

KING COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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June 3, 2025

Detective Matthew Blackburn
Seattle Police Department

Re: The death investigation of Tammy Towers, SPD Incident # 24-279099

Dear Det. Blackburn,

You have asked me to review materials from your investigation into the death of Ms. Tammy Towers (Parry), whose scene and autopsy I responded to and observed. I was also present at SPD for the eye-witness statements of involved witnesses P [REDACTED] and G [REDACTED], which we have discussed in detail. Thank you for your thorough investigation and thoughtful analysis.

You told me that you do not plan to refer the case to my office for charging, based on a belief that the shooter in this case likely acted with lawful force, but have asked for a second opinion. I have reviewed the evidence in this case, and sought out the opinions of my supervisors, and I agree with your assessment – as do they – that the evidence does not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. G [REDACTED] used unlawful force. Rather, the evidence presents a strong indication that G [REDACTED] acted lawfully in defense of himself and Mr. P [REDACTED].

As you know, under Washington law, the use of deadly force is justified and lawful when used by a person who reasonably believes he is about to be injured, uses force to prevent that injury, and does not use more force than is necessary. WPIC 17.02; RCW 9A.16.020(3). If a person's belief in the possibility of harm is reasonable, that is enough, even if it later turns out there was no actual danger. WPIC 17.04. The person who reasonably believes he is being attacked with deadly force may stand his ground and defend against such an attack with his own deadly force. He has no duty to retreat. WPIC 17.05. Moreover, at trial, the State would have to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the force used by G [REDACTED] was *not* lawful. WPIC 17.02.

The evidence here indicates that P [REDACTED] and G [REDACTED] approached Towers' foreclosed-upon home in West Seattle on October 2, 2024 just after 1:00 pm, in broad daylight, to inform Towers that P [REDACTED] had purchased the home at auction, and that she needed to vacate the premises. They had previously attempted to make contact with Towers, and had left a card on her front door. According to both P [REDACTED] and G [REDACTED], who were separated just minutes after the shooting, and still gave consistent statements, Towers came to the door brandishing a shotgun. P [REDACTED] and G [REDACTED] immediately retreated, as P [REDACTED] yelled that he was simply there to serve Towers with papers. Towers opened the door and walked onto the porch, said "I see you!", and something to the effect of "I'm going to shoot you!" and 'racked' the shotgun. She pointed the shotgun first at P [REDACTED] – who was backing

away toward the street – and then at G^{NCD-RP}, who had retreated to the side of the porch and was standing just over 6 feet away. G^{NCD-RP}, who was carrying a handgun in a hip holster, with a valid CCP, drew his firearm and fired at Towers twice. Officers responded less than 3 minutes later, and found Towers on the porch with a loaded shotgun that had a round chambered.

In talking to Towers' family during your follow-up investigation, you learned that Towers was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) about 10 years prior to her death. Her father, a doctor, informed you that about 10% of MS patients develop brain lesions that cause delusions indistinguishable from those experienced by a person suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, and that he believed Towers was exhibiting the symptoms of this condition. In the last few years, Towers had grown increasingly paranoid and had cut off ties with her family. She had grown deeply distrustful of government, a fact that was borne out by your investigation into her troubling social media presence, her recent loss of her license to practice medicine, and a recent confrontation with local law enforcement in Montana. That confrontation stemmed from another property dispute; similar to her discontinuation of mortgage payments on her West Seattle home, she had ceased paying utilities on her Montana property, but did not believe the government had a right to cut off her utilities service.

For all of the above reasons, this case is indisputably tragic, but also insurmountably an apparent use of lawful force. On this evidence, our office would not file criminal charges against Mr. G^{NCD-RP} in this matter.

Very Respectfully,



Thomas O'Ban, WSBA# 50179
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Most Dangerous Offenders Project