



SCHROETER
GOLDMARK
BENDER

ESTABLISHED 1969

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 22, 2020

CONTACT:

Schroeter Goldmark & Bender

206.622.8000

Media@sgb-law.com

CITY OF KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT SUED FOR THE DEATH OF GIOVONN JOSEPH-McDADE

Schroeter Goldmark & Bender sues the Kent Police Department in federal court, alleging Kent police officers wrongfully killed Giovonn Joseph-McDade on June 24, 2017.

Seattle, WA May 22, 2020 - Attorneys Craig Sims, Kaitlin Wright, and Pat Bosmans filed a civil rights lawsuit against the Kent Police Department. The lawsuit, filed in Federal District Court (Western District of Washington) on behalf of the Estate of Giovonn Joseph-McDade and his parents, Sonia Joseph and Giovanni McDade, alleges Kent Police Department officers violated Mr. Joseph-McDade's constitutional rights when they shot and killed him after a pursuit that began with Mr. Joseph-McDade driving his car with an expired vehicle registration. Mr. Joseph-McDade was not armed.

On June 24, 2017, Officer Matthew Rausch saw Mr. Joseph-McDade's 1994 Honda Accord car parked near the gas pumps in the ARCO AM/PM gas station parking lot located at 10402 SE 256th St., Kent WA. For the next several minutes, Officer Rausch sat in his patrol car and watched Mr. Joseph-McDade and passengers inside the Honda Accord. Officer Rausch later reported that he found it suspicious that, while he was watching them, the driver and passengers seemed nervous and one of them "had a scared look on his face."

Officer Rausch stopped Mr. Joseph-McDade for driving with an expired registration—a non-moving traffic violation. Mr. Joseph-McDade initially got out of the car to speak with Officer Rausch and was ordered to get back inside his car. Mr. Joseph-McDade complied, and got back into his car. Mr. Joseph-McDade began to drive away, and officers engaged in a police

chase of Mr. Joseph-McDade. Officer William Davis joined the chase, only knowing the car had an expired registration. Within one minute and twenty-two seconds of first interacting with Mr. Joseph-McDade, Officer Rausch attempted to ram his police vehicle into Mr. Joseph-McDade's car. During the next minute, Officer Rausch rammed his police vehicle into Mr. Joseph-McDade's car two more times. At a period of two minutes and eighteen seconds after initiating contact with him, the officers boxed in Mr. Joseph-McDade's vehicle in a residential cul-de-sac, stood near the front passenger side of Mr. Joseph-McDade's car, and shot him twice as he attempted to drive away. Mr. Joseph-McDade was unarmed.

Schroeter Goldmark & Bender attorney, Craig Sims said, "The filing of this lawsuit is not an indictment of the entire policing community. This lawsuit has been filed to hold Kent Officers William Davis and Matthew Rausch accountable for taking Giovonn Joseph-McDade's life, and the Department's leadership for approving their behavior. Giovonn should not have been killed by the police that night, and his death was tragic and unwarranted." Kaitlin Wright, another Schroeter Goldmark & Bender lawyer added, "This case is about seeking justice for a 20-year-old's needless death at the hands of law enforcement, and the importance of ensuring accountability so that history will not be repeated."

About Schroeter Goldmark & Bender:

Founded in 1969, Schroeter Goldmark & Bender has a rich tradition of holding the most powerful companies, government agencies, and people accountable for their wrongdoing. SGB has over 260 trial victories and has played a critical role in developing Washington law in a variety of practice areas. Our attorneys are recognized among the best and brightest, and we have the skill and resources to take on - and win - the toughest cases.

We believe the law is a force for good. We believe the courtroom levels the playing field for all. We are committed to achieving justice for people who have been harmed, and will not stop until the job is done. Above all else, we believe in excellence and integrity in serving our clients.

This lawsuit was filed by Schroeter Goldmark & Bender attorneys **Craig Sims** and **Kaitlin Wright**. Attorney **Patricia Bosmans** has associated with Schroeter Goldmark & Bender on this case.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

SONIA JOSEPH, individually and as
Special Administrator of the ESTATE OF
GIOVONN JOSEPH-McDADE, and
GIOVANNI McDADE, individually,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF KENT, a Washington
municipality;
CITY OF KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT;
WILLIAM DAVIS;
MATTHEW RAUSCH; and
JOHN DOES 1-10,

Defendants.

