



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS
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August 26, 2025

Prior Investigations Review Program
Case No. OII-2023-0003
Deceased: Jason Hale
Involved Agency: Stevens County Sheriff's Office

NOTIFICATION OF DIRECTOR'S DECISION

The Washington State Office of Independent Investigations (OII) was asked to review the original criminal investigation into the August 19, 2015, use of deadly force incident involving the Stevens County Sheriff's Office, which resulted in the death of Jason Hale.

Based on the detailed recommendation from the OII Investigation Review Team, combined with my review of the case, I find that there is no material new evidence that warrants opening an investigation into the death of Mr. Hale. The detailed IRT recommendation has been provided to Mr. Hale's family, the involved agency, and the prosecuting attorney.

OII is authorized to review prior investigations of police use of deadly force and can investigate that use of force if new evidence is brought forth that was not included in the initial investigation. [RCW 43.102.030\(1\)\(b\).](#)

Pursuant to its policy, OII will open an investigation if there is new evidence that reasonably could affect a decision made by a prosecuting authority. [7.01 Review of Prior Investigations.](#)

A family liaison was assigned to work with the family of Mr. Hale and ensure they remained updated as to the progress of the review. Notice of this review was given to the involved agency, the prosecuting authority and the original investigating agency.

After a thorough review of the original investigation and the purported new evidence, the OII Investigation Review Team determined that there were no additional investigative steps that could reasonably affect the decision by the prosecutor and recommended the OII director close the

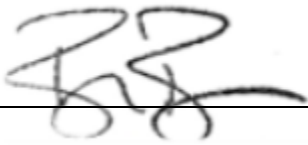
review. I agree with that recommendation, close the review, and submit the matter to the Stevens County Prosecuting Attorney.

The two claims of new evidence were:

1. Video Evidence of an Officer Allegedly Tampering with Evidence at the Scene: There was an assertion that video taken by a civilian witness showed a law enforcement officer tampering with evidence. The IRT has reviewed this video and interviews of witnesses. Neither the video, nor supporting evidence and information, supports this allegation.
2. Involvement of a Deputy Coroner: There was an assertion that the deputy county coroner who responded to the scene had a conflict of interest. There is no evidence that the deputy coroner's limited activities at the scene influenced the investigation and therefore could not reasonably have impacted the prosecutor's decision.

Given that the new evidence neither appears credible nor has a material impact on the investigation, there are no additional investigative steps that would warrant opening a new investigation. The OII review of this matter is closed. The report of the Investigation Review Team and the case file will be forwarded to the Stevens County Prosecutor.

This decision and the Investigation Review Team recommendation will be communicated to the person who requested the review, the family of Mr. Hale, and the involved and investigating agencies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rogoff", positioned above a horizontal line.

Roger Rogoff, Director
Washington State Office of Independent Investigations