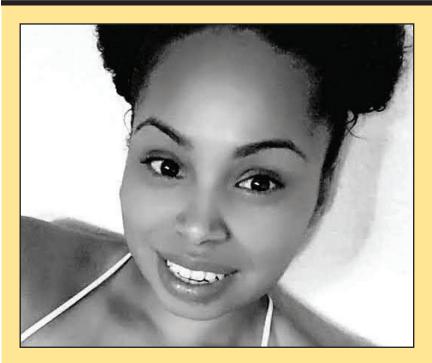


SPECIAL REPORT: The Renee Davis Inquest



Since the death of Renee Davis and her unborn son Massi Molina on October 21, 2016, the community has been in a difficult situation, since tradition requires that we refrain from discussing and showing photos of a loved one that has passed away until a year has gone by.

However, the circumstances surrounding Renee's death have continued to be the subject of intense interest. In recognition of this fact, Tribal Chairman Virginia Cross has asked that we publish the following account of the recently held King County Inquest.

We are grateful to The Stranger for granting us permission to reprint the article in our publication, and to its author, award-winning journalist Sydney Brownstone, for her steadfast coverage of this tragic event. The photo above was chosen by the family to accompany the article.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The article will be presented day by day, as it was originally published.]

King County Sheriff's deputies shot and killed Renee Davis, a 23-year-old pregnant woman living on the Muckleshoot Reservation, on the night of Friday, October 21, 2016. Davis had most recently worked as a teacher's aide at the Muckleshoot Head Start program, the *Seattle Times* reported.

According to the Sheriff's Office, the deputies were there to check on Davis's welfare. Davis's foster sister, Danielle Bargala, told the Seattle Times that Davis, who dealt with depression, had texted someone earlier in the night "to say she was in a bad way" and that person called law enforcement to check on her.

"Deputies said the children were running around in the house but no one answered the door," the Sheriff's Office said in a statement released later that night. "Two deputies entered the house to check the welfare of the woman and children. They found the woman inside the house armed with a handgun. Both deputies fired at the woman and she was struck at least once."

Bargala told the *Times* that she wasn't sure Davis owned a handgun, but that she had a hunting rifle. She also told the newspaper that the children running around the house were two of Davis's children, age 2 and 3.

#ReneeDavis immediately took off on Twitter, connected to #SayHerName and #NativeLivesMatter. According to the *Guardian's* "Counted" project on police-involved shootings, police killings of Native Americans have doubled in 2015 and 2016.

The Inquest

An inquest into the death of Renee Davis was convened on May 22, 2017 in Kent, Washington. King County Code requires that "any death involving a member of any law enforcement agency within King County while in the performance of his/her duties" shall have a formal inquest convened. The purpose of an inquest is to determine who died, what was the cause of death, and what were the circumstances surrounding the death, including the identification of anyone who may be criminally liable for the death. It is a fact-finding hearing and not a criminal proceeding.



A still from surveillance video shown to jurors during in inquest into the fatal police shooting of Muckleshoot tribal member Renee Davis. (King County Sheriff's

DAY ONE: Inquest Hearing Begins on Police-Involved Shooting of 23-Year-Old Pregnant Muckleshoot Woman

A six-person jury will spend a week in a Kent courtroom listening to testimony and deciding the facts of what happened when King County sheriff's deputies shot and killed Renee Davis during a welfare check at her single-story home on the Muckleshoot Reservation last October.

The shooting rattled tribal members, as well as the family of Davis, who was five months pregnant at the time of her death. She also had a history of depression.

King County Sheriff John Urquhart has maintained that the deputies followed their training when they entered Davis' home after receiving a tip from her boyfriend, TJ Molina, that Davis had threatened to shoot herself. But lawyers for Davis' family say that the deputies didn't do enough to protect her two children who were in the home at the time of the shooting, and didn't take enough time to de-escalate a crisis situation. After the inquest, the sheriff's office will hold a use of force review to evaluate if the deputies' use of force was justified.