No.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS
UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983 AND
WASHINGTON LAW

JURY TRIAL REQUESTED

COMES NOW the above-named Plaintiffs, by and through their attorneys of record,
and, by way of claim, allege, upon information and belief, as follows:

I. PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Sonia Joseph is the mother and Special Administrator of the Estate of
Giovonn Joseph-McDade, by appointment in King County Cause No. 20-4-00763-1 SEA.
She brings this lawsuit on behalf of the Estate and statutory beneficiaries of Giovonn Joseph-
McDade, including herself individually.

2. Plaintiff Giovanni McDade is the father of Giovonn Joseph-McDade.

1 3. Decedent Giovonn Joseph-McDade was twenty years-old when Defendant
2 Kent Police Officer William Davis shot and killed him.

3 4. Defendant William Davis was, at all times material to this Complaint, a police
4 officer employed by the City of Kent. Defendant Davis was working under color of state law
5 and within the course and scope of his employment and agency at all relevant times
6 described herein.
7

8 5. Defendant Matthew Rausch was, at all times material to this Complaint, a
9 police officer employed by the City of Kent. Defendant Rausch was working under color of
10 state law and within the course and scope of his employment and agency at all relevant times
11 described herein.

12 6. Defendants John Doe(s) 1 through 4 were employed by the City of Kent
13 Police Department and supervised Defendants Davis and Rausch during all relevant times
14 described herein. Defendants John Doe(s) 1 through 4 worked under color of state law and
15 within the course and scope of their employment and agency at all relevant times described
16 herein. These persons are not currently known to Plaintiffs. Upon discovery of their
17 identities, Plaintiffs reserve the right to add them as Defendants in this cause of action.
18

19 7. Defendant City of Kent is a municipality within the State of Washington and
20 employed the police officers involved in the incident culminating in the death of Mr. Joseph-
21 McDade described herein. The civil rights violations enumerated herein were proximately
22 caused by the Defendants, City of Kent and the Kent Police Department, as authorized by
23 their customs, policies, practices, usages, and the decisions of their policymakers.
24

25 8. Defendant City of Kent's agents, including Defendant supervisors John
26 Doe(s) 1 through 4, were responsible for supervising the actions of the Kent police officers

1 described herein. The civil rights violations enumerated herein were proximately caused by
2 the Defendants City of Kent and the Kent Police Department's customs, policies, and
3 practices of using and authorizing the unreasonable use of deadly force without legal cause.

4 9. Defendants John Doe(s) 5 through 10 are entities and persons involved with
5 the City of Kent who were involved in the unconstitutional reckless, wanton, unreasonable
6 and intentional acts described herein. These entities and persons are currently unknown to
7 Plaintiffs. Upon discovery of their identities, Plaintiffs reserve the right to add them as
8 Defendants in this cause of action.
9

10 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11 10. Jurisdiction is vested in this Court by virtue of the Plaintiffs' allegation that
12 Defendants Davis and Rausch used excessive force against Mr. Joseph-McDade in King
13 County, State of Washington, violating 28 U.S.C. § 1983 (civil action for deprivation of civil
14 rights) giving rise to jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and 28 U.S.C. §
15 1342(a) (original jurisdiction for civil rights violation).
16

17 11. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for the violation of Mr.
18 Joseph-McDade's rights contained in the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United
19 States Constitution.
20

21 12. The Court has original jurisdiction over the Plaintiffs' claims for the
22 violations of the United States Constitution and the decedent Mr. Joseph-McDade's civil
23 rights, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, and 1376.

24 13. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28
25 U.S.C. § 1367.
26

1 14. Venue is appropriate in the Western District of Washington pursuant to 28
2 U.S.C. § 1391 because:

3 a. At least some of the individual Defendants are believed to reside in this
4 judicial district;

5 b. The City of Kent is located within the judicial district;

6 c. The Plaintiffs reside/ed in the judicial district; and

7 d. The events and omissions giving rise to the claims alleged here occurred
8 within the judicial district.
9

10 **III. STATUTORY COMPLIANCE**

11 15. On or about February 14, 2020, Plaintiffs sent an administrative claim form
12 via first-class mail to Defendant City of Kent. The claim form was received by the City of
13 Kent on or about February 20, 2020. Over sixty (60) days have gone by without resolution of
14 the claims.
15

16 16. All prerequisites to the maintenance of this action imposed by RCW 4.96 have
17 accordingly been satisfied.

