁴

A peace officer cannot be held criminally liable for using deadly force in good faith.

In considering whether to use deadly force to arrest or apprehend a person for the commission of a crime, an officer must have probable cause to believe that the suspect, if not apprehended, poses a threat of serious physical harm to the officer or to others.¹⁸⁵

Among the circumstances that may be considered as a threat of serious harm are that:

- The person threatens the officer with a weapon or displays a weapon in a manner that could reasonably be construed as threatening;
- The officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed any crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm.

2. Justifiable Homicide by Any Person

Homicide is also justified when committed in lawful defense of a person or someone in their presence when:

- There is reasonable ground to apprehend a design on the part of the person slain to commit a felony or to do some great personal injury to the slayer or to any such person, and there is imminent danger of such design being accomplished; or
- In the actual resistance of an attempt to commit a felony upon the slayer, in his or her presence, or upon or in a dwelling or other place of abode, in which he or she is.¹⁸⁶

In general, the person using deadly force must reasonably believe that the person killed intended to commit a felony or inflict death or great personal injury; that there was imminent danger of such harm being accomplished; and they must employ such force and means as a reasonably prudent person would use, taking into consideration all the facts and circumstances as they appeared to the person at the time of and prior to the incident.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸³ RCW 9A.16.040(4).

¹⁸⁴ RCW 9A.16.010(1).

¹⁸⁵ RCW 9A.16.040(2).

¹⁸⁶ RCW 9A.16.050.

¹⁸⁷ WPIC 16.02.

"Imminent danger" is different than "immediate danger." Imminence does not require an actual physical assault. Instead, it can mean harm that is "ready to take place" or "hanging threateningly over one's head." Immediate means "occurring, acting, or accomplished without loss of time."¹⁸⁸

In addition, actual danger is not necessary. A person is entitled to act on appearances when defending themselves if they believe in good faith and on reasonable grounds that they are in actual danger, although afterward it might develop that the person was mistaken as to the extent of the danger.¹⁸⁹

VI. Close

The Final Case Report is intended to provide an overview of the investigation conducted by OII and the circumstances of what occurred, to the extent possible.

This report and OII's entire case file have been forwarded to the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Any additional investigation requested by the prosecuting attorney will be included in an addendum to this report.

¹⁸⁸ State v. Janes, 121 Wn.2d 220, 241, 850 P.2d 495, 506 (1993); Comments to WPIC 16.02.

¹⁸⁹ WPIC 16.07.

VII. Appendices

A. Transcript of 911 Call

The following is a transcript of the 911 call. The assignment of names was based on the caller identifying herself as JB and her reference to "Alecandro" during the 911 call. The male voice heard in the background was identified as Alecandro Castaneda based on the content of the call and consistency with his voice in later body-worn camera footage.

The call was initiated on January 12, 2025 at 10:55:30.¹⁹⁰

Dispatcher	9 1 1. What's your emergency?
JB	Hi, I need you to come escort this guy and get him out of my house 'cause he just broke my door and pushed me, and I'm pregnant.
Castaneda	[unintelligible]
Dispatcher	What's the address? What's the address?
Castaneda	[unintelligible]
JB	4 0 1 North Ash Street. Apartment 16. [unintelligible] broke my door.
Dispatcher	Ma'am, 4 0 1 North Ash Street. Apartment one six?
JB	Yeah. And it's in Centralia, Washington, 98531.
Castaneda	[unintelligible]
Dispatcher	Does he have any weapons?
JB	Go in there and go in the room. You need to stay away from here [unintelligible] is in the other room. [unintelligible]
Dispatcher	Does he have any weapons?
JB	No, but he keeps being really aggressive and my son's in the other room. [unintelligible] pushing me [unintelligible]

¹⁹⁰ Lewis County Communications, Call on 01-12-25 10:55:30 (253) 511-2785) JB Caller.

Dispatcher Do you need an ambulance at all ma'am?

JB Huh?

Dispatcher Do you need an ambulance at all?

JB No, I'm okay. But he is getting scratched up. He just busted the door.

Castaneda You want to fucking say shit like that? You're the one who took my shit and fucking threw it because you wanted me to help you fucking clean.

