



Charges filed after year-long investigation into fatal 2020 Halloween crash

By RAY MILLER-STILL
Editor

After a year-long investigation, charges have finally been filed against the man allegedly who crashed his car last Halloween, killing one and causing a power outage for thousands of Enumclaw residents.

According to court documents, Brendan Lee Palmer, 30, was driving his red Ford F150 pickup in Enumclaw just after midnight with his friends Derick Graves, Jordan Bowman, and Levi Paulson; they had spent the past few hours "going to three or four bars."

Witnesses told investigators they saw Palmer's car speeding at around "100 mph" before crashing near the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and state Route 410, near the U.S. Bank building.

Officers on scene described the car as "completely unrecognizable" and were only able to determine the model and make after a record check on the license plate.

"The grill and front bumper of the vehicle was pushed back into the engine block, the passenger side tires were bent outwards, the roof of the vehicle was crushed, a large telephone/power pole was laying across the top of the vehicle near the front passenger wheel, each door panel was damaged, and the tailgate was almost completely detached," reads a report from EPD Officer Amanda Reeves.

The truck crashed at exactly 12:26 a.m., which was when Puget Sound Energy recorded the power going out across the city; approximately 7,000 people were affected.

As officers approached the vehicle, they first noticed Graves had been ejected from the car and suffered "catastrophic injuries"; he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Sitting in the back seat, Bowman suffered "mild-moderate traumatic brain injury and fractures to his neck and shoulder," documents read, and Paulson a broken hand. Palmer himself was "bleeding from the head" but was able to verbally communicate with officers before being transported to Valley Medical Center for his injuries.

In talking with officers, Palmer admitted to "consuming several beers" before driving, documents continue. A search warrant to test his blood was approved three hours after the crash, and it showed Palmer

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A very Hornet Homecoming



Enumclaw school district students, athletes, and homecoming royalty paraded down Cole Street last Friday before the big game later that night and, of course, the Homecoming Dance. Pictured is Homecoming King and Queen Clive Pond and Sophia DeMarco.

PHOTOS BY RAY MILLER-STILL



King County council candidates face off during Enumclaw forum

By ALEX BRUELL
Reporter

AND RAY MILLER-STILL
Editor

Vaccine mandates, safe injection sites, homelessness — these topics and more were on the table during last week's debate between the candidates for the King County Council's ninth district.

Hosted by the Courier-Herald at the Enumclaw Expo Center's Fieldhouse on Oct. 6, the forum gave local residents a chance to scrutinize the positions of

Councilmember Reagan Dunn, the incumbent, and challenger Kim-Khanh Van, a Renton city councilmember, before casting their votes in the upcoming November general election.

Dunn, a former U.S. Department of Justice attorney, has been on the King County Council since 2005, and is endorsed by The Seattle Times and all the mayors that reside in District 9 (including the city of Renton).

Van was elected to the Renton City Council in 2019, and is endorsed by King County Executive Dow Constantine,

Congresswoman Kim Schrier, and the Washington Education Association. She's also an immigration lawyer and the co-founder of AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) Against Hate.

MASKS AND VACCINE MANDATES

While Van and Dunn have different positions on myriad issues, they are arguably the furthest apart when it comes to vaccine mandates.

Van supports the current mandate, which requires all King



PHOTO BY ALEX BRUELL

King County Council 9 incumbent Reagan Dunn.

County employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

"For me, I believe in science. We need to follow the science,"

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Your design could be chosen to be Enumclaw's new flag

By RAY MILLER-STILL
Editor

Enumclaw is looking to adopt a municipal flag — and your design could be chosen.

In anticipation of city hall's 100th birthday (and an upcoming celebration), Enumclaw is hosting a municipal flag design contest. All ages are encouraged to enter, as "we will use a graphic designer to clean up or maybe change the design a tad to create an official flag," said Cultural Programs and Events Coordinator Alina Hibbs.

For those that are new to vexillology (the study of flag history, symbolism, and flag use), here are some quick tips the city has provided to help you design your flag:

- Is it simple? A young student should be able to draw it from memory.
- What symbolism do you use? There should be meaning behind your design. Consider how your designs tie into the local community.



Flags for the cities of Wichita, Kansas; St. Louis, Missouri; Phoenix, Arizona; Chicago, Illinois; Corpus Christi, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Jackson, Florida; Louisville, Kentucky; and Washington, D.C.

- How distinct is your design? It should be unique compared to other municipal flags.
- How clear is your design? You should be able to see the details of your flag when you create your design within a 1-inch by 1.5-inch rectangle.

- How many colors do you use? Again, simplicity is key — stick to two or three colors.
- Text, coat of arms, or seals on flags are generally discouraged. All submitted designs should come with a written explanation of why your flag should be

chosen, and the meaning behind the various colors, symbols, and shapes that you use. There is no limit on how many designs you can submit.

Designs are due by Dec. 30, and should be submitted to ahibbs@ci.enumclaw.wa.us; a design is hoped to be chosen "just after the new year," Hibbs said.

For additional resources, visit the North American Vexillological Association at <https://nava.org/good-flag-bad-flag>.

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Enumclaw's city hall was completed on Nov. 1, 1921.

In recognition of that date, Mayor Jan Molinaro has organized a 100th year anniversary Nov. 1 - 5.

The celebration will allow residents to peruse the building and read up on a chronological history of city hall, from when it was being planned by city residents a century ago to the modernized building Enumclaw enjoys today.

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Forum

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she said. "I want our kids back in school. I want our businesses to open up... we don't want to go back to a lockdown. So for me, I believe in experts."

