



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD

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**PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT REGARDING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE ON MAIN STREET IN
THE PUTNEY SECTION OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT ON FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

Sharmese L. Walcott, State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford, submits this preliminary status report regarding the investigation of the use of deadly force by members of the Stratford Police Department on Main Street in the Putney section of Stratford, Connecticut at approximately 7:35 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2021.

On that date, this State's Attorney was assigned by Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo, Jr., to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the use of force by the Stratford Police Department that resulted in the death of Christopher Hagans (D.O.B. 06/22/1984) a Black male, age 36, of Okenuck Trail in Stratford. On February 6, 2021 the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner certified the cause of death as gunshot wounds to the head, torso, left upper and lower extremities. These gunshot wounds were the result of an alleged armed encounter with police officers on the above date at the above place. The undersigned State's Attorney, along with Inspectors from the Hartford State's Attorney's Office (HSAO), responded to the scene to assess the situation and direct investigative resources. The Eastern District Major Crime Unit of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection was assigned to conduct the investigation, and received preliminary immediate assistance from the Western District Major Crime Unit. The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether the use of force was justified under Connecticut General Statutes section 53a-22.

The preliminary briefing on scene detailed that officers with the Stratford Police Department were responding to a request by the Naugatuck Police Department for assistance serving an arrest warrant for Christopher Hagans for charges that included Home Invasion and Strangulation. Information was provided that Hagans was believed to be armed and dangerous and possibly in possession of a firearm. As police officers were conducting a surveillance check of Hagans' residence, they saw him leave in a vehicle consistent with a vehicle he was known to operate. Police, in an unmarked vehicle, followed behind Hagans until his vehicle stopped for a traffic light at Main Street Putney. Officers reported attempting a motor vehicle stop at the traffic light to avoid a potential pursuit by having a marked police vehicle move in front of Hagans' vehicle while the

unmarked vehicle stayed behind. Both police vehicles activated red and blue flashing lights while police officers gave verbal commands for Hagans to show his hands. Hagans was reported to be non-compliant with police commands. While giving the directions, an officer verbally reported what appeared to be a firearm and alerted the other officers. At this time, the vehicle being operated by Hagans moves forward and collides with the marked police vehicle and officers discharged multiple rounds. Hagans' vehicle then became stuck in the snow between road signs that were damaged when Hagans' vehicle collided with them. At this time, it is reported that Hagans exits the vehicle and draws fire from officers on scene. A firearm was located on the ground next to Hagans and was secured by Officer John Cannata at the scene. Investigators are working to match ballistics evidence recovered from the scene to the firearms reportedly discharged during the incident.

Six officers were present during the incident including, Lieutenant Robert Rosenbaum, Detective Glynn McGlynn, Officer Stephen Santoro, Officer Lawrence Overby, Officer John Facto, and Officer John Cannata. According to preliminary reports, Officers Cannata and Facto did not discharge their weapons.

All available body worn camera and motor vehicle dashboard camera footage has been obtained from the Stratford Police Department. Authorization has been given for the portion of the footage that covers the incident to be released.

On Monday afternoon, this State's Attorney met with Mr. Hagans' wife and siblings, along with a nephew and cousin, to express condolences and to explain and answer any questions about the investigative process. Family members were provided with an overview of the investigation to date.

The Hartford State's Attorney's Office is committed to working closely with investigators to complete an independent, objective and thorough investigation in a timely and transparent manner. Further updates will be provided in a manner that does not compromise the ongoing Division of Criminal Justice investigation.

/s/ Sharmese L. Walcott
Hartford State's Attorney