

## Seattle Center Presser

July 27, 2026

[Run of Show](#)

[Talking Points](#)

[Q&A](#)

## Run of Show 11AM Presser

Elected Official Invite: Mayor Execs

King County/Central Staff Coordination: Dawn

All-Staff Email: Spangenthal-Lee, Jonah (MOS)/Fincher-C, Crystal

Talking Points/FAQ: Dawn/All

Media Advisory/Seattle Channel: Wilson, Sage

Social Media Monitoring: Piñon, Amy/Durkan, Tim

Contact Jayme: Holland, Danielle

NBR Setup: Edie

## Talking Points

Thank you for joining us here today.

### **What we know**

Shortly after 6 p.m. last night officers responded to the sound of gunfire. They were assigned to support the Bite of Seattle, were on scene within seconds and took a suspect into custody. No police weapons were discharged.

We believe two people exchanged gunfire outside the Seattle Center Armory. Eight innocent victims were caught in the crossfire.

A 19-year-old man, a 44-year-old man, and a 56-year-old woman were killed; two died at the scene a third passed away at Harborview Medical Center. Official identification will come from the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

The Seattle Police Department detained a 15-year-old juvenile in connection with the shooting. The teen was booked into the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center for investigation of firearms violations and first-degree assault. We believe this teenager opened fire in the crowd, but details are still under investigation. This individual will have a first appearance court hearing at 1:30 – again we have not formally arrested anyone for investigation of homicide.

we appreciate your patience, we are releasing information when we can. We are only 17 hours into this case.

#### **What we are doing now**

- Right now, this is an all-hands-on-deck response. Investigating this tragedy has been taken on by nearly every part of the police department.
- Our Human Services Department Victim Advocates team is working with the SPD to support the needs of the victims and their families. We are so grateful for their incredible work and dedication.
  - Two Victims Advocates are actively working alongside SPD Detectives in the Violent Crimes Unit to help survivors navigate the criminal legal system, understand their rights, and gain access to Crime Victims Compensation, and other resources.
- Community Passageways is reaching out to the affected families immediately. and offering in-home support to help families understand and navigate hospital, legal, victim-support, and other systems.
- The organization is also convening an emergency meeting to assess the possibility of retaliation, identify ongoing safety concerns, and help the people involved navigate those risks.
- Support is tailored to each family's circumstances
- The immediate priorities are to help families remain safe, reduce the risk of further violence, and make sure they have practical and emotional support during the first days following the shooting.
- 

#### **How are we addressing public safety globally**

- This has been an especially tough week for Seattle. Thursday night there was a shooting near Aurora in North Seattle, again in Capitol Hill Friday night, and now at the Seattle Center last night.
- While the police department continues their investigations, we cannot let up on implementing a multi-pronged gun violence strategy.
- Gun violence can be prevented. Evidence-based strategies have proven results in cities across the nation.
- A successful gun violence reduction strategy is based on strong partnerships between—
  - community leaders who design and implement neighborhood-based prevention strategies;
  - social service providers focused on the root causes of violence;
  - community members with moral authority over group members who can deliver a credible message against violence;
  - community members who can interrupt cycles of violence and de-escalate tensions before they erupt; and

- law enforcement who can hold group members accountable if they decide not to put down their guns.
- The City of Seattle is partnering with state, federal, and local government partners to launch a gun violence reduction strategy that will build on programs, services, and law enforcement efforts already underway.
- We will be bringing on an expert in gun violence reduction, including youth violence prevention who will partner with city staff and our community based partners.
- Chief Barnes and the Seattle Police Department will be implementing near-term strategies to amplify summer efforts. I'll let the Chief describe those.
- We are committed to working in impacted neighborhoods across our city, from Rainier Beach to the Chinatown International District and Little Saigon to Capitol Hill to North Aurora, to address both the immediate impacts and the root causes of gun violence.
- I also want to appreciate our City Attorney Erica Evans for her leadership in beginning to use Extreme Risk Protection Orders to take guns away from people at high risk of committing violence.
- Thank you also to the City Council, the elected officials here today and those that have reached out offering support.
- I want to express profound gratitude to our police officers who were on the scene and responded immediately and with care and decisiveness, and to everyone at SPD who has been working nonstop since this tragedy occurred. And our Seattle firefighters and medical personnel at Harborview who treated the injured, as well as Seattle Center and event staff and bystanders who helped people reach safety and provided aid in terrifying circumstances.
- Everyone is united in ensuring a safer healthier city.
- We are in this together

[Turn the mic over to Chief Barnes]

## Questions & Answer

### **Why did it take so long to start the event last night?**

Investigations are continually evolving during the first hours, and information can change by the minute. It was important to confirm as many facts as possible so up-to-date and accurate information could be shared with the media and public.

**Was the SPD Chief out of town?** Chief Barnes was fully engaged last night, and he led a briefing for elected officials at 9pm. His team did a fantastic job on the scene, and he is back in town this morning as you can see.

**I heard event security was poor. What do you know about that?**

<shared w/Seattle Center for consideration>