

The Smith-Arlt family would like to make the following statement in regards to their beloved son Sean Smith Arlt.

Sean was loved by his family and many friends and will be greatly missed by those of us who knew him, including his 4-year old son who he loved more than anyone. He was loving, caring, kind, and greatly inspired by social justice issues.

Sean was born in Santa Cruz and attended Santa Cruz City public schools. After high school, he spent a year in Seattle as an Americorp volunteer working with inner city children.

He graduated with honors in Psychology and Philosophy from Sonoma State University. Sean had a range of interests and talents, including: poetry, painting, writing, music, screenwriting, somatics, Jungian theory, surfing, and lacrosse. He was a certified Qigong instructor and a math tutor.

He struggled with mental health issues as millions of people do. Sean's death on October 16th dramatically highlights the failures in our community for providing services for and respond to the challenges of clients and families struggling with mental health concerns in a caring and professional manner. We understand there are many challenges for law enforcement officers who respond to 911 calls. It is clear more training and resources are needed for responding to a mental health crisis situation.

On October 16th the police were well aware that Sean was struggling with mental health issues.

The information that has been released so far is not telling the whole story. We are hopeful that with a more independent investigation, the entire truth will come out and justice will be done.

The family requests that members of the press respect their privacy. We do not intend to do any interviews at this time. We are grateful for the support that the community has given us.