Dispatcher Okay.

Castaneda [unintelligible]

Dispatcher What's his name?

JB Um, Alecandro.

Dispatcher What's his date of birth?

JB I don't know.

Castaneda Yeah, exactly. You don't know. We've been in a relationship for how long? You fucking don't know shit. All you do is make up fucking excuses saying I'm cheating on you. [unintelligible]

JB Can you go away?

Dispatcher Okay. What's your name, ma'am?

Castaneda You [unintelligible] sitting here fucking by me [unintelligible].

JB I don't want you to come in my room. In my son's room.

Castaneda I'm not coming in the fucking room, am I?

JB My name is JB.

Dispatcher I'm sorry. Your name?

JB Huh?

Dispatcher What is your name?

JB JB.

Dispatcher JB

JB B. B.

Dispatcher Okay. Where's he at now?

JB Um, he's in his room.

Castaneda Yeah, my room the one that you've been fucking sitting in, bothering me, taking my shit.

JB He's not on the lease either, so he can just like, hopefully just be gone after this.

Dispatcher Okay. I also have to work my radio, so just bear with.

JB [unintelligible]

Dispatcher I'm sorry?

JB I said, so he's not on the lease either or anything, so it shouldn't be really a problem on getting him escorted out of here.

Dispatcher Okay. Do you have any weapons, JB?

JB [unintelligible] No I don't.

Dispatcher Okay, let's, now that things have calmed down a little bit, let's try to get his name again. I could hardly hear you.

JB It's Alecandro Castaneda.

Dispatcher How old would you say he is?

Castaneda [unintelligible]

JB He's like 22, I think.

Castaneda Yeah. Bull shit. You don't even fucking know.

JB I can't really think right now. Leave me the fuck alone.

Castaneda [unintelligible]

JB You just need to be calm and leave me alone.

Dispatcher That's okay. Let's not talk to him. Okay? We're not gonna engage with him.

Castaneda [unintelligible]

Dispatcher Are we able to remove ourselves from where he's at? Like go into a separate room and shut the door?

JB I'm in the hallway. Um, blocking the, blocking the door.

Castaneda [unintelligible]

Castaneda Fucking bothering me, taking my shit and throwing it on the floor.

Dispatcher He's still in the house yelling.

Castaneda [unintelligible] You can smile all you fucking want. Yeah, go ahead.

Dispatcher Okay. What race is he?

JB Uh, like a native. [loud banging noises in the background]

Dispatcher He appears like an Indian male?

JB Hold on J, you're fine. Alec, stop.

Dispatcher What is he doing?

JB [unintelligible] He's breaking all my doors. Can you please stop?

Castaneda Go inside your own fucking room. Go ahead.

JB Well, I don't wanna go in here because you're just gonna come in here and do it in here. [unintelligible]

Dispatcher How many doors did he just break?

JB Three.

Castaneda [unintelligible]

JB And he's pushed me to the floor, like, to the floor, like multiple times. [unintelligible] my stomach.

Castaneda [unintelligible] the fucking floor. I pushed you on the stomach.

Dispatcher He pushed your stomach and you're pregnant?

JB Yeah. He, yes I am.

Dispatcher Okay.

Castaneda Bull fucking shit. You're saying so much fucking lies right now.

JB You just said that too. Just leave me alone. J, stay in the room.

Dispatcher Okay. Alright. JB, I have an officer checking out, okay.

JB Thank you.

Dispatcher Alright. I am gonna stay on the phone with you though until he's in there with you.

JB Alright.

Dispatcher Okay, are you able to go be with your son right now?

JB I'm just holding the door. I'm just at the door. I think they're here.

Officer Ramirez Where's he at?

Dispatcher Okay.

Officer Ramirez Where is he?

JB He's in there.

Dispatcher Okay. He's with you now?

JB Please calm down. Just go with them for a minute and calm down.

Dispatcher Okay. Alright, JB, since there's an officer there, I'm gonna disconnect.

JB Alright. I'm just hoping he doesn't freak out with them. Sorry. Bye.

Dispatcher Bye.

