



CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2018
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Tyler Hilinski Death Investigation - Update

PULLMAN – On January 18, 2018, Whitman County Coroner Peter J. Martin issued a media release regarding Tyler Hilinski, reporting that the cause of death was a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death was suicide.

Investigation by Pullman Police Department detectives revealed that Hilinski was last seen the morning of January 16, at about 8:45am, when he dropped a teammate off at Washington State University (WSU) for class. When Hilinski did not show up for a football team weightlifting session around 2:00 pm., coaches attempted unsuccessfully to reach him by phone. The Pullman Police Department received a request for a welfare check on Hilinski at his apartment at 4:00pm. Officers initially responded to an apartment complex on 'B' St. in Pullman, where he was believed to be living, but were redirected to the Aspen Village Apartments when his correct address was identified.

Just prior to the arrival of Pullman officers, two teammates looking for Hilinski forced their way into the apartment when they did not receive an answer at the door. They discovered the deceased just as Pullman officers arrived on scene. The weapon used was a .223 caliber rifle belonging to a former Washington State University (WSU) football teammate. It appears Hilinski took the rifle without the teammate's knowledge, on or before Friday, January 12. State law restricts the release of suicide note details to family members. The investigation did not reveal any particular motive for suicide. The investigation will remain open pending toxicology results from the State crime lab.

The Pullman Police Department is grateful to WSU officials, specifically WSU Football and WSU Athletics, for their cooperation and assistance during this investigation.

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Previously Reported: On Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at about 4:30 pm, Pullman officers responded to apartments located at 1620 NE Northwood Dr., Aspen Village Apartments, to check on the welfare of a Washington State University (WSU) football player who did not show up for practice earlier in the day. Officers arrived and found Tyler Hilinski, 21 years old, deceased in the apartment with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. A rifle was recovered next to Hilinski and a suicide note was found. Hilinski is listed as a redshirt sophomore quarterback on the WSU football team. Pullman Police detectives and the Whitman County Coroner's Office are conducting a thorough investigation to confirm the suspected cause and manner of death.

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