18 **IV. JURY DEMAND**

19 17. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38, Plaintiffs hereby request a jury trial.
20

21 **V. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

22 18. City of Kent Police Department officers targeted twenty-year-old Giovonn
23 Joseph-McDade because he looked suspicious while parked in his car in a gas station parking
24 lot on June 24, 2017. After initiating a traffic stop for an expired vehicle registration—a non-
25 moving traffic violation—the officers engaged in a police chase of Mr. Joseph-McDade. Less
26 than three minutes after initiating contact with him, the officers boxed in Mr. Joseph-

1 McDade’s vehicle in a residential cul-de-sac, stood near the front passenger side of Mr.
2 McDade’s car, and shot him as he attempted to drive away. Mr. Joseph-McDade was
3 unarmed. The officers’ conduct in initiating the pursuit, conducting the chase, and repeatedly
4 using lethal force, violated City of Kent Police Department policy and ultimately violated
5 Mr. Joseph-McDade’s civil rights to be free from unreasonable seizure and deprivation of his
6 life without due process of law.
7

8 19. In the early morning hours of June 24, 2017, Defendant Matthew Rausch was
9 working patrol duty for the City of Kent Police Department. While on duty, Defendant
10 Rausch was wearing his Kent Police Department-issued uniform and was driving a fully
11 marked police department patrol vehicle.
12

13 20. In the early morning hours of June 24, 2017, Defendant William Davis was
14 working patrol duty for the City of Kent Police Department. While on duty, Defendant
15 Davis was wearing his Kent Police Department-issued uniform and was driving a fully
16 marked police department patrol vehicle. On this same shift, Kent Police Department civilian
17 employee, AnnaMaria Decker, was riding as a passenger in Defendant Davis’s vehicle.
18

19 21. At **12:05 a.m.** on June 24, 2017, Defendant Rausch saw a 1994 Honda
20 Accord parked near the gas pumps in the ARCO AM/PM gas station parking lot located at
21 10402 SE 256th St., Kent WA. For the next several minutes, Defendant Rausch watched the
22 driver and passenger inside the Honda Accord. Defendant Rausch later reported that he
23 found it suspicious that, while he was watching them, the driver and passenger seemed
24 nervous and one of them “had a scared look on his face.” Defendant Rausch also
25 subsequently noted that he believed the driver’s behavior was “odd,” and that the driver
26 “appeared as if he was trying to avoid being stopped or confronted by me.”

1 22. While Defendant Rausch thought the driver and occupant’s looks were
2 suspicious, no facts existed that would provide legal authority to stop them and inquire
3 further.

4 23. At **12:16:31 a.m.**, Defendant Rausch attempted a traffic stop on the Honda
5 Accord for the reported reason of an expired and cancelled vehicle registration. The traffic
6 stop occurred in the parking lot of the Applebee’s restaurant located at 25442 104th Ave. SE,
7 Kent, WA.

8 24. After stopping the Honda Accord, Defendant Rausch requested fellow Kent
9 Police Department officers assist him with the traffic stop for an expired and cancelled
10 registration.

11 25. Defendant Rausch’s request for assistance was identified as a “Kent Police
12 Priority 2.” Kent Police Department policy establishes that a “Priority 2” call “represents a
13 minimal hazard” with considerably less potential for life and/or property loss than a
14 confirmed or potential emergency call. Department policy further defines a “Priority 2” call
15 as representing “minimal risk to officers.”

16 26. After being stopped, the driver of the Honda Accord got out of the car and
17 attempted to speak with Defendant Rausch. Defendant Rausch immediately got out of his
18 patrol vehicle and ordered the driver to get back inside of his car.

19 27. At **12:16:38 a.m.**, Defendant Davis confirmed he was driving to the
20 Applebee’s parking lot to provide assistance. At the time Defendant Davis and civilian
21 employee Decker were en route to the Applebee’s parking lot, the only information known to
22 them was that Defendant Rausch had stopped the Honda Accord for a traffic violation.
23 Defendant Davis received no information that there was any suspicion of criminal activity,
24
25
26

1 nor did he have any information to suggest any occupant of the Honda Accord was in
2 possession of a weapon.

3 28. At **12:17:03 a.m.**, Defendant Rausch reported on the Computer Aided
4 Dispatch (CAD) that the driver of the Honda Accord had driven away and he was engaged in
5 a “pursuit” on Washington State Route 515 (104th Ave. SE, Kent, WA).

6 29. Officer Rausch’s decision to engage in a vehicle pursuit violated Kent Police
7 Department Policy #15.50 in that he failed to balance his desire to apprehend Mr. Joseph-
8 McDade against the greater concern for the safety of the public. Officer Rausch failed to
9 consider, as required by Kent Police Department Policy #15.50, enumerated factors that
10 dictated a pursuit should not be initiated under the circumstances. Specifically, Officer
11 Rausch failed to consider: the “nature and seriousness of the initial offense”—a non-moving
12 traffic violation; the fact that it was unknown why the suspect fled; and the absence of any
13 objective need for immediate apprehension of the driver of the Honda Accord.