"What this process will not tell us is what could we do differently in the future to avoid this kind of result," said Bree Black Horse, one of the attorneys for Davis's family. "When officers are doing a welfare check, the person

they're doing the welfare check on shouldn't end up dead."

Neither of these positions will likely be decided by the inquest jury, which will only determine the facts of what happened that night.

On Monday, jurors watched Muckleshoot Housing Authority surveillance footage, aired publicly for the first time, that captured what happened outside Davis's home when she was shot. Danielle Bargala – Davis' foster sister – and her cousin, Sherina Sam, another member of the Muckleshoot Tribe, also sat in the courtroom

The video shows two deputies, Nicholas Pritchett and Tim Lewis, entering the home before a toddler moves in and out of the home near the front door's entrance. (The Muckleshoot Tribe contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement, as it does not have a police force of its own.)

The toddler moves into the home before multiple gunshots blow a hole in Davis' bedroom wall. Following the shots, a third cop, Auburn police officer Garret Pedersen, can be seen arriving on the scene, grabbing two small children from the home, and taking them to his car. Sixty two-seconds elapse between the deputies entering the residence and the gunshots.

Pedersen, the Auburn officer who responded to the scene late and moved the children, testified that he heard the shooting as he was exiting his car. He also said he saw the children run outside, past the two deputies, from inside the house.

Deputies Pritchett and Lewis did not testify Monday, but will give their own version of events later in the week.

Tears rolled down Bargala's cheeks as she watched the surveillance footage. "[The video] kind of shows that it happened so fast that they didn't really take time to de-escalate it," Bargala told The Stranger after the inquest hearing finished for the day. "The video is kind of hard to watch because the kids were in the house."



Lawyers for the deputies, the Sheriff's Departement, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and Renee Davis' family approach Judge Susan Mahoney's bench. (Sydney Brownstone photo)

Timeline from Sheriff's Office

According to a timeline from the sheriff's office, Molina showed Deputy Pritchett a text from Davis in which she threatened to shoot herself. Pritchett, who had worked on the reservation for years and knew Davis, then communicated to his dispatcher that he had received a report of a "suicidal female possibly armed with a rifle and has her two kids with her."

Pritchett also told the dispatcher that Molina had showed him more texts from Davis with "pictures of fresh wounds," though it was unclear from the photos who was injured or where the wounds were. Deputy Lewis radioed in to say he would provide backup.

The Sheriff's Office said that when the deputies arrived at Davis's home, the two officers yelled Davis's name and knocked on the front door, but received no response. The deputies also saw Davis's two children—aged two and three—inside the single-floor home. The sheriff's office said both deputies were worried "that Davis has taken her own life and [were] concerned about the children."

The deputies then asked the children where Davis was, and they pointed to a room behind a closed door. The deputies knocked on that door repeatedly, but did not hear a response. Fearing that Davis had bled out from the reported wounds or otherwise killed herself, the Sheriff's Office said deputies moved the children to the porch, then entered Davis's room.

The deputies saw Davis lying on the bed under a blanket and asked her to show her hands. When she didn't show her hands, Pritchett pulled off the blanket, revealing Davis holding a handgun in one hand and a magazine in the other. The sheriff's office says that Davis pointed the handgun, which later turned out to be unloaded, at the deputies. That's when the deputies fired.

In an e-mail interview earlier this year, King County Sherriff John Urquhart told The Stranger that the deputies had followed the rules and moved two children away from the home, though it appeared from surveillance footage they may have run back inside.

Urquhart said that if the deputies had known that Davis was in the room, alive with a gun, and not bleeding out, the deputies' training would have been to call in a crisis negotiator. "But they did not know that," he added.

Both Dreveskracht and Bree Black Horse, attorneys representing the Davis family, told The Stranger that the deputies failed to move Davis's children out of harm's way according to crisis intervention protocol.