B. Transcript of Call Detail Report and Radio Communications

OII received audio recordings of radio transmissions from dispatchers and all law enforcement personnel who participated in this incident. OII also received a Call Detail Report¹⁹¹ from Lewis County Communications, which includes computer-aided dispatch (CAD) notes sent from dispatchers to law enforcement personnel during the incident by way of their mobile computer terminals. Together, these radio transmissions and CAD notes represent the information available to law enforcement during the incident.

To create this transcript, OII investigators reviewed BWC video and audio footage, audio recordings of radio transmissions from specific officers and deputies, statements of Centralia PD officers, CAD notes and Call Detail Report entries. Explanations for generally understood law enforcement communications are included. Some transmissions remained unattributed or unintelligible despite the review.

January 12, 2025:

10:56:10	CAD Note:	MALE VS FEMALE PHYSC-MALE BROKE DOOR AND SHOVED FEMALE
10:56:21	CAD Note:	AID DECLINED
10:56:29	Dispatch:	Radio, Centralia patrols, civil dispute North Ash Street.
10:56:50	CAD Note:	"YOU DONT KNOW SHIT, YOU SITTING HERE...???"
10:56:36	Officer Ramirez:	320 Go ahead.
10:56:40	Dispatch:	401 North Ash Street number one six. Male versus female. Male broke the door and shoved the female. Aid declined. Unknown weapons. Male screaming and yelling in the background. Partner still on the line.
10:56:57	CAD Note:	FEMALE IS PREGNANT
10:56:57	Officer Ramirez:	[unintelligible]
10:57:00	Dispatch:	320, 1057
10:57:32	Sergeant Finch:	305, Radio. I'm also in route.
10:57:36	Dispatch:	305, 1057
10:58:03	CAD Note:	MALE/ALECANDRO CASANEDA? 22YO?
10:58:26	Officer Ramirez:	320, do we have a description of the male?
10:58:27	CAD Note:	"BULLSHIT YOU DON'T EVEN FUCKING KNOW-TAKIGN [sic] MY FUCKING SHIT"

¹⁹¹ Lewis County Communications Call Detail Report. Call Number: D01862371.

10:58:36	Dispatch:	Partner is still working on that, but he's still in the house, verbal.
10:58:39	Officer Ramirez:	Received.
10:58:42	Dispatch:	320, 1058
10:59:03	CAD Note:	[EDITED] MALE NOW BREAKING ALL THE DOORS- BROKE 3 DOORS
10:59:05	Dispatch:	Radio, 320. RP is advising the male half is now breaking all the doors.
10:59:06	Officer Ramirez:	[unintelligible] ¹⁹²
10:59:11	Officer Ramirez:	Received, I'm arriving.
10:59:13	Dispatch:	320, 1059
10:59:15	CAD Note:	"I PUSHED YOUR FUCKING STOMACH"
10:59:49	Sergeant Finch:	305, Radio. I'll be responding priority from the office. Also.
10:59:58	Dispatch:	305
11:00:01	Sergeant Finch:	Do we have any history with 16 recently besides the crisis?
11:00:07	Dispatch:	Check and advise.
11:00:33	Officer Ramirez:	320, Radio. Shots fired.
11:00:38	Dispatch:	320 advising shots fired, priority for 320. Chehalis go to backup 1100 hours. ¹⁹³
11:00:45	Sergeant Finch:	305, Radio. Confirm 401 North <unintelligible>
11:00:48	Officer Ramirez:	He was shot twice.
11:00:48	Dispatch:	Radio West Patrol information. Centralia advising shots fired 401 North Ash Street apartment one six. Information 1100. ¹⁹⁴
11:00:53	Dispatch:	320, I copy. Shots fired 1101. Radio, 304, er 301, er 305. 401 North Ash number one six
11:00:58	Deputy Brown:	215, en route.
11:01:00	Dispatch:	215, 1101
11:01:02	Sergeant Finch:	Received, I'm almost there.
11:01:03	Sergeant Andrew Yocom:	2S3 ¹⁹⁵ , I'll be enroute.
11:01:05	Dispatch:	S3 1101

¹⁹² Officer Ramirez began his radio communication while the dispatcher was talking.

¹⁹³ Dispatch instructed all law enforcement units on the frequency who are not part of this call to change to a backup radio channel. This decreases radio traffic on the primary frequency and makes communication easier.