14 30. Defendants Rausch and Davis narrated the events attending their pursuit over
15 the CAD at the time, or immediately after, the events occurred.

16 31. Defendant Rausch confirmed there was no other traffic on the road during the
17 pursuit.

18 32. The speeds of the pursuit ranged between twenty and sixty miles-per-hour on
19 the main thoroughfares. The speeds decreased to less than twenty miles-per-hour when
20 driving in the residential neighborhood areas.

21 33. There were zero uninvolved vehicles or pedestrians identified as being present
22 on the road during the police pursuit.

1 34. There were zero uninvolved vehicles or pedestrians identified as being
2 endangered during the police pursuit.

3 35. There was no Kent Police Department-commissioned supervisor actively
4 monitoring and providing directives to Defendant Rausch or Davis, in violation of Kent
5 Police Department Policy #15.50.

6 36. At **12:17:53 a.m.**, Defendant Rausch first attempted to use lethal force when
7 he tried to ram his police vehicle into the Honda Accord via a Pursuit Intervention Technique
8 (PIT).
9

10 37. At **12:18:15 a.m.**, the Honda Accord drove westbound on 244th St and 100th
11 Ave. When the Honda Accord reached a roundabout in the road, Defendant Davis
12 strategically positioned his police vehicle in a way that forced the Honda Accord to enter the
13 cul-de-sac at the 9900 block of SE 244th.

14 38. In order to avoid collision, the driver of the Honda Accord entered the cul-de-
15 sac at the 9900 block of SE 244th at a speed of approximately ten miles-per-hour.
16

17 39. Shortly before **12:18:27 a.m.**, Defendant Rausch again used lethal force via
18 another PIT maneuver. This second use of lethal force caused the Honda Accord to spin, but
19 the car remained operable.

20 40. Defendants Rausch and Davis attempted to prevent the Honda Accord's exit
21 from the end of the cul-de-sac by strategically positioning their police vehicles to box in the
22 Honda Accord.

23 41. Defendants Rausch and Davis violated Kent Police Department Policy
24 #15.130 when they failed to receive approval of a commissioned supervisor prior to using the
25 vehicle boxing forcible stopping technique.
26

1 42. After the Honda Accord entered the cul-de-sac, there was no further direct
2 communication between Defendants Rausch and Davis, nor did they use their mobile data
3 terminals or radio traffic to communicate with each other. Officer Rausch did not
4 communicate to Officer Davis any basis for a reasonable suspicion that the occupants of the
5 Honda Accord were implicated in anything graver than a traffic violation.
6

7 43. By persisting in chasing the Honda Accord when the danger of continuing the
8 pursuit outweighed the immediate necessity of arresting the suspect for a non-moving traffic
9 violation, Officers Rausch and Davis violated Kent Police Department Policy #15.50
10 regarding mandatory pursuit termination.

11 44. In the cul-de-sac, Defendant Davis got out of his police vehicle and
12 approached the Honda Accord with his gun drawn, and used it to strike and shatter the
13 driver's side window of the Honda Accord.
14

15 45. While Defendant Davis had his gun drawn, he was able to see both a driver
16 and passenger in the car. Defendant Davis was able to visually confirm that no person inside
17 the Honda Accord possessed any weapons. Defendant Davis was also able to see that the
18 driver had his hands up and crossed in front of his face.

19 46. A few moments later, the Honda Accord driver placed the car in reverse,
20 then forward, in an attempt to drive the car through the space between the two police
21 vehicles.
22

23 47. At **12:18:27 a.m.**, Defendant Rausch delivered a third lethal force maneuver
24 against the Honda Accord by driving his police SUV directly into the driver's side door. This
25 use of lethal force severely damaged Defendant Rausch's patrol vehicle's front bumper and
26

1 push bar. The lethal force used caused the push bar to bend up at an angle from right to left
2 and also caused a portion of the push-bumper on the right side to detach.

3 48. Officer Rausch's performance of three PIT maneuvers violated Kent Police
4 Department Policy #15.130 regarding forcible stopping in that his use of the PIT maneuvers
5 was not objectively reasonable under the circumstances. Pursuant to Department Policy
6 #15.130, Officer Rausch was to consider the "risk of bodily injury presented to the fleeing
7 suspect by use of the forcible stopping technique in light of the threat to the officer or the
8 public presented by the fleeing suspect's actions." The continued movement of Mr. Joseph-
9 McDade's vehicle, following a traffic stop for a non-moving traffic violation, presented no
10 objective risk of serious physical injury or death to the officers or public, given the low
11 speeds at which the Honda Accord was traveling and the absence of vehicle or pedestrian
12 traffic in the vicinity.
13

