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**KING COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SERVICES
INQUEST PROGRAM**

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ISALAH OBET
INQUEST # 417IQ7199**

INTERROGATORIES TO THE INQUEST JURY

DATED 22nd day of May, 2025.


Julia Garratt
Inquest Administrator



King County

Inquest Program

Department of Executive Services

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 135

Seattle, WA 98104

206-477-6191

TTY Relay 711

Inquests@kingcounty.gov

Interrogatory No. 1: Were Auburn Police Department Officer Jeffrey Nelson and his police canine Koen on duty on June 10, 2017?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 2: Was Officer Nelson in police uniform and driving a marked police vehicle?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 3: Shortly before 12:24 PM on June 10, 2017, did an Auburn resident call 911 to report that a man she did not know had entered her house with a knife in his hand, asked if she had money, and left her house when she told him to get out?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 4: Did dispatch alert Auburn Police officers that an unknown man holding a pocketknife entered a residence, asked for money, and left on foot?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 5: Did dispatch provide Auburn Police officers with a description of the unknown man and what he was wearing?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 6: Was Officer Nelson aware of the information provided by dispatch about the unknown man?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 7: Did Officer Nelson begin driving toward the 911 caller's house?

YES 4 NO 0 UNKNOWN 2



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Interrogatory No. 8: While driving eastbound on 21st Street SE, did Officer Nelson see a person who was later identified as Isaiah Obet walking westbound on 21st Street SE?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 9: Did Officer Nelson contact dispatch to obtain additional information about the description of the shorts given by the 911 caller?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 10: Would it have been reasonable for Officer Nelson to believe that Mr. Obet was the person described by the 911 caller?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 11: Did Officer Nelson turn his vehicle around and drive westbound on 21st Street SE in order to contact Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 12: Did Officer Nelson activate the emergency lights on his police vehicle?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 13: Did Officer Nelson activate the siren on his police vehicle?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 14: Did Officer Nelson's in-car video record audio of the interaction between Officer Nelson and Mr. Obet after Officer Nelson stopped his vehicle?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 15: Did Officer Nelson's in-car video capture video of the interaction between Officer Nelson and Mr. Obet after Officer Nelson stopped his vehicle?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0



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Interrogatory No. 16: Did Mr. Obet run up to a Toyota being driven eastbound on 21st Street SE, near the intersection with D Street SE?

YES 1 NO 0 UNKNOWN 5

Interrogatory No. 17: Did Mr. Obet attempt to stop the Toyota?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 18: Did Mr. Obet attempt to open any door(s) of the Toyota?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 19: Did Mr. Obet open any door(s) of the Toyota?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 20: Did Mr. Obet have a pocketknife in his hand when he was near the Toyota?

YES 3 NO 0 UNKNOWN 3

Interrogatory No. 21: If Mr. Obet had a pocketknife when he was near the Toyota, was it in the open position with the blade exposed?

YES 1 NO 0 UNKNOWN 5 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 22: Did Mr. Obet hit the window(s) of the Toyota?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 23: If Mr. Obet hit the window of the Toyota, did Mr. Obet hit the window(s) of the Toyota with a pocketknife?

YES 3 NO 0 UNKNOWN 3 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 24: Did Mr. Obet break any window of the Toyota?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0



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Interrogatory No. 25: Did Officer Nelson see Mr. Obet attempt to open any door of the Toyota?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 26: Did Officer Nelson see Mr. Obet hit the window(s) of the Toyota?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 27: Did Officer Nelson see a pocketknife in Mr. Obet's hand?

YES 2 NO 0 UNKNOWN 4

Interrogatory No. 28: Would it have been reasonable for Officer Nelson to believe that Mr. Obet was about to break the window(s) of the Toyota and enter the Toyota?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 29: Did Officer Nelson exit his police vehicle and release canine Koen toward Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 30: Did canine Koen bite Mr. Obet prior to any shots being fired?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 31: Did Officer Nelson tell Mr. Obet to stop prior to any shots being fired?

YES 3 NO 0 UNKNOWN 3

Interrogatory No. 32: Did Mr. Obet say anything to Officer Nelson prior to any shots being fired?

YES 0 NO 0 UNKNOWN 6

Interrogatory No. 33: Did Mr. Obet turn to face Officer Nelson prior to any shots being fired?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0



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Interrogatory No. 34: Did Mr. Obet make any movement toward Officer Nelson prior to any shots being fired?