Black Horse says that no matter what happens during the inquest, some questions will remain unanswered: Why did this happen? Were the officers trained to deal with someone going through a mental health crisis? What kind of training did they have to effectively handle this situation?

DAY TWO: Boyfriend Gives Emotional Testimony Recounting Day of Renee Davis' Death

On the second day of the inquest into the police shooting of 23-year-old Renee Davis, a pregnant Muckleshoot woman, the father of Davis' unborn child recounted how he asked sheriff's deputies to check on his girlfriend after she expressed suicidal ideation, and then later, how he found out about her death.

Throughout his testimony, TJ Molina, 34, became emotional while detailing the events leading up to Davis' death, including an argument between the couple earlier in the day, and displayed visible anger toward the two deputies who shot at her. He also claimed another officer told him Davis killed herself, when in fact she died from police gunfire.

"I always hear people, (say) don't blame yourself," Molina told jurors as he broke down crying on the witness stand. "How can you not blame yourself when you're the one who got the g***** cops to go and shoot her in her bed? I wake up everyday... I don't sleep. It haunts me."

Molina told the jurors that earlier in the day, he came home to find Davis, a mother of three, getting ready to go to the King County Fair, where they had planned to buy a crib for their unborn child. Davis had straightened her hair and put on a dress. At five months pregnant, she looked beautiful, Molina told



TJ Molina, Davis' boyfriend, contacted one of the deputies that ended up firing at Davis, and was also the father of Davis' unborn son. (Sydney Brownstone photo)

rors.

Davis met Molina when both worked in the tribal fisheries. Davis loved working with her hands, working with salmon all day, Molina said. They started dating nearly seven months prior to her death, and enjoyed hunting and riding motorcycles together.

When Molina came home earlier on the same day of the shooting, he told jurors that he was exhausted from work and went to take a nap. Upon waking up, he said, he and Davis got into a fight over canceled plans to go to the fair.

Molina said he left, and later Davis asked him to return her motorcycle. When Molina returned the motorcycle to Davis' home, he also asked for his hunting rifle back – an item he referred to as old, with sentimental value. Molina told jurors he found the hunting rifle at Davis's home, smashed to pieces in the closet.

"I got angry again," he said. "And I looked at her and I said, 'You're messed up."

Molina said he left to go to his mother's home after that, and later started receiving text messages from Davis in which she threatened to shoot herself. He said Davis texted a photo of a bleeding cut – one he assumed she had inflicted on herself

"I didn't know where [the cut] was, but I freaked out," Molina said. He decided to go to the police station to ask for help.

Molina told jurors that he didn't see anyone inside the police station on the reservation when he arrived, but spotted a deputy, in a car near the pow wow grounds

"Renee lost it, and she's really scaring me, and she's sending these messages, and I'm scared for her and I'm scared for my child," Molina said he told the deputy.

Molina said he asked the deputy to make sure Davis was safe. But while Molina told jurors that he informed Pritchett that Davis owned a handgun and had a concealed carry permit, Pritchett later said he couldn't recall Molina telling him those details.

When asked by the state prosecutor if Molina knew the deputy's name, Molina also said he didn't. "I don't know any of the cops' names, and I don't care, and I don't want to know their names," he said.

Later, when Molina said he heard sirens and saw emergency vehicles drive past his window, he first thought it was an accident in Enumclaw. Then, when he saw the direction they were going, he feared for Davis.

"Every direction I look, there's cops," he remembered. "I think maybe something's wrong because my heart dropped, and I'm shaking. And I'm sitting there just crying."

Molina said he asked his mother to go check on Davis, and while she was gone, a coworker approached him and told him he was sorry for his loss. That was when Molina found out Davis was dead.

Davis' boyfriend told jurors he jumped in his truck and drove to the scene. "A cop grabs me, looks like he's going to tackle me, stiff-arms me and says, 'Who are you?'" Molina said. "I said, 'Who are you, this is my woman's house.' 'What's your relationship?' And I'm like, 'What the hell happened, man?'"

