Media Release

March 10, 2017

There will be no information available on the death in Meadowdale Park near Lynnwood today until Monday, March 13, 2017 at 1600 hours.

March 2, 2017

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kent Patton
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Statement from Dr. Daniel Selove, Snohomish County Medical Examiner

“The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has a very specific task: determining the cause and manner of death. We scientifically examine the body of a deceased individual, and by using medical and forensic tools, we determine the most likely cause of death. In many cases, the cause of death is straightforward. There is a gunshot wound, or severe trauma from a car accident, or someone has clearly overdosed, as proven by tests. The human body usually gives us obvious clues for these answers.”

“Once we make a determination as to the cause of death, we then try to determine the manner of death. In other words, not what caused the death, but the most likely events leading up to the death. Was it a car accident, whether intentional or not? Was it homicide, where one person caused another’s death, whether intentional or not? This process can be straightforward, but is also more open to interpretation and ambiguity in some cases. We interview family members and friends. We look at photos of the body as it was found. We look for other clues that might be beyond just what the body provides.”

“In the case of determining cause of death in a suicide, there are usually few questions. The death occurred through a very specific action. However, the manner can be more ambiguous. Unless there is a suicide note or other direct communication from the person before their death, there may not be any clues. In those cases, we have to make a decision based on the preponderance of evidence. If all of the evidence is examined, a definitive manner of death cannot be determined, then we say that it is “undetermined.” This

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means that we cannot say with a high degree of certainty what the manner of death was. However, this determination does not in any way prejudice the police investigation or prosecution if a crime is suspected. It just means the medical examination cannot determine with an appropriate degree of certainty the manner of death."

“In the case of Ben Keita, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office determined that the cause of death was hanging. There was no question about this. By looking at the preponderance of evidence, including discussions with the family, the manner of death could not be determined with a great degree of confidence. The “undetermined” manner of death does not exclude homicide or suicide; the evidence is just not conclusive enough to provide a high degree of confidence for any other determination.”

“The police and prosecutors will make final determinations about whether there is evidence that a crime was committed.”

February 28, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of an 18-year old male who died in the 600 block of 89th Ave SE in Lake Stevens on January 9, 2017. The decedent is Ben M. Keita of Lake Stevens, WA. The cause of death hanging. The manner of death is Undetermined.

For further information, please contact the Lake Stevens Police Department.

February 22, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 37-year old female who was involved in a traffic collision at the 7700 block Hardeson Road on February 24, 2017. The decedent is Athena A. Pishue of Seattle, WA. The cause of death is blunt force injuries. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Everett Police Department.

February 21, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 66-year old female who died in the 13500 block of North Creek Drive in Mill Creek on February 21, 2017. The decedent is Norensa Namber Pillias of Mill Creek, WA. The cause of death is multiple stab wounds of the trunk. The manner of death is Homicide.

For further information, please contact the Mill Creek Police Department.

February 15, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 78-year old female who died in the 12100 block of 212th Street SE near Snohomish on February 20, 2017. The decedent is Barbara A. Decker of Snohomish, WA. The cause of death is incised wound of the neck. The manner of death is Homicide.

For further information, please contact the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office.

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February 7, 2014

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 12-year old female who was involved in a traffic collision northbound I-5 at 164th Street SW on February 03, 2017. The decedent is Amiyah S. Johnson of Everett, WA. The cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Everett Police Department.

February 6, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 24-year old male who died in the 1900 block of Casino Road in Everett, WA on February 5, 2017. The decedent is Bradley M. Doherty of Everett, WA. The cause of death is a gunshot wound of the trunk. The manner of death is Homicide.

For further information, please contact the Washington State Patrol.

February 1, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has confirmed the identification and completed the examination of a 36-year-old male who was in an officer-involved shooting in the 19000th block of State Route 99 in Lynnwood on January 30, 2017. The decedent has been identified as Jeremy R. Dowell of Mountlake Terrace, WA. The cause of death is multiple gunshot wounds. The manner of death is Homicide.

For further information, please contact the Snohomish County Multi-Agency Response Team.

January 26, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 31-year old male who was involved in a car versus pedestrian collision in the 6900 block of Seaway Blvd in Everett, WA on January 25, 2017. The decedent is Cullen M. Thompson of Lake Stevens, WA. The cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries of head and neck. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Everett Police Department.

January 23, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 53-year old female who was involved in a car versus pedestrian collision in the 4600 block of 176th Street SW in Lynnwood on January 17, 2017. The decedent is Tammy L. Stover of Lynnwood, WA. The cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Lynnwood Police Department.

January 17, 2017

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 48-year old female who was involved in a traffic collision east bound SR 92 near mile post 4 on
December 22, 2016. The decedent is Lisa K. Hunt of Lake Stevens, WA. The cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Washington State Patrol.

**January 4, 2017**

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 93-year old male who was involved in a house fire in the 16300 block of Roosevelt Road in Snohomish on January 3, 2017. The decedent is Glen E. Allen of Snohomish, WA. The cause of death is thermal injuries and inhalation of soot and products of combustion. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office.

The Snohomish County Medical Examiner’s Office has completed the identification and examination of a 26-year old male who was involved in a traffic collision on January 1, 2017. The decedent is Ivan A. Rosales Cabanillas of Everett, WA. The cause of death is drowning. The manner of death is Accident.

For further information, please contact the Washington State Patrol.