

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Office of the Governor

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Robert Ferguson  
Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

RE: Investigation of the shooting death of Mr. Zambrano-Montes

Dear Attorney General Ferguson:

Our offices previously received a number of requests for the state of Washington to intervene in the local investigation of the February 10, 2015, shooting death of Mr. Zambrano-Montes in Pasco, Washington. While we monitored the investigation closely however, I deferred to local officials to allow them the opportunity to complete their work rather than have the state automatically intervene. My belief is that county prosecutors have the legal duty to fully investigate and prosecute established criminal offenses committed in their jurisdictions.

As we've previously discussed, however, my intent was for the state to conduct a review of the investigation and charging decision in this case, no matter the decision made by the local prosecutor. Every case is unique, but given the loss of life and the time that has passed since Mr. Zambrano-Montes' death, additional review is appropriate. I want to ensure that people have confidence and trust in the decision that is made in this case. It is critical that, in the wake of this tragic incident, the communities and leaders of the city of Pasco and Franklin County come together and continue their healing.

The prosecutor informed our office this morning that he will make his decision public this afternoon. Therefore, as we have discussed and pursuant to RCW 43.10.232, I am directing the Office of the Attorney General to conduct a review of the charging decision made by the Franklin County Prosecutor. I believe Mr. Zambano-Montes' family, the community, and local law enforcement authorities will all benefit from this effort.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee  
Governor