At that point, Molina said he asked if Davis had killed herself, and the cop he spoke to said she did. (Danielle Bargala, Davis' foster sister, and Sherina Sam, Bargala's cousin, told The Stranger they had also been told that Davis killed herself.) It wasn't until later that someone told her that she had been shot by the deputies who went to check on her.

"I didn't say go over to her house and shoot her in her bed," Molina said.



On Wednesday, Judge Susan Mahoney said that emotional responses from Davis friends and family in the galley could distract the jury. The next day, more than 30 tribal members showed up in matching Muckleshoot Tribe t-shirts and sat in on the proceedings. Renee's sister, Rose Davis, a former Skopabsh Princess pictured third from left in the front row, wore tribal regalia in her hair. (Sydney Brownstone photo)

DAY THREE: Deputies Say They Feared For Their Lives Before Fatally Shooting Renee Davis

There are lots of questions that jurors will have to answer at the end of the inquest into the police shooting of Renee Davis, a pregnant, 23-year-old Muckleshoot woman, killed during a welfare check last October. Perhaps most B2 June 16, 2017 MUCKLESHOOT MONTHLY



Lawyers for the Davis family discuss the results of the inquest with Danielle Bargala, Renee Davis' foster sister. (Sydney Brownstone photo)

important: Did the deputies who shot her believe their lives were in danger when they opened fire?

During three days of testimony in a Kent courtroom, both of the King County Sheriff's Office deputies who shot at Davis, Nicholas Pritchett and Timothy Lewis, said they did.

The deputies recounted the moments leading up to the fatal shooting, all of which took place in about twenty minutes: From a boyfriend reporting that Davis expressed suicidal ideation, to the deputies initiating a welfare check without backup, to Lewis deciding to send her two children on the front porch.

The most critical moment, however, came when the deputies, worried she might be a danger to herself, entered her bedroom after kicking off a child's lock on the door, and Pritchett ripped off a comforter that covered Davis on the bed. She was holding a gun underneath the comforter. (As previously noted, the original Sheriff's Office statement indicated that Davis held a handgun in one hand and an ammo magazine in the other.)

The deputies testified that she pointed the firearm at both officers before they opened fire. "I was looking down the barrel of a gun and it was a terrifying minute," Pritchett said.

Attorney Jenny Durkan, who is representing Muckleshoot tribe (and now running for mayor of Seattle), and attorneys for the Davis family raised questions about decisions made by Pritchett and Lewis in the events leading up to the shooting. Implicit in their questions was the suggestion that the officers could have done more to de-escalate the situation, protect the community, and move the children out of harm's way.

At the end of the hearing, jurors will be asked to answer questions from lawyers on both sides, County prosecutors will review the findings to help decide whether to file charges against the officers for Davis' death.

(What follows is a chronological telling, through Pritchett and Lewis' testimonies, of what happened that night. We're describing their statements in detail because jurors will be asked to rule on specific questions about the shooting based on these accounts):

Deputy Pritchett testified that he had met Renee Davis before the night he shot her. One of the lawyers representing her family told the judge that Pritchett had responded to her home several times when she was the victim of domestic violence complaints against her former partner (prior to Molina).

"She was always very kind and cooperative with me," Pritchett said. "I never had problems with her in the past."

Pritchett said he initiated the welfare check after Davis' boyfriend, TJ Molina, approached him while he was at his patrol car and showed him a text message that Davis had sent containing a photo of a skin incision with the message, "Well come get the girls or call 911 I'm about to shoot myself." The deputy said he didn't know if the injury shown in the photo belonged to Davis, her children, or someone else.

Pritchett said Molina also informed him Davis had a rifle. But he didn't recall Molina telling him that Davis also had a handgun and a concealed carry permit, directly conflicting with Molina's testimony on Tuesday.