14 49. At the same time Defendant Rausch crashed into the Honda Accord,
15 Defendant Davis was preparing to fire his gun at the driver. Within seconds of Defendant
16 Rausch crashing into the Honda Accord, Defendant Davis fired two bullets through the
17 windshield of the Honda Accord.
18

19 50. Defendant Davis fired two shots from outside the front passenger side of the
20 Honda Accord, through the windshield, with no concern for the life or safety of the
21 passenger. The bullets entered at an angle, traveling through the car to hit the driver once in
22 the side of his chest, grazing his arm, and once in the heart and lung.
23

24 51. Moments before **12:18:48 a.m.**, just over two minutes after Defendant Davis
25 agreed to provide assistance for an expired and cancelled vehicle registration, he fatally shot
26 and killed the driver of the Honda Accord, Giovonn Joseph-McDade.

1 52. After Mr. Joseph-McDade was shot, his car moved past the Defendants’
2 police vehicles and into a nearby park where it came to rest.

3 53. Pursuant to Kent Police Department Policy #15.130, Officer Rausch’s PIT
4 maneuvers were required to meet deadly force requirements when contact was made with
5 occupied center areas of the suspect vehicle, or striking occurred at speeds higher than
6 twenty miles-per-hour. The evidence demonstrates that Officer Rausch’s PIT maneuvers met
7 the policy threshold for requiring satisfaction of deadly force requirements.
8

9 54. Both in executing PIT maneuvers considered deadly force under Kent Police
10 Department Policy #15.130 and in firing shots at the occupants of the Honda Accord,
11 Officers Rausch and Davis violated Kent Police Department Policy regarding the use of
12 deadly force.

13 55. Pursuant to Kent Police Department Policy #3.80, the officers were not
14 authorized to use deadly force because there was no need to act in self-defense of a fleeing
15 vehicle; there was no objectively reasonable basis to believe the officers or any other
16 individual was in immediate danger of death or great bodily harm; there were no facts known
17 to either officer supporting probable cause to believe the suspect had committed a crime
18 involving the infliction or threatened infliction of great bodily harm; the suspect’s escape
19 posed no imminent threat to others; and there were other reasonably safe means to prevent
20 the suspect’s escape, such as immobilizing the vehicle through non-lethal stopping
21 techniques, including roadblocks/blockades and spike strips.
22

23 56. Officers Rausch and Davis violated Kent Police Department Policy #3.10 in
24 deploying deadly force that was objectively unreasonable under the circumstances, as deadly
25
26

1 force was not reasonably necessary to effect a lawful arrest, defend the officers or others
2 from violence, or to restore order or otherwise accomplish police duties according to law.

3 57. Defendant Officer Rausch ignored City of Kent Police Department Policy
4 regarding use of deadly force through his continued escalation of the situation without an
5 objectively reasonable basis.

6 58. At approximately **7:30 a.m.**, Associate King County Medical Examiner, Dr.
7 Timothy L. Williams, pronounced Mr. Joseph-McDade dead at the location where he was
8 shot.

9 59. On June 26, 2017, Dr. Williams performed an investigative autopsy of Mr.
10 Joseph-McDade.

11 60. Dr. Williams found that Mr. Joseph-McDade was shot during a confrontation
12 with law enforcement. Dr. Williams also found the cause of death was multiple gunshot
13 wounds to the central chest and right lateral chest. Dr. Williams confirmed the manner of
14 Mr. Joseph-McDade's death was homicide.

15 61. After the shooting, Defendant Davis provided a statement to investigators at
16 the scene of the shooting.

17 62. On June 29, 2017, Defendant Davis submitted a compelled statement after
18 being advised of his *Garrity* rights.

19 63. On June 29, 2017, Defendant Rausch submitted a compelled statement after
20 being advised of his *Garrity* rights.

21 64. Upon information and belief, none of the Defendants were subject to any
22 discipline as a result of their role in causing Mr. Joseph-McDade's unjustified and
23 unnecessary death.
24
25
26

1 65. At no time during the Defendant Officers’ pursuit of the Honda Accord did a
2 City of Kent Police Department representative engage in active supervision of either the
3 pursuit, boxing, or lethal force tactics.

4 66. Contrary to City of Kent Police Department policy, Defendants Rausch and
5 Davis did not receive supervisor approval to engage in the pursuit of the Honda Accord.
6

7 67. Contrary to City of Kent Police Department policy, Defendant Rausch did not
8 receive supervisor approval to attempt the use of lethal force via the PIT maneuver during the
9 pursuit.