YES 1 NO 0 UNKNOWN 5

Interrogatory No. 35: Did Mr. Obet raise a pocketknife at Officer Nelson prior to any shots being fired?

YES 0 NO 4 UNKNOWN 2

Interrogatory No. 36: Did Officer Nelson fire a gun at Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 37: Did approximately 25 seconds elapse from when Officer Nelson exited his police vehicle to when Officer Nelson first fired his gun?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 38: When Officer Nelson first fired his gun, did the bullet hit Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 39: Did the first bullet hit Mr. Obet in the chest?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 40: Did Mr. Obet move toward Officer Nelson after the first gunshot?

YES 0 NO 5 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 41: Would it have been reasonable for Officer Nelson to believe that Mr. Obet was intentionally moving toward Officer Nelson after the first gunshot?

YES 0 NO 4 UNKNOWN 2 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 42: Did Officer Nelson move closer to Mr. Obet after the first gunshot?

YES 0 NO 0 UNKNOWN 6 N/A 0



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Interrogatory No. 43: Did Officer Nelson fire a gun at Mr. Obet a second time?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 44: Did the second bullet hit Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 45: Did the second bullet hit Mr. Obet in the head?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 46: Was there a gap between the first and second gunshots?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 47: If there was a gap between the first and second gunshots, was it more than a second?

YES 0 NO 6 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 48: Did Mr. Obet say anything after being hit by a bullet or bullets?

YES 0 NO 0 UNKNOWN 6 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 49: Did an officer or officers request medical aid for Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 50: Did an officer or officers handcuff Mr. Obet?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 51: Did Officer Nelson or any other officer render medical aid to Mr. Obet prior to the arrival of Valley Regional Fire Authority personnel?

YES 0 NO 5 UNKNOWN 1



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Interrogatory No. 52: Did Mr. Obet die as a result of being hit by a bullet or bullets fired by Officer Nelson?

YES 6 NO 0 UNKNOWN 0

Interrogatory No. 53: Would it have been reasonable for Officer Nelson to believe that Mr. Obet posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to any person at the time of the first gunshot?

To himself (Officer Nelson): YES 2 NO 4 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

To another person: YES 2 NO 4 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 54: Did Officer Nelson use only that amount of force that reasonably appeared necessary given the facts and circumstances he perceived at the time of the first gunshot?

YES 2 NO 4 UNKNOWN 0 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 55: Would it have been reasonable for Officer Nelson to believe that Mr. Obet posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to any person at the time of the second gunshot?

To himself (Officer Nelson): YES 0 NO 5 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0

To another person: YES 0 NO 5 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 56: Did Officer Nelson use only that amount of force that reasonably appeared necessary given the facts and circumstances he perceived at the time of the second gunshot?

YES 0 NO 5 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0



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Interrogatory No. 57: Was Officer Nelson's use of deadly force legally justified, as explained in Instruction No. 5?

First gunshot: YES 2 NO 3 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0

Second gunshot: YES 0 NO 5 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 58: Did Officer Nelson act without malice, as explained in Instruction No. 5?

First gunshot: YES 2 NO 2 UNKNOWN 2 N/A 0

Second gunshot: YES 0 NO 4 UNKNOWN 2 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 59: Did Officer Nelson act with a good faith belief that the use of force was justifiable, as explained in Instruction No. 5?

First gunshot: YES 2 NO 3 UNKNOWN 1 N/A 0

Second gunshot: YES 0 NO 4 UNKNOWN 2 N/A 0

Interrogatory No. 60: Did Officer Nelson cause Isaiah Obet's death by criminal means, as explained in Instruction No. 5?

YES 4 NO 1 UNKNOWN 1



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DATED this 22 day of May, 2025.

Michael Jett

Panel Foreperson

Sile Grace Matsui

Panel Member

Lauren Rice

Panel Member

Tyler Kering

Panel Member

Quinn M

Panel Member

Sam V

Panel Member



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Juror No. 1

JUROR EXPLANATION FORM

If desired, you may provide a written explanation of any of your answers to the interrogatories. You need only provide a written explanation when you believe that a written explanation of your answer would provide information helpful in explaining or interpreting your answer.