¹⁹⁴ The dispatcher changed frequencies to communicate with Lewis County SO deputies and inform them of the evolving situation in Centralia. It is common for different law enforcement agencies to use different frequencies.

¹⁹⁵ In the law enforcement phonetic alphabet, the letter "S" is pronounced "Sam", so 2S3 would be said over the radio as "2Sam3".

11:01:05	Dispatch:	305, 1101
11:01:08	Officer Ramirez:	320, Radio. Send aid.
11:01:11	Dispatch:	320, requesting aid. 1101
11:01:18	Officer Shulda:	316 Radio confirm the address.
11:01:21	Dispatch:	401 North Ash Street number one six.
11:01:47	Dispatch:	Radio switching to fire. ¹⁹⁶
11:01:55	Dispatch:	[Fire Dispatch Tones] RFA ALS, Gunshot. Request to stage ¹⁹⁷ 401 North Ash Street Apartment one six, Centralia. Respond on Fire 2. RFA Station 1, Medic 4 ALS, Gunshot. Law requests to stage 401 North Ash Street apartment one six Centralia. Respond on Fire 2. Cross of Park and Rainier. 1102.
11:01:58	Sergeant Finch:	305. Call 301. Give him a heads up.
11:02:03	Dispatch:	305 at 1102.
11:02:03	Deputy Brady Taylor:	213, Radio. I'll start heading towards Centralia.
11:02:13	Officer Shulda:	316, Radio. Arriving.
11:02:14	Deputy Alexander Rome-Dulleck:	235, Same traffic.
11:02:18	Dispatch:	316 1102
11:02:24	Officer Frolov:	15, 21. ¹⁹⁸ Are you responding?
11:02:27	Dispatch:	Radio back on county. Last two units go ahead.
11:02:28	Officer McGrath:	Affirm.
11:02:31	Deputy Taylor:	213, Radio. I'm responding towards Centralia.
11:02:33	Medic 4:	AMR Medic 4 enroute.
11:02:36	Dispatch:	213, 1102
11:02:36	Dispatch:	Medic 4 enroute, 1102
11:02:38	Deputy Rome-Dulleck:	235, same traffic.
11:02:40	Dispatch:	235, 1102
11:02:40	Medic 21:	Medic 21 enroute Ash Street
11:02:43	Dispatch:	Medic 21 enroute, Medic 4, unknown if its gonna be a gunshot or assault. Law advising shots fired. Advise if you can go into the scene or not. Stand by one.
11:02:57	Medic 21:	Medic 21.

¹⁹⁶ This statement tells all law enforcement listening the dispatcher is changing frequencies to communicate with fire service personnel. Fire and law are routinely on different frequencies.

¹⁹⁷ Dispatch is telling Riverside Fire Authority units to respond with Advanced Life Support (ALS) for a patient with a gunshot wound. Dispatch is telling the units to wait outside the scene until law enforcement says it is safe to enter.

¹⁹⁸ When talking between officers of the same agency, it is not uncommon to drop the first number of the call sign. "15, 21" is referring to 115 (Chehalis Officer Frolov) contacting 121 (Chehalis Officer McGrath).