10 68. Contrary to City of Kent Police Department policy, Defendant Davis did not
11 call for a supervisor upon seeing Defendant Rausch’s use of lethal force via the PIT
12 maneuver.
13

14 69. Throughout the pursuit, the officers had numerous opportunities to deescalate
15 the encounter, and act responsibly and consistently with clearly-articulated, reasonable police
16 procedures.

17 70. A reasonable police officer would not have conducted the three PIT
18 maneuvers against Mr. Joseph-McDade’s car as Defendant Rausch did.

19 71. A reasonable police officer would not have initiated or maintained a chase
20 (“vehicle pursuit”) when: there was a civilian rider in one of the responding officer’s patrol
21 vehicles; the initial offense was merely a traffic violation; there were no facts known to the
22 responding officers informing a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity; the responding
23 officers did not know why the suspect was driving away from the parking lot where the
24 traffic stop was initiated; there was no need for immediate apprehension; and there was no
25
26

1 danger to either of the responding officers or public if the suspect was not apprehended
2 immediately.

3 72. A reasonable police officer would not have shattered Mr. Joseph-McDade's
4 window, causing him to fear for his life.

5 73. A reasonable police officer would not have fired a gun into a moving vehicle
6 with a passenger and placing the passenger in extreme danger.
7

8 74. A reasonable police officer would not have attempted to stop a vehicle that
9 was only a few feet away from him by shooting the driver, without issuing any verbal
10 warning, nor to fire into a moving vehicle while that same vehicle was being rammed by
11 another officer.

12 75. At the time Mr. Joseph-McDade was shot, he did not possess a firearm or
13 other weapon, and no firearm was found in his vehicle.

14 76. At the time Defendant Davis shot Mr. Joseph-McDade, reasonable
15 alternatives to lethal force were available. Defendant Davis made no attempt to deescalate
16 the contact with Mr. Joseph-McDade, but rather rapidly escalated the encounter through his
17 actions, including the use of deadly force.

18 77. All three attempts of lethal force by Defendant Rausch were contrary to the
19 City of Kent Police Department Policy #15.130 Forcible Stopping Policy that was in effect
20 on June 24, 2017.
21

22 78. When conducting its official review of the shooting, Defendant City of Kent
23 found the officers' uses of deadly force justified, including Defendant Davis shooting
24 through the passenger side windshield at Mr. Joseph-McDade. In doing so, the City of Kent
25
26

1 ratified the shooting and affirmed that Mr. Joseph-McDade's death was in accordance with
2 the policies, practices, and customs of the City of Kent.

3 79. The City of Kent Police Department failed to adequately train, supervise, and
4 discipline its officers and also ratified Defendants Davis and Rausch's conduct. As a result,
5 the City of Kent is liable for the unlawful death of Mr. Joseph-McDade.
6

7 80. The City of Kent was deliberately indifferent to the fact that its inadequate,
8 incomplete, and reckless policies, procedures, and customs would be the animating force
9 behind its officers using unnecessary and unreasonable force.

10 81. The City of Kent's ratification of the shooting continues, as the City of Kent
11 maintains the shooting was justified. The City of Kent's review of the incident failed to
12 address the series of Department policy violations that escalated the events and culminated in
13 the use of lethal force.
14

15 82. Refusal to scrutinize the statements of the Defendant Officers and contrast
16 their statements to the physical evidence demonstrates the City of Kent's continued
17 deliberate indifference and/or negligence as it concerns the training, supervision, and
18 discipline of the City of Kent's officers who use excessive force, or foreseeably create
19 situations likely to lead to great bodily harm, injury, or even death.
20

21 83. During the course of the chase, the events preceding the shooting, and during
22 the shooting, Mr. Joseph-McDade experienced significant pain, suffering, and fear for the
23 imminent loss of his life.

24 84. As a result of the shooting and loss of her son, Sonia Joseph lost her parental
25 relationship with Giovonn Joseph-McDade. She has suffered, and continues to suffer, serious
26 emotional distress and harm as a result of the Defendants' conduct.

1 85. As a result of the shooting and loss of his son, Giovanni McDade lost his
2 parental relationship with Giovoonn Joseph-McDade. He has suffered, and continues to suffer,
3 serious emotional distress and harm as a result of the Defendants' conduct.