During cross-examination, Durkan, who is representing the Muckleshoot Tribe, asked Pritchett to describe the distance between the tribe's mental health center and his patrol vehicle at the time. Pritchett answered that it was a few blocks.

When Pritchett pulled up to Davis' home, he parked and stood by an oak tree on the property, which he saw as potential cover in case of gunfire. He waited at the tree a couple of minutes to listen for signs of distress, then went back to his car and waited for backup from another King County Sheriff's Office deputy and the Auburn Police Department.

After Deputy Lewis responded to the scene, the two discussed using the oak tree as cover and approached Davis' house together. Lewis said he wondered out loud if the two should wait for additional backup from Auburn police to arrive, but after Pritchett explained the situation and asked him to hurry, Lewis agreed not to wait.

During cross-examination, Bree Black Horse, one of the attorneys for the family, asked if, by developing a plan for cover with the oak tree, the deputies anticipated gunfire. Lewis said he anticipated the potential for gunfire. Black Horse also asked if the deputies had developed plans for how to approach the house, what to do once inside the house, what to with the kids, and what to do if shots were fired. Lewis said they did not.

The two deputies said they banged on the door, as well as the house's siding and windows. They claimed to have yelled "sheriff's office" and "Renee, come to the door" multiple times, but heard nothing in response. Pritchett knocked on the siding of the house with a flashlight. While approaching the window of the home, Lewis unholstered his gun and kept it pointed at the ground by his side.

Black Horse asked Lewis if the deputies ever announced that they were at the residence for a welfare check? Lewis said he did not. Did they announce they were there to help her and the kids? No.

Pritchett said that his partner, Lewis, peeked through the blinds and saw Davis' two kids in the living room. He said he thought he heard one of the kids call "Mom," and that his partner, Lewis, thought he heard crying.

Not long after, Lewis communicated with one of the kids through the window blinds, and that same child opened the door for the deputies. The kids seemed scared, Pritchett said. When asked if the children feared the deputies, Pritchett said he didn't know. He also clarified that he didn't think they seemed scared because of their own mother.

Lewis said the kids didn't seem scared, just confused. Black Horse asked Lewis if it occurred to the deputies that the kids may have cried and called for their mother because of the banging and the yelling.

"Did you think about the effect two grown men yelling and pounding would have had on [Davis] in her state?" Black Horse asked.

"I did not know what state she was in," Lewis replied.

"You knew she was suicidal, correct?"

"Correct."

Once inside the house, Pritchett unholstered his gun and kept it in front of his waist, pointed at the ground. Both deputies said having guns unholstered when entering a home was common practice. The deputies said they announced their presence by yelling again.

"We tried to usher the kids to the front porch because we wanted to keep them to the area," Pritchett said, adding that Lewis was the one to personally move the kids.

"Renee, if you're here, let yourself be known," Pritchett recounts yelling. He asked the older of the two children where her mom was. The older child, 3, pointed to the hallway.

Pritchett said he called to Renee inside the house, but she did not respond. She also did not respond to her children's calls, Pritchett added. "I was concerned maybe she had carried out the threat to shoot herself, or had inflicted enough injuries depicted from the [injury] in the text that she was too injured to respond."

Lewis testified that when the deputies entered the home, he gathered the kids and told them in a soft voice to wait outside by a black chair at the home's front porch. The deputy said he escorted the children towards the doorway, and that's when Deputy Pritchett started checking the living room and the kitchen. Lewis said that's also when he turned to the hallway to maintain cover for Pritchett. Lewis said that he still remained feet away from the kids.

"I knew they were behind me, I knew I was between them and any potential threat," he said. "I had them in the back of my head and that felt very good."

During Durkan's cross-examination of Pritchett, she clarified that Pritchett did not take the children to the oak tree, where they could have ostensibly taken cover from gunfire, too.

