



## King County

Department of Executive Services

### Inquest Program

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## **[PROPOSED] ORDER GOVERNING CAMERA AND RECORDING DEVICES**

### **INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ISAIAH OBET**

**417IQ7199**

**PERSONS NOT A PARTY TO THIS INQUEST WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMMENT AT THE PRE-INQUEST CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 8, 2020. ANY SUCH PERSONS WHO WISH TO COMMENT IN WRITING SHOULD PROVIDE SUCH COMMENTS BY DECEMBER 20, 2019 VIA EMAIL TO [Inquests@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Inquests@kingcounty.gov).**

The following Order governs the use of cameras and recording devices during the inquest hearing currently scheduled for March 25, 2019 in the above captioned cause. The purpose of this Order is to provide the parties a fair hearing, to preserve the dignity of these proceedings, and to allow the media and the public reasonable access thereto.

1. The Inquest Manager will ensure that all proceedings are live streamed and made available to the public via a URL provided at the time of the hearing.
2. For purposes of this Order and any other Orders regarding media coverage entered in this Inquest proceeding: “Camera” includes all video recording devices, including but not limited to still cameras, television cameras, video cameras, smart phones and any device capable of live streaming; “recording device” includes any device capable of recording and/or live streaming audio input; and “courtroom” means any courtroom being used that day for the proceedings.
3. Only media representatives shall be permitted to operate a camera or recording device within the courtroom for the purpose of recording or transmitting video or audio of the Inquest proceedings. Such use will only be permitted on the conditions set out below in subparagraphs 2(a)-(q). Smart phones not intended for or used to record or transmit video or audio of the proceedings are permitted in the courtroom.

- a. No camera or recording device shall be permitted in the courtroom without the express prior permission of the Inquest Administrator;
- b. Permission shall only be granted to media representatives who have signed the Inquest Program Administrator's log verifying that they have received and read a copy of this Order and shall abide by the same.
- c. One television camera will be allowed in the courtroom on a first come-first served basis. The courtroom television camera will be a "pool" camera and shall share its video feed with other media requesting the same. The television camera shall be on a tripod in a fixed location approved by the Inquest Administrator. Any necessary cables shall run through the courtroom and the Courthouse hallways in a manner that does not interfere with the safe operation of the courtroom or the Courthouse.
- d. The operator of the television pool camera must arrive at least twenty (20) minutes before the start of the proceedings and shall identify him or herself to the Inquest Program Manager.
- e. One audio system for media broadcast purposes will be allowed in the courtroom on a first come, first served basis. The courtroom audio system will be a "pool" system and shall share its recordings with media requesting the same. The audio system shall be in a fixed location approved by the Inquest Administrator. Any necessary cables shall run through the courtroom and Courthouse hallways in a manner that does not interfere with the safe operation of the courtroom or the Courthouse.
- f. The audio system operator must arrive at least twenty (20) minutes before the start of the proceeding and shall identify him or herself to the Inquest Program Manager.
- g. "Pooling" arrangements for cameras and other equipment are the sole responsibility of the media. In the absence of media agreement on disputed equipment or personnel issues, the Inquest Administrator may exclude all contesting media from a proceeding in this matter.
- h. No person shall use a camera to photograph or video or in any other way record the image of any member or potential member of the Inquest Panel.
- i. Camera and recording device operators shall abide by the Inquest Administrator's direction to not photograph, video, live stream or record the voice of a witness or other participant in the proceeding. Otherwise, camera and recording device operators are allowed to photograph, video, live stream or record any participant in the proceeding who is not a member or potential member of the Inquest Panel.
- j. No camera shall focus on the papers, exhibits, or other documents at or on counsel table or in the possession or control of counsel in such a manner that the contents of these materials can be read or otherwise discerned by a viewer.
- k. Only exhibits that have been admitted into evidence and openly displayed to the Inquest Panel may be photographed, videoed or live streamed.

- l. Sidebar conferences shall not be recorded.
  - m. No kind of artificial lighting for recording purposes shall be used anywhere in the courtroom.
  - n. No television or audio equipment put in place by the media shall be moved while the proceedings are in session.
  - o. Any camera or recording device that is permitted in the courtroom shall only be operated while the proceedings are in session and on the record.
  - p. No interviews of any type, whether by media representatives or members of the public, shall take place inside the courtroom.
  - q. All media representatives who operate cameras or recording devices are subject to the continuing supervision of the Inquest Administrator.
4. Any violation of this Order or other interference with or disruption of the proceedings may be a basis for sanctions including termination of further operation of a camera or recording device and/or being barred from attending the proceedings.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

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Michael Spearman  
Inquest Administrator