4 **VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
5 **(Federal Civil Rights Violation Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983)**

6 86. Each of the paragraphs of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

7 87. By virtue of the facts set forth above, the Defendants are liable for
8 compensatory and punitive damages for subjecting, or causing to be subjected, Mr. Joseph-
9 McDade, a citizen of the United States, to a deprivation of the rights guaranteed by the
10 Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, to be free
11 from unreasonable seizures of his person, and to be free from deprivation of his life.
12 Defendants deprived Mr. Joseph-McDade of these particular rights by engaging in an
13 unreasonable, dangerous and violent vehicle pursuit and performing a seizure of Mr. Joseph-
14 McDade in an unreasonable, dangerous, and violent manner, and by shooting Mr. Joseph-
15 McDade without legal cause or justification. Defendants Davis and Rausch took actions that
16 no reasonable police officer would undertake, in violation of clearly established law, with
17 willfulness and reckless indifference to the rights of others. Defendants are liable pursuant to
18 law for depriving Giovoonn Joseph-McDade of his life, liberty, and property, and for punitive
19 damages, compensatory damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

20 88. By virtue of the facts set forth above, Defendants are liable for compensatory
21 and punitive damages, for subjecting, or causing to be subjected, Giovoonn Joseph-McDade, a
22 citizen of the United States, to a deprivation of the right guaranteed by the Fourteenth
23
24
25
26

1 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, to be free from
2 the deprivation of his life, liberty, and property without due process of law.

3 89. The conduct described in this Complaint was undertaken pursuant to the
4 policies, practices, and customs of the City of Kent, such that the City of Kent is liable
5 because:

6
7 a. The City of Kent, through its approval of the Defendant Officers' actions, has
8 ratified their conduct by indicating that the Defendant Officers acted pursuant to the policies,
9 customs, and practices of the Department;

10 b. As a matter of both policy and practice, the City of Kent encourages, and is
11 thereby the animating force behind, the specific misconduct at issue here by failing to
12 adequately train, supervise, control and discipline its officers, such that its failure to do so
13 manifests deliberate indifference;

14
15 c. The City of Kent's failure to supervise, control and discipline, as a matter of
16 both policy and practice, facilitated the very type of misconduct at issue here by failing to
17 adequately investigate, punish, and discipline prior instances of similar misconduct, thereby
18 leading its officers to believe their actions will never be meaningfully scrutinized and,
19 thereby, directly encouraging future uses of excessive force such as those Plaintiffs complain
20 of; and

21
22 d. The City of Kent maintains written policies, but they were patently deficient
23 and/or ignored by the Defendants with regard to the events described herein.

24 90. As a proximate result of the City of Kent's policies and practices, and the
25 unjustified and unreasonable conduct of the Defendant Officers, Plaintiffs suffered injuries,
26 including pain, suffering, emotional distress, death, and a host of other harms.

1 **VII. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
2 **(Failure to Intervene)**

3 91. Each of the paragraphs of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

4 92. In the manner described above, by their conduct and under color of law,
5 during the constitutional violations described herein, one or more of the Defendants had the
6 opportunity to intervene to prevent the violation of Mr. Joseph-McDade’s constitutional
7 rights, but failed to do so.

8 93. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants’ failure to intervene to
9 prevent the violation of Mr. Joseph-McDade’s constitutional rights, Mr. Joseph-McDade
10 suffered injuries, including, but not limited to, physical harm, emotional distress, and death.
11 The Defendants had a reasonable opportunity to prevent this harm, but failed to do so.

12 94. The misconduct described in this Complaint was objectively unreasonable and
13 was undertaken intentionally, with malice and willful indifference to Mr. Joseph-McDade’s
14 clearly established constitutional rights.

15 95. Defendants are liable for depriving Mr. Joseph-McDade of his life, liberty and
16 property and for punitive damage, compensatory damages, and reasonable attorneys’ fees
17 and costs.
18

19 **VIII. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
20 **(State Law Claim)**
21 *Negligence*

22 96. Each of the paragraphs of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

23 97. The City of Kent, through its officers, owes a duty of care to residents of the
24 City of Kent, including Mr. Joseph-McDade, to not cause unnecessary foreseeable harm in
25 the course of law enforcement interactions, including the use of excessive force.
26

1 98. The Defendant Officers, acting as agents of the City of Kent, breached that
2 duty of care by engaging in a course of conduct that unreasonably escalated the encounter to
3 the use of deadly force.

4 99. The City of Kent breached its duty of care to prevent foreseeable harm to Mr.
5 Joseph-McDade.

6 100. This breach proximately caused Mr. Joseph-McDade's severe injuries and
7 death.

8 101. The City of Kent is liable to the Estate of Mr. Joseph-McDade for the
9 negligent actions of its officers, which proximately caused him injury and death.

10 102. The City of Kent is liable to Plaintiff Sonia Joseph for the negligent actions of
11 its officers, which proximately caused injury to her child and destroyed her parent-child
12 relationship.