Durkan later asked Lewis if he noticed anyone walking out of a nearby neighbor's house because of the noise. He said he didn't. The attorney also asked if the deputies' plan made any provision for protecting others from a potential gunfire threat, and Lewis answered "no." Later on Thursday, an investigator from the Sheriff's Office testified that one of the bullets hit a car near the house and landed in a passenger seat.

Davis' door had a plastic child lock on it, so Pritchett broke the lock by kicking it and entered the room. Lewis provided cover, and confirmed to Durkan that he lost sight of the children at that point, but assumed they were where he left them. (Earlier in the inquest, an officer who responded to the scene as shots were fired said the children were inside the house and ran out to him.) The room was dark, but light from the hallway spilled inside. Lewis testified that it was well lit, and he could see Davis in bed. Lewis turned on the flash-light mounted on his gun ("It's common practice for me to turn my light on when I'm firing, or when I think it's more likely to be used," he said) but said he kept it pointed at the ground.

On the surveillance footage from the night Davis died, jurors saw light from the hallway spill into the room through the blinds and then a brighter light shine from inside, too. Durkan pointed out that the flashlight mounted on Lewis' gun was a high-powered light that could be used to disorient subjects.

Durkan asked Lewis if, at any time, he or Pritchett said they were there to make sure everyone was okay, or ask Davis if she was okay. Lewis said they did not.

Pritchett said that once he and Lewis entered the room, he saw Davis lying on the bed with her head propped up and a comforter laid across her body, up to her chin. "She seemed completely disinterested with the fact I that was in her room," Pritchett said. "She was not amused. She didn't care. She looked right at me."



Renee Davis' boyfriend, TJ Molina (left), her foster sister Danielle Bargala (second from right), and Bargala's cousin Sherina Sam (far right) digging into Indian tacos provided by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe outside the courthouse after the inquest concluded. (Sydney Brownstone photo)

Pritchett said he ordered Davis to show him her hands, but she seemed disinterested, looked at the wall, and said, "no." He asked again and said she replied the same way.

"We have to confirm what's underneath this blanket," Pritchett said, describing his thought process in the moment. "For all we know, she could have a bunch of injuries and was bleeding out."

Lewis later testified that Pritchett did not show him the photo of the cut Davis texted her boyfriend—a cut that startled the boyfriend enough to contact the police, but that a medical examiner later characterized as a "scrape."

Pritchett said he also worried that Davis might have had weapons underneath the blanket. He shucked off the blanket, revealing that Davis held a handgun in one hand and a loaded magazine in the other.

He said Lewis yelled, "Gun!" and both started retreating towards the wall. "And I'm like, 'Renee, drop the gun!" Pritchett said, adding that he noticed a curved knife on Davis' bed, too. What happened next flashed in seconds.

While the deputies retreated, Pritchett said Davis scooted herself up on the bed, picked the gun up off her thigh, and moved it to point from Lewis to Pritchett, the deputies said.

"I could see down her barrel," Pritchett said. Lewis testified that he feared for his life and thought that Davis was going to shoot Pritchett.

"I was afraid for [Lewis]," Pritchett said. "I was afraid for me. I was looking down the barrel of a gun and it was a terrifying minute."

He said he feared for his life and fired. Later, he found out that he fired

three times. Lewis testified that he later found out he shot five times.

Davis was shot three times: Once through the heart, once from a gunshot that entered the back of her shoulder, and once from a gunshot that entered the

back of her thigh.

Isakson, the attorney representing the deputies, asked Lewis if he had to wait for deadly force to be used against him in order to use deadly force. Lewis answered he did not; waiting could be deadly, and one should always assume a gun is loaded. As soon as the firing stopped, Deputy Lewis said that he went to make sure the kids were safe and asked the police officer from Auburn to take them.

On Tuesday, the attorney representing the deputies, Derrick Isakson, asked if the situation had been stressful.

"I was upset that I found myself in the situation," Pritchett said. "It's a serious stressful strain on yourself, but it hit my wife far harder than it hit me," he continued. "It's eating her up."