11:02:59	Dispatch:	Medic 21, 1103
11:03:00	Medic 4:	Medic 4.
11:03:37	Engine 1A:	Engine 1A, Radio. Engine 1A responding Ash.
11:03:41	Dispatch:	Engine 1A enroute, 1103.
11:03:49	Deputy Brown:	215, Radio. I'm out.
11:03:52	Dispatch:	215, 1103.
11:04:28	Sergeant Finch:	305, Radio. Clear priority traffic, for now.
11:04:32	Dispatch:	305, clear priority. Also just advise when aid can go in.
11:04:36	Sergeant Finch:	Affirm.
11:04:40	Dispatch:	305, 1104. Radio, all patrols. Clear priority traffic. Resume normal traffic, 1104.
11:04:50	Dispatch:	Central to the apparatus enroute to North Ash Street. Per law can respond into the scene.
11:04:58	Medic 21:	Medic 21.
11:05:01	Medic 2:	Medic 2
11:05:01	Unattributed	[unintelligible]
11:05:05	Engine 1A:	Engine 1A.
11:05:07	Dispatch:	1105
11:05:30	Medic 21:	Central, Medic 21. On scene.
11:05:32	Dispatch:	Medic 21, on scene, 1105.
11:05:42	AMR Chief 2:	Central, AMR Chief 2. Head me to the call on Ash Street.
11:05:47	Dispatch:	AMR Chief 2 enroute to Ash Street. 1106.
11:05:55	Medic 4:	Central, Medic 4. On scene.
11:05:58	Dispatch:	Medic 4 on scene, 1106.
11:06:01	Officer McGrath:	121, Radio. Out on Ash.
11:06:04	Dispatch:	121, 1106.
11:06:09	Engine 1A:	Central, Engine 1A. On scene, Ash.
11:06:13	Dispatch:	Engine 1A on scene, 1106.
11:06:47	Anderson:	Central. RFA1 Captain has Ash command.
11:06:52	Dispatch:	Captain 1 has Ash command, 1107.
11:06:52	Deputy Taylor:	213, Radio. Do we know if Centralia still needs units to continue that way?

11:07:02	Dispatch:	Check and advise, they have cleared priority.
11:07:07	Deputy Taylor:	OK.
11:07:08	Dispatch:	Radio, 305. Unit status.
11:07:09	Dispatch:	1107
11:17:14	Dispatch:	Radio, 215.
11:07:19	Medic 21:	Central, Medic 21. CPR in progress.
11:07:22	Dispatch:	Medic 21, CPR in progress. 1107.
11:07:31	Dispatch:	Radio, 215.
11:07:42	Dispatch:	Radio, 305. Unit status.
11:07:46	Sergeant Finch:	Code 4. ¹⁹⁹
11:07:49	Dispatch:	305, Units code 4. 1108.

¹⁹⁹ Code 4 is used to convey the scene is under control and no additional units are needed.

C. Transcript of Officer Ramirez Body Worn Camera Audio

This transcript is derived from the BWC audio worn by Officer Ramirez and Sergeant Finch. The recordings were cross-checked against each other, when possible, to resolve any unintelligible speech and to confirm the identity of speakers.

The BWC video began at 10:58:57 a.m. and ends at 11:09:17 a.m., on January 12, 2025.

Officer Ramirez:	[To dispatch] [Unintelligible]
Dispatch:	Male half is now, is breaking all the doors.
Officer Ramirez:	Received. I'm arriving.
Dispatch:	[unintelligible call sign]
Dispatch:	[unintelligible call sign] 10:59
Officer Ramirez:	Shh. Quiet [dog barking].
JB:	[unintelligible] at the door. [unintelligible] at the door, I think they're here.
Officer Ramirez:	Where's he at?
Officer Ramirez:	Where is he?
JB:	He's in there.
Castaneda:	What's up?
Officer Ramirez:	Come on out.
Castaneda:	Why?
Officer Ramirez:	Because I'm talking to you out here. Let's go outside.
JB:	Go with them for a minute.
Officer Ramirez:	Let's go.
JB:	And calm down.

Castaneda: Don't fucking touch me.

Officer Ramirez: You're under arrest. Let's go outside.

Castaneda: It doesn't work.

Officer Ramirez: Let's go, outside.

Castaneda: Why?

Officer Ramirez: Cause I'm asking you.

Castaneda: No.

Officer Ramirez: Let's go.

Castaneda: No.

Officer Ramirez: Dude. Do not push it.

Castaneda: I'm not pushing anything.

Officer Ramirez: Let's go outside.

Castaneda: She was pushing me in here, bro.

Officer Ramirez: Right.

Castaneda: And I was over here, just chilling. She came in here.

Officer Ramirez: Well, let's go outside.

Castaneda: Came in here. Touched my shit [unintelligible].

Officer Ramirez: Let's go outside. Let's go outside. Let's go. Let's go.

Castaneda: Don't touch me.

Officer Ramirez: Dude. Let's go outside.

Castaneda: Don't touch me.

Castaneda: Really?

Officer Ramirez: Yeah.

Castaneda: Really?

