

Seattle Center 4PM Press Release

July 27, 2026

Talking Points

- Thank you for returning today.
- I heard the call for more frequent updates about the shooting last night at Seattle Center and our ongoing investigation. I too want to be transparent, so I've called this press conference and will hold another tomorrow at noon in this same location.
- Right now, tensions are high and there is a lot of time-sensitive work to do. I've asked Assistant Chief Nicole Powell who is in charge of the Investigation Bureau to present with me this afternoon. She is leading this investigation.
- We continue to make sure victims receive the care and resources they need.
- 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.
- As a recap, shortly after 6 p.m. last night officers responded to the sound of gunfire. They were supporting the Bite of Seattle and within seconds took a suspect into custody.
- We shared this morning that 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 and we expect the names of the deceased to be released this afternoon.
- 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.
- We now know at least two people exchanged gunfire outside the Seattle Center Armory, one is in custody, a second has been identified as the 19 year-old deceased man. This is new information in our ongoing investigation. Police continue to look for a third possible suspect and call the tip line at (206) 233-5000 if you know anything.
- Next steps in the investigation include reviewing bullet casings, investigative interviews, following leads that come in through the SPD tip line and reviewing any available camera footage. While the Seattle Center cameras were not located where the scene of the crime was, next steps include looking at the video to see if they offer any new information,

Commented [WM1]: Alison shared with me that the identity of these victims may already be public by 4pm. Is that correct, and if so should we alter this at all?

Commented [HE2]: can we say anything more about how the investigation concluded that the deceased was one of the people who exchanged gunfire?

Commented [DS3R2]: @Sullivan, Jennifer

- As you are aware, the Seattle Police Department detained a 15-year-old juvenile in connection with the shooting and the individual had their first court hearing at 1:30 – and remains in custody.
- The scene at Seattle Center has been cleared and the grounds are open to the public today.
- I want to acknowledge all of the Seattle Center staff who have been looking after folks and cleaning up. From across the entire campus, from security to event staff and everyone who has had to respond and continue working, many are often invisible in this work, and they are just as traumatized by what has happened as visitors. The team has been unbelievable, working 20-hour shifts. To our leadership and staff at Seattle Center, the city's gratitude is with you all as well.

Commented [HE4]: Do we know what the outcome of the hearing was, or any new information from it that can be shared?

Commented [DS5]: @Spangenthal-Lee, Jonah (MOS) @Holcomb, Alison do we need to add more here about next steps

- I also want to express profound gratitude to our police officers who have been working nonstop since this tragedy occurred and are providing regular updates to my office. Thank you to the victim advocates team at the Human Services Department and our community partners focused on violence interruption who are offering in-home support to help families understand and navigate hospital, legal, victim-support, and other systems. These teams are also convening community to assess the possibility of retaliation, identify ongoing safety concerns, and help the people involved navigate those risks.

Commented [HD6]: I think a call out for all of our city staff at SC is important to add in to this presser. Not sure where in this flow, with all the hands in here, but here is my contribution in consideration.

- Thank you for coming and we will continue releasing information as more it becomes available.
- Next, Assistant Chief Nicole Powell will share a few updates on the investigation.

We will then take a few questions and convene again at noon tomorrow.

Questions:

Why isn't Chief Barnes at this press conference?

As I mentioned, right now I want all our resources focused on solving the crime at hand.

[Asked again] I have nothing else to add.

Commented [WM7]: I should be prepared to be asked whether it's true that he had planned to be out of town or absent until mid-August.

Why didn't you use Alert Seattle?

This question came up this morning, and it was a good one. My team is working with the Office of Emergency Management to ensure use next time. I'd like to encourage the people of Seattle to sign up for emergency alerts on the City's web site at alert.seattle.gov.

What do you know about ICE activity at Seattle Center?

We are confirming reports from our staff at Seattle Center that ICE officials have taken at least one person who was on city property near the Fisher Pavilion earlier today. We have sent Seattle Police Department to confirm these reports. We are still gathering information about this activity and are working with our Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to assist community members.