When asked if it's easy for a deputy to take the life of another, Pritchett answered: "I doubt it. We're all people, I guess," and shrugged.

Jurors will likely answer the questions they've received from lawyers and the judge this afternoon or tomorrow.

FINDINGS: Inquest Jury Finds that Officers Feared for Lives, Didn't Show Concern for Welfare, Before Fatally Shooting Renee Davis

A six-person jury deliberated for an hour and a half before determining that the officers who fatally shot Renee Davis, a 23-year-old, pregnant Muckleshoot mother of three, believed she posed an imminent threat of death or bodily injury to them before firing their guns at her during a welfare check.

At the same time, half the jurors believed that the deputies were not concerned for Davis' welfare upon seeing her in her bedroom before shooting her. Two jurors disagreed with that assessment, and one answered "unknown."

Jurors answered unanimously on most of the 33 questions they were asked to answer, which were proposed by lawyers on both sides and approved by the judge.

Danielle Bargala, Davis' foster sister, said she had hoped for more "no's" or "unknowns" on the question of whether the officers feared for their lives. "Now they get to keep their jobs, basically, no questions asked," Bargala said.

Attorneys for the Davis family said that the jury's ruling on the question of concern for welfare means that the deputies weren't justified in going into her bedroom.

"I don't think there's a doubt [the deputies] were scared, but that's the problem," Ryan Dreveskracht, one of the two attorneys representing the Davis family, said.

"They don't know how to cool it down, take a step back, call the people who need to be called, get this woman the help that she needs," Dreveskracht said. "Instead, they treat it like a drug raid."

Unlike criminal and civil cases, the outcome of an inquest does not constitute a legal judgement. Rather of ruling on charges, this inquest provides "public inquiry into the causes and circumstances of the death of Renee Davis."

A use of force review at the King County Sheriff's Office dealing with the facts of the inquest will follow this week's proceedings, and the King County Prosecutor's Office will ultimately decide if there's a basis for filing charges.

Testimony and evidence presented during the inquest could also be used to inform the path forward for a civil case, if Davis' family decides to pursue one.

"I think there were several points in time when [the deputies] had the choice to make different decisions," Jenny Durkan, attorney for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, told The Stranger. "The second thing is, I think it really points out once again the need to have all officers have training, experience in, and resources, including mental health professionals available, to help people in times of crisis."

Durkan said that the next steps for the tribe will be to consult with the family, but also to work with the Department of Justice and King County Sheriff's Office to provide better training for officers who work on the reservation.

Derrick Isakson, the attorney representing the deputies, declined to comment on the proceedings.

During the five-day inquest hearing, Jurors heard testimony from Davis' boyfriend, the two deputies who shot at Davis, the detective who interviewed them, and the medical examiner.

During the week, dozens of supporters, including Davis' surviving family, her boyfriend, and tribal members filtered in and out of the courtroom, listening to witnesses describe in detail how Davis died.

Questions in the interrogatory did not asks jurors to consider whether the deputies had been adequately trained to deal with a mental health crisis, or whether they followed their training. Generally speaking, inquests are for fact-finding only, not determining blame or fault.

"I think one other thing is we need to make some changes and reform the inquest process," Durkan said. "I think there needs to be some public forum where, separate from questions of fault or blame, we talk about a better approach to be made, or better training is needed. The public has a right to be thinking about and inquiring about and learning from tragedies so we don't repeat them."

The inquest yielded mixed feelings for Davis' family.

"[The deputies] showed no remorse," Gabriele Davis, Renee's sister, said. "They took my sister's life, and they're treating it as if it never happened."

But one finding did give Gabriele hope: the jurors' ruling on whether the deputies were concerned with Davis' welfare.

"It's good to see that at least some people can see that," she said. "They were reckless."



Renee Davis' sisters and her daughters sit in the grass outside the courtroom. (Emiley Montes photo)