Officer Ramirez: Get on the ground.

Castaneda: Why?

Officer Ramirez: Get on the ground.

Castaneda: There's a bed in here.

Officer Ramirez: Do it now.

Castaneda: There's a bed.

Officer Ramirez: Let's go [sounds of a physical altercation ensues with TASER deployment and loud background noises].

Castaneda: [loud groaning - initial shot is fired] Okay, oh Fuck [second shot is fired and loud groaning].

JB: [unintelligible] Please stop.

Officer Ramirez: [To dispatch] [unintelligible female voice in background and groaning] Shots fired.

JB: No.

Officer Ramirez: Fuck, fuck.

JB: [unintelligible]

Officer Ramirez: Get out. Get outside. Get outside.

JB: J, hold on.

Officer Ramirez: Get outside.

JB: Go outside. Go outside now [child is heard in the background - unintelligible].

Officer Ramirez: [To dispatch] [unintelligible] the male was shot twice.

JB: Where did you shoot him. Please. Is he okay?

Officer Ramirez: Please ma'am. Get outside. Get outside. Please go outside.

JB: Where did he get shot?

Officer Ramirez: Please. I don't know. Please go outside, so I can take care of him. Please go outside.

JB: Help him, please.

Officer Ramirez: Please go outside. [To dispatch] 320 Radio send aid.

Officer Ramirez: [Heavy breathing.]

Officer Ramirez: God, damn it. Dude [sirens in background].

JB: Do you need something?

Officer Ramirez: I've got it. Please go outside. I'm waiting for my partners.

JB: Please help him. [unintelligible] Is he okay?

Officer Ramirez: I, I don't know yet. Please go outside.

JB: No [unintelligible] crying.

Officer Ramirez: Why me?

Officer Ramirez: Dude.

Officer Ramirez: Please go outside. I can't have you in here. I will take care of, as soon as they, my partners get here.

Sergeant Finch: Rube, where are you?

Officer Ramirez: I'm right here. The light's broken. He's been shot twice. Please search the rest of the house to make sure there's nobody else, and then we'll get aid in here.

JB: [unintelligible] Please help him [unintelligible].

Sergeant Finch: House is clear.

Officer Ramirez: If the scene is secure, can we get aid in here?

Sergeant Finch: They're not here yet.

Officer Ramirez: Okay. Glove up. He's been shot twice. One low and one up high. Um, he attacked me. I tased, I tased him when he attacked. He was on me and then after that, he had me in a headlock, and reaching.

Sergeant Finch: Are you okay?

Officer Ramirez: Reaching for my gun. The gun was dropped, and I picked it up and shot him.

Sergeant Finch: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: Fuck. God, why? Okay.

Officer Ramirez: Let's check him [unintelligible] damn it.

Officer Ramirez: Once in the chest.

Sergeant Finch: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: And once in the leg.

Sergeant Finch: Okay.

Sergeant Finch: Yeah. Can you get that stuff outta here? Throw it in the room next door.

Officer Ramirez: One entrance. I'm gonna see if it went through. I can't tell.

Sergeant Finch: Okay. I'm gonna tourniquet his leg.

Officer Ramirez: [unintelligible]

Sergeant Finch: Hey Shulda, can you get some light in here?

Officer Ramirez: We need chest seal too.

Officer Shulda: Do you have a flashlight I can hold?

Sergeant Finch: You got a chest seal on you?

Officer Shulda: What's that?

Sergeant Finch: Do you have a chest seal on you?

Officer Shulda: I can run out and grab one.

Officer Ramirez: Yeah, please do.

Officer Shulda: Yep.

Sergeant Finch: [unintelligible]

Officer Ramirez: Can we get higher up? Okay. Grab his leg and then I'll pull it up as far as I can. Okay? Yeah, they can come in. That's good.

Deputy Brown: Sheriff's Office.

Officer Ramirez: Yes. Come on in. Scene's safe. Come on in. He's in here. Uh, we're trying to get a chest seal on him.

Deputy Brown: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: Shot twice. Once in, once in the chest, once in the leg. Um.

Deputy Brown: He's secure?

Officer Ramirez: He's, yeah, he's, he's not moving.

