



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **No Criminal Charges in November Shooting**

**SPOKANE COUNTY, February 16, 2016** – The Spokane County Prosecutor’s Office has determined that Spokane Police (SPD) Officers Cory Lyons and Holt Widhalm were justified when they shot Tyler J. Randant on November 7, 2015. Randant was hit in the leg and upper torso and survived his injuries.

On November 7, 2015, several 9-1-1 callers reported a male was standing in the traffic lanes of Division, stopping traffic and attempting to get into passing cars, while yelling at the occupants and armed with a knife. Numerous officers responded to the scene. Among the first to arrive were Officers Cory Lyons and Holt Widhalm. Both Lyons and Widhalm were wearing standard SPD uniforms and driving fully marked patrol cars.

When the officers first observed Randant, he was in the southbound lanes of Division and holding a knife to his throat. The officers were aware that Randant had been accosting other vehicle occupants with a knife. The officers repeatedly ordered Randant to get on the ground and to drop the knife. Randant would not comply. Within a few seconds after the initial police contact, Randant turned and ran into the Zip Trip parking lot at Division and Cataldo. After initially running toward the front door of the business, which an employee had locked just prior to Randant’s arrival, he turned and attempted to get into the passenger side of a Chevy Blazer that was parked at the gas pumps. A 12-year-old child was sitting in that seat.

Officers Lyons and Widhalm converged on Randant from different directions while he was at the side of the Blazer and, again, ordered Randant to drop the knife.

**(more)**

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Again, he failed to comply. Out of concern for their own safety, the safety of the occupants of the Blazer, as well as that of the general public should Randant run off and confront someone else, the two officers fired a total of three (3) near simultaneous shots at Randant. Randant was hit and immediately went to the ground.

Under these circumstances, it was reasonable for Officers Lyons and Widhalm to believe that Randant was a threat to the safety of officers and the public. The law attaches no criminal liability when an officer acts without malice and with a good faith belief that his actions were justified. The evidence shows Officers Lyons and Widhalm acted with good faith and without malice, or evil intent. Therefore, criminal charges will not be pursued.

***About Spokane County***

*Spokane County government serves 485,000 citizens and 13 municipal jurisdictions, making it the fourth-largest county in the State of Washington. For more information, visit [www.spokanecounty.org](http://www.spokanecounty.org), like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).*

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