13 103. The City of Kent is liable to Plaintiff Giovanni McDade for the negligent
14 actions of its officers, which proximately caused injury to his child and destroyed his parent-
15 child relationship.

16 104. During the course of the chase and shooting, Mr. Joseph-McDade experienced
17 unthinkable pain, suffering, and fear for the imminent loss of his life.

18 105. By virtue of the facts set forth above, Kent Police Officer Defendant Rausch,
19 Kent Police Officer Defendant Davis, and the City of Kent are liable to Mr. Joseph-McDade
20 and his survivors for compensatory damages for negligently causing the death of Mr. Joseph-
21 McDade.
22
23
24
25
26

1 **IX. FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
2 **(State Law Claim)**
3 ***Outrage***

4 106. Each of the paragraphs of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

5 107. By virtue of the facts set forth above, Kent Police Officer Defendant Davis,
6 Kent Police Officer Defendant Rausch, and the City of Kent are liable to Mr. Joseph-
7 McDade for compensatory damages for the tort of outrage because of the extreme and
8 outrageous nature of their actions, which recklessly inflicted severe injuries and death.

9 **X. FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
10 **(State Law Claim)**
11 ***Wrongful Death***

12 108. Each of the paragraphs of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

13 109. All Defendants are liable for damages arising from the Defendant Officers'
14 unlawful conduct that caused Mr. Joseph-McDade's death in that his injuries and death were
15 caused by the Defendant Officers' wrongful acts, neglect, carelessness, unskillfulness, or
16 default while the Defendant Officers were acting as agents of the City of Kent.

17 110. The Defendant Officers' actions as described in this Complaint were a
18 substantial factor in bringing about Mr. Joseph McDade's death, and without those actions,
19 his death would not have occurred.

20 111. Ms. Sonia Joseph has suffered loss of companionship and mental anguish as a
21 result of the wrongful death of her son.

22 112. Mr. Giovanni McDade has suffered loss of companionship and mental
23 anguish as a result of the wrongful death of his son.
24
25
26

1 **XI. SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
2 **(State Law Claim)**
3 ***Survival***

4 113. Each of the paragraphs of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

5 114. Sonia Joseph is the legal representative authorized to pursue these claims
6 against the Defendants.

7 115. Prior to his death, Mr. Joseph-McDade suffered serious personal injuries,
8 including but not limited to, severe pain and emotional distress.

9 116. Defendants are liable for these damages arising from the Defendant Officers'
10 unlawful conduct that caused Mr. Joseph-McDade's severe pain and emotional distress in
11 that Mr. Joseph-McDade's injuries were caused by the Defendant Officers' wrongful acts,
12 neglect, carelessness, unskillfulness, or default while acting as agents of the City of Kent.

13 117. The Defendant Officers' actions as described in this Complaint, including the
14 failure to deescalate the actions at the scene, were a proximate cause in bringing about the
15 injuries described herein, and without those actions, the injuries would not have occurred.

16 **XII. SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
17 **(State Law Claim)**
18 ***Indemnification***

19 118. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated herein.

20 119. In committing the acts alleged in the preceding paragraphs, the Defendant
21 Officers acted at all relevant times within the scope of their employment for the City of Kent.
22

23 120. As a result, pursuant to state law, the City must indemnify the Defendant
24 Officers for any judgment against them.
25
26

XIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request relief as follows:

121. General damages and special damages;

122. Punitive damages from the individual Defendants on Plaintiffs' claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983;

123. Costs, including reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs, under 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and to the extent otherwise permitted by law;

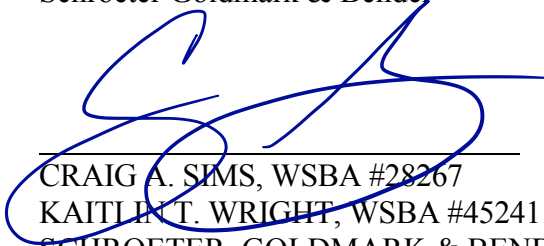
124. Any and all applicable interest on the judgment;

125. Should a judgment be entered against the City of Kent, Plaintiffs request injunctive relief so that the policies, practices, and customs of the Department that led to the tragic death of Giovonn Joseph-McDade can be reformed to prevent further damage to the community in the future; and

126. Such other relief as may be just and equitable.

DATED this 22nd day of May, 2020

Schroeter Goldmark & Bender



CRAIG A. SIMS, WSBA #28267
KAITLIN T. WRIGHT, WSBA #45241
SCHROETER, GOLDMARK & BENDER
810 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone (206) 622-8000
Fax (206) 682-2305
Email: csims@sgb-law.com
wright@sgb-law.com

Counsel for Plaintiffs