

TULSA POLICE CHIEF FEARED SLAIN

The city's masked cops have mobilized in response to a possible attack by white supremacists.

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Tulsa's top cop is missing and feared dead following a possible new attack on the city's beleaguered policeforce, multiple sources tell the *Washington Post-Intelligencer*.

Patrol officers closed the roads yesterday around the home of police chief Judd Crawford and his wife, Jane, as unconfirmed rumors swirled through Tulsa that Mr. Crawford had been murdered by the white supremacist organization known as the Seventh Cavalry. A protective custody unit was seen arriving at his residence, which is standard protocol for Tulsa police during investigations into officer-involved violence.

In a potentially related incident, an armed SWAT unit set up a perimeter around a local Nixonville enclave as part of larger police action in the community. The presence of assault weapons indicates that Mr. Crawford had authorized an Article

Four firearms release, although it's unclear when that would have occurred in light of his uncertain condition.

A spokesperson for the Tulsa Police Department declined comment on the weapons authorization and the status or whereabouts of Mr. Crawford, citing the security and confidentiality privileges given to city law enforcement under the Defense of Police Act. The spokesperson also refused to characterize the police action undertaken in Nixonville, which remained under lockdown at press time.

Senator Joseph Keene Jr. (R-OK), who sponsored the DOPA legislation and is a longtime friend to the Crawford family, was unavailable for comment. Sources close to Mr. Keene told *WPI* yesterday that his office was in the process of cancelling and rescheduling events for the week, including an interview with

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WPI about his nascent presidential campaign. He is believed to be traveling to Tulsa.

Mr. Crawford oversaw the Tulsa Police Department's transition to masking in 2017 following the passage of DOPA, an emergency amendment to a 1977 law authored by Mr. Keene's father, J. David Keene (retired), that made vigilantism illegal and regulated the use of masks in law enforcement. Mr. Crawford was one of three survivors of a deadly attack on Christmas Eve of 2016 by masked members of the Seventh Cavalry. In

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the aftermath of the so-called "White Night," Mr. Crawford, a lieutenant at the time, was named interim-chief and led a series of successful police actions against the Seventh Cavalry that seemed to cripple the organization. He was appointed full-time chief in 2018. A popular figure in Tulsa, Mr. Crawford did not conceal his face, per DOPA caveats requiring transparency from police department leadership, but he wore his striking white Stetson as if it were a mask, sparking a fashion trend in the city.

Mr. Crawford was born on December 1, 1949, in Tulsa. A former

Marine, he served under Captain Robert S. Mueller in the Liberation of Vietnam and received multiple commendations for bravery during the purge sweeps of 1971 to 1973. In 1977, Mr. Crawford graduated from the University of Oklahoma at Norman on the G.I. Bill with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. After a brief stint on the pro-rodeo circuit, he joined the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department in 1980, where he met Mr. Keene while working on the elder Keene's security detail. He moved back to Tulsa in 2004 and joined the police department as a senior detective.

Mr. Crawford was a fourth generation law enforcement professional. His great-grandfather, Dixon T. Crawford, was a renowned "cowboy marshal" of Oklahoma's pre-statehood years. His grandfather, Dale Dixon Crawford, had a storied 55-year career in the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department. His father, Matthew Wayne Crawford, was an Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer who died in the line of duty in 1994. His father's twin brother, Lionel Thomas Crawford, worked at police departments in multiple cities in the South and on the East coast.

Mr. Crawford married his wife, Jane Lestley Crawford (nee Alexander), a political consultant, in 1976. They had no children.