Deputy Brown: Okay. What, what, what do you need?

Officer Ramirez: Uh, I should probably have you with her. I need to step out. Um, we're getting the chest seal coming, so, okay. Do you want to stay with her?

JB: Is he okay?

Officer Ramirez: I don't know. Is there anybody else in the family around here?

JB: No.

Officer Ramirez: It was just you and who?

JB: Huh?

Officer Ramirez: You and your child?

JB: Yeah. My mom's not here right now. I can call my aunt.

Officer Ramirez: Okay. Well, we got medics coming.

JB: Are you okay?

Officer Ramirez: I'm, I'm fine.

JB: Why did [unintelligible] shot?

Officer Ramirez: I, I don't know. We're trying to figure that out right now. You have a chest?

Officer Shulda: No, I can't find mine.

Officer Ramirez: Ma'am.

JB: [unintelligible] get my phone.

Officer Ramirez: Okay. Where's, where's your phone at?

JB: I think it's in my room. I don't know.

Officer Ramirez: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: You got a light in here?

Officer Shulda: Yep.

Deputy Brown: [unintelligible] Rip those down, behind ya.

Officer Ramirez: Well, there's no chest seal in this.

Deputy Brown: No?

Officer Ramirez: Uh, yeah. There we go. Right here. Looks like there's one. So, that's all we need is one. Okay. We got that area cleaned off with something?

Deputy Brown: Pulse faint. Pulse is faint.

Officer Ramirez: We have something to clean that off with? Come on guys. Let's try to save this guy.

Deputy Brown: I, I got, I got nothing. So.

Officer Ramirez: That's good.

Unknown Officer: Yep.

Officer Ramirez: Okay. Okay. [Places chest seal in place].

Deputy Brown: Compressions?

Officer Ramirez: Is he breathing?

Deputy Brown: I, I thought I felt faint pulse.

Officer Ramirez: Go ahead and check again. Come on in.

Medics: [unintelligible]

Officer Ramirez: We're back here. Shot twice. Once in the chest, once in the leg. Chest seal applied.

Deputy Brown: I think pulse, I think pulse is faint. So, if you guys wanna step in.

Officer McGrath: You need anything right now?

Officer Ramirez: I'm good.

Officer McGrath: [unintelligible] take pictures or anything like that?

Officer Ramirez: Uh, I, I've gotta get out of this, so, um, I'm gonna go ahead and grab my stuff. Actually, I got, I gotta leave all that there, so.

Sergeant Finch: Are you injured? Where is the blood from? You've got blood on you.

Officer Ramirez: It's just from him.

Sergeant Finch: Just from him? Nothing on, none, none of yours. Okay. Um.

Officer Ramirez: [Emotional sniffing and sound of removing latex gloves].

Deputy Brown: [unintelligible] going, dude?

Officer Ramirez: Why? Fuck. Just trying to get out. Nine shifts left. That's all I fucking had, man. I hope that dude's gonna be fine man. He's just a fucking kid. Just stupid. What was he thinking?

Deputy Brown: You know as well as I do, man. Sometimes it's out of your control.

Officer Ramirez: [Deep breaths]

Deputy Brown: Where, where, where are you hurt at?

Officer Ramirez: You know, I.

Deputy Brown: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: He attacked me.

Deputy Brown: You, you got, you got, you got, you got some blood dripping from your lip and so.

Officer Ramirez: I don't know. He just, he just jumped at me in, into the wall and.

Deputy Brown: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: Was reaching around for my gun. I tased him and that didn't work. So, when my gun, I knew it was gonna come out, so I.

Deputy Brown: Okay.

Officer Ramirez: He wasn't getting off.

Deputy Brown: You get hit anywhere else?

Officer Ramirez: No.

Deputy Brown: Just wanna check to see, see where aid can, needs to check you out if need be, so. You want aid come take a look at you in a bit?

Officer Ramirez: Yeah, I probably should.

Deputy Brown: Okay. Alright man.

Officer Ramirez: Fuck.

Deputy Brown: I'm not going anywhere until you're good, man, so.

Officer Ramirez: It just happened so fast.

Deputy Brown: Yep.

Officer Ramirez: [breathing heavily - camera deactivated]