Dunn, who has supported much of the COVID public health mitigation efforts so far, said he did not support the county's current vaccine mandate.

"Let me say, at the top, that everybody who can should be vaccinated," Dunn said. "It's very, very important. ... (But) we are forcing every one of our 18,000 employees to inject a substance into their body, without a safe harbor provision, and I think that is too hardline."

Rather than force all county employees to get the shot, he continued, the county needs to follow other jurisdictions which have

offered weekly testing as an alternative to vaccination.

Dunn also added that there's a "growing body of science" that natural immunity is "superior" to an mRNA vaccine, but cautioned that local public health experts are still researching the differences.

Van countered by saying that before he was president, George Washington mandated the Continental Army be inoculated against smallpox.

Similarly, Van and Dunn found themselves on opposite sides when it came to King County's vaccine verification program, which will require everyone 12 and older to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to be able to go to restaurants and bars, attend indoor recreational events, or even outdoor events if more than 500 people are gathering together. These requirements go into effect Oct. 25. "For that 10 percent of the

population that no matter what will not get the vaccine, we can't say ... 'You can't do this, you can't do that, without a vaccine card,'" Dunn said, adding that a program like this needs to focus on the "least restrictive means necessary" to accomplish driving down COVID rates, like requiring masks.

On that note, both Dunn and Van said they both continue to support a mask mandate as long as COVID rates continue to be high.

POLICE (DE) FUNDING

The candidates traded jabs when the topic of police funding was addressed.

According to Dunn, the "defund the police" movement, and the decriminalization of some offenses in the county, have allowed crime to flourish in Seattle — and that those strategies shouldn't be utilized in District 9.

Instead, "We need

to provide a 30 percent increase in funding to the King County Sheriff's Office, and a 20 percent increase to the King County Prosecutor's Office, and start holding people accountable for the commission of crimes," he said.

Van also appeared to support additional funding for police, saying that on the Renton City Council, she voted to hire police officers who met the cultural needs of the communities they served and gave bonuses to lateral officers to maintain skilled policing in the community.

However, Dunn accused his opponent of supporting the "defund the police" movement, referring to a picture taken of Van at a Black Lives Matter rally and vigil at Renton City Hall in 2020.

"I don't believe that's your position," Dunn said of Van supporting additional funding for officers. "And I'm worried you're going to

say something up here and (do something different in office.)"

In an email after the forum, Van said the photo only showed a rally participant holding a "defund the police" sign; "I cannot be held accountable for attendees' and their signs," she added.

During the forum, Van said Dunn ignores the nature of crime outside the Seattle area.

And as someone who has experienced firsthand the impact of crimes against the asian community, Van said Dunn "didn't come to us, nor our leaders, to talk about (the) appropriate model for community safety."

SAFE INJECTION SITES

Both Dunn and Van made it clear neither of them support safe drug injection sites in their district.

"I absolutely oppose heroin injection sites in Enumclaw, the Plateau or District 9, and I will advocate ... to make sure that never happens," Dunn said. "In government, when you allow something, you tend to get more of it. For example, homelessness and drug

use in the Seattle area."

Repeating a common refrain on the topic, Dunn, who is a recovering alcoholic himself, said that "you do not cure alcoholism by inviting alcoholics to the bar."

In 2017, Dunn proposed legislation limiting the use of county funds for safe injection sites only in cities where elected leaders choose to establish them. That measure passed narrowly in a 5-4 vote.

While he's against the sites in general, Dunn said the compromise at least gave cities a say in the matter.

Van appeared to be less hard-lined than Dunn on the topic; before the forum, she told Seattle alt-weekly The Stranger that some places can support those sites while others can't. However, she also told the 31st legislative district Democrats that she wouldn't support the establishment of such a site in District 9.

Ultimately, it comes down to what a community wants, she said.

"It's up to our community. I've talked to neighbors — I've not heard neighbors wanting that here," Van said. "I'm going to be that voice."

Crash

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having a blood-alcohol content of .18, just over two times the legal limit.

The toxicology lab also reported he had signs of recently using cocaine.

Palmer was charged Sept. 27, 2021, with one count of reckless driving, two counts of vehicular assault, and one count vehicular homicide. He was arraigned last Monday, Oct. 11., and plead not guilty.

The Courier-Herald has reached out to Palmer's Attorney at Puget Law Group for comment.



PHOTO BY ALEX BRUELL

The view down Buckley's Main Street.

Grants

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of Commerce.

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's "Main Street Affiliate Capacity Building Grant Program," which supplied most of the grant money, is designed to help revitalize Main Streets like Buckley's.

Buckley is the first of four cities to be awarded by the grant. Organizations in Fernald, LaCrosse and Pullman also received chunks of change.

Washington State put in the majority - \$35,000 - of the funds for the project. Another \$10,000 in matching grants came from American Rescue Plan Act coffers divvied up to the city, and the Buckley Chamber of Commerce kicked in \$5,000.

The city has already been working with landlords and tenants on Main Street to pretty things up, such as by applying new coats of paint, taking care of broken windows and replacing siding, Weed said.

Essentially, this grant programs will look sort of like a new Chamber of Commerce that is hyper-focused on Main Street. The goal is to help out busy business owners and the City with organizing community events, keeping the area beautiful, and taking other measures to ensure the vitality of Main Street.

Efforts to revitalize historic, rural, small-town downtowns aren't unique to Buckley, the Plateau or even Washington.

"I think most people can recognize what was main street in a lot of cities, across the country, are vastly different than they were back in the day," Weed said.

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