



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/14/24

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2008 rape suspect, believed to be dead Since 2009, found deceased in California

Bremerton, WA – In 2008 Christian Robert Basham was arrested and charged with second-degree child rape. He was released after posting \$350,000 bail. On March 29, 2009 a witness reported seeing Basham jump from mid-span on the new Narrows bridge. His car and a suicide note were later found. Several agencies engaged in a search for his body using a WSP airplane, Tacoma, Gig Harbor, and Tacoma Fire Department boats, but Basham's body was never found.

Basham reportedly died in California on February 26th, 2024. He was living under the assumed identity, Mark Clemens. The LA county Coroner discovered his true identity and advised Bremerton Police of this on March 13th, 2024.

Though the criminal case against Basham will be closed Bremerton detectives will be doing follow-up regarding Basham's movement and actions since his supposed death in 2009.

Future media releases will be prepared and dispersed by the General Investigations Unit.

Media release by:
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