Interrogatory No. <u>16</u> :	witnesses say he was running, however video shows a stroll - he did go up to vehicle
Interrogatory No. <u>20</u> :	there was a knife under his body, it was reported by 911 caller - only 1 witness saw the knife - but no other corroboration - Officer Nelson says he saw the knife on the ME OBet when he first saw him.
Interrogatory No. <u>21</u> :	
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	

Juror No. A 2

JUROR EXPLANATION FORM

If desired, you may provide a written explanation of any of your answers to the interrogatories. You need only provide a written explanation when you believe that a written explanation of your answer would provide information helpful in explaining or interpreting your answer.

Interrogatory No. <u>7</u> :	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Interrogatory No. <u>16</u> :	<u>Based on eyewitness testimony it seemed as though Mr. Obet</u> <u>Obet Van.</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Interrogatory No. <u>33</u> :	<u>Mr. Obet was an imminent threat to both Officer Nelson, and</u> <u>Jing Martinez given the distance between each party and Mr. Obet's</u> <u>weapon and previous conduct.</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Interrogatory No. <u>53</u> :	<u>When Officer Nelson was interviewed after the incident,</u> <u>Nelson stated that he had shot Mr. Obet after Obet started</u> <u>falling which implied that Mr. Obet was significantly less</u> <u>of a threat and Officer Nelson may have been able to reevaluate</u> <u>the situation and not taken the second shot.</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Juror No. 3

JUROR EXPLANATION FORM

If desired, you may provide a written explanation of any of your answers to the interrogatories. You need only provide a written explanation when you believe that a written explanation of your answer would provide information helpful in explaining or interpreting your answer.

Interrogatory No. <u>7</u> :	<u>Not sure if Officer was heading to house or not.</u> <u>(Pedantics)</u>
Interrogatory No. <u>16</u> :	<u>While I agree that Mr. Obet approached the</u> <u>vehicle it is not apparent if he "ran" which I</u> <u>feel is an important distinction in the assessment</u> <u>of this case.</u>
Interrogatory No. <u>57</u> : 58 59	<u>Regarding the first shot, I chose unknown because</u> <u>it is not verifiable in my opinion if Mr. Obet</u> <u>was given commands or what either Officer Nelson</u> <u>and Mr. Obet were doing due to lack of video</u> <u>and audio evidence, as well as eyewitness accounts</u> <u>that were unclear or uncertain.</u>
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	

Juror No. 4

JUROR EXPLANATION FORM

If desired, you may provide a written explanation of any of your answers to the interrogatories. You need only provide a written explanation when you believe that a written explanation of your answer would provide information helpful in explaining or interpreting your answer.

Interrogatory No. <u>7</u> :	I would assume he is heading towards the house but he wasn't present to state that this was the car, and did not say in his in car video/audio as it wasn't activated
Interrogatory No. <u>16</u> :	It looks like he walked up. Never saw him running testimony was variable on this, and video shows walking. He approached the car but whether he was walking or running is unknown.
Interrogatory No. <u>20</u> :	Drivers in blue car stated that he held something in his hand but could not see what it was. Driver in car by officer Nelson did not see anything in his hand.
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	
Interrogatory No. <u> </u> :	

JUROR EXPLANATION FORM

If desired, you may provide a written explanation of any of your answers to the interrogatories. You need only provide a written explanation when you believe that a written explanation of your answer would provide information helpful in explaining or interpreting your answer.

Interrogatory No. <u>16</u> :	<p>Run Run may not be the word. Not sure if he ran. between possibly ran, possibly walked. There's actually no physical evidence of whether he ran or walked. Some witnesses say he walked some two say Obet ran. I can't with confidence say yes or no.</p>
Interrogatory No. <u>21</u> :	<p>Only Jing Martz says she saw a blade. Knife was partial open (or close). Knife has a lock so it's hard to open or close it. I cannot say with confidence if it was open.</p>
Interrogatory No. <u>23</u> :	<p>I believe so based on the picture of the window damage. Only a knife (only evidence provided) could do the damage shown.</p>
Interrogatory No. <u>32</u> :	<p>People heard things but not sure who's voice</p>
Interrogatory No. <u>57</u> :	<p>No based on definition of apprehend and arrest. Once he was shot his action of threatening anyone or harming anyone stopped. So in my definition he was apprehended. Both shots were unnecessary. The dog attacked the person Not justified.</p>