



State of Connecticut

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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April 24, 2024

Preliminary Status Report Regarding the Use of Deadly Force by the Colchester Police Department on April 18, 2024 Resulting in the Death of Jared Michael Billard

In accordance with General Statutes §51-277a(a)(5), Inspector General Robert J. Devlin, Jr., submits this preliminary status report regarding the use of deadly force by the Colchester Police Department on April 18, 2024. The Office of Inspector General is investigating an officer-involved shooting that resulted in the death of Jared Michael Billard, a Caucasian male, age 33.

On April 18, 2024, at approximately 6:17 p.m., Colchester Police Officers Kiruluss Wassef, John Zavalick, and Bryan Kowalsky were dispatched to 759 Norwich Avenue, Colchester on a report of a possible disturbance. Upon arrival, they spoke to a second-floor tenant who reported that their landlord, Jared Billard, had been acting erratically since earlier that afternoon. At one point, he lit a grill which was on the common deck area of the residence, leaving it unattended. At approximately 5:20 p.m., Billard again came out of his basement apartment, began grilling, and became confrontational with the second-floor tenant, at one point, reportedly pushing the tenant and displaying throwing knives.

Colchester Police Officers were summoned to the scene. The second-floor tenant directed the officers to the basement where Billard resided in a basement apartment. Officers slowly entered the basement and commenced verbal exchange with Billard, who was behind a closed door. While the officers were speaking to Billard, they heard him rack the slide of a pump action shotgun. Billard then said, "Here we go; this is you; this ain't me" and emerged from the basement apartment door pointing the shotgun toward Officer Wassef who was standing at the bottom of the basement stairs. At this point, Officer Wassef fired one round, striking Billard in the upper chest area. Officers immediately began to administer medical aid to Billard who was later transported to Backus Hospital in Norwich where he was subsequently pronounced dead.

To view the relevant portion of Officer Wassef's body-worn camera, click [here](#).

To view the relevant portion of Officer Zavalick's body worn camera, click [here](#).

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the cause of Jared Michael Billard's death to be: "GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE TRUNK WITH INJURY OF LUNG." A copy of

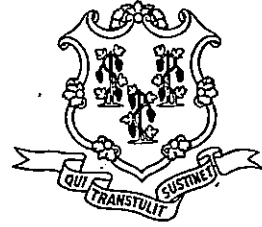
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the Medical Examiner's Notification to Police is attached. As of the date of this report, neither the death certificate nor the toxicological report is available.

The Office of Inspector General, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad, and the New London Judicial District State's Attorney's Office are conducting the investigation.

State of Connecticut
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
11 Shuttle Road, Farmington, CT 06032
Telephone: (860) 679-3980



04/22/2024

Troop K, CT State Police
15-A Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT 06415

RE: NOTIFICATION TO POLICE

OCME CASE # 24-08101

PD CASE # CFS2400153232

This is to inform you that the cause of death of the following person is as stated below.

Name of the Deceased Jared Michael Billard	Found Dead On: 04/18/2024	Autopsy Performed: Yes, 04/19/2024
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The cause of death has been certified as:
GUNSHOT WOUND OF TRUNK WITH INJURY OF LUNG

The manner of death has been certified as: **Homicide**

Sincerely,

James R. Gill, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1- Complete as required.
- 2- Make one copy for case file.
- 3- Original to Police Department.



24-08101NOPO