Case Number: CFS12-00396977 Date: 08-09-12

Time Started: 1147 HRS
Time Ended: 1155 HRS

Telephone:

860-824-2510

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Clayton Brown

Clayton Brown
of 1111 Country Club Road . town/city of Middletown, CT

make the following statement without fear, threat, or promise. I have been advised that any statement(s) made herein which I do not believe to be true, and which statement is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance of his/her official function, is a crime under C.G.S. section 53a-157.

On July 12, 2012 at approximately 0900 hours I was traveling in the left lane of two (2) lanes in the area of Exit #43 on Route 8 Northbound in the City of Torrington, CT. I was operating my department issued police cruiser, which was a Grey 2005 Ford Crown Victoria bearing CT Registration 840-UTZ. My police cruiser was marked with a metal blue and yellow colored "State Trooper" placard, which was affixed to the left side of the rear trunk area. The police cruiser is equipped with red and blue emergency lights, mounted within the front grill area and within the base of the rear window area of the vehicle. The police vehicle is also equipped with an audible siren system. I was fully dressed in my issued Connecticut State Police uniform, I was operating my assigned police cruiser in my official capacity as a sworn member of the Connecticut State Police and I was acting within the scope of my authority and under color of law.

Route 8 Northbound between the Exit #43 off and entrance ramps is a two (2) lane limited access highway (LAH) clearly denoted with a wide right shoulder area at the right side, which is aligned with a wire rope guardrail. The center median is marked with a yellow fog line and is aligned with a metal flex-beam guardrail to the left side of the (LAH) highway. The area of the Exit #43 entrance ramp to Route 8 Northbound is also a two (2) lane area of (LAH) which is bifurcated from the right side with the single lane entrance ramp. This area of bifurcated highway is denoted by a marked gore area consisting of white line markings. There is a right shoulder area at the right side of the Exit #43 entrance ramp, which continues subsequent to the acceleration lane merge with Route 8 Northbound at the right side. There is a thick tree line to the right of Route 8 Northbound, adjacent to the entrance ramp area. The Route 8 Exit #43 entrance ramp is clearly posted by a State Traffic Commission (STC) sign prohibiting pedestrian traffic. Route 8 Northbound in the City of Torrington is within the patrol operations of Troop B – North Canaan Barracks. Proximate areas south of Torrington are within the patrol operations of Troop C

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Litchfield Barracks. As such, I was operating on the channel frequency of 7L – Dispatch1. I had not switched frequencies and had no knowledge of any radio broadcast information made by Troop B via channel 3B – Dispatch1.

While operating my police cruiser I approached the Route 8 Northbound Exit #43 entrance ramp area. I observed a pedestrian walking northbound on Route 8 Northbound to the north of the entrance ramp area, while within the clearly established and marked right shoulder area. The pedestrian was walking northbound and was in an area just south of a yellow highway sign and bridge overpass. The weather was clear and sunny, the roadway was dry and free from obstruction and the traffic volume was light to moderate. I drove my police cruiser from the left lane into the right lane, across the gore area and Exit #43 entrance ramp to a position within the right shoulder area. I continued to drive north within the right shoulder encroaching upon the walking pedestrian from the rear.

The pedestrian was walking northbound with his back facing my police cruiser and I observed that the pedestrian appeared to be that of an elderly white male. I observed that the male pedestrian was walking with both arms swinging freely from either side as he continued his path northbound within the right shoulder. I observed that the male pedestrian was walking at a fast pace, having a staggered gait at times. I sounded the horn of my police cruiser two (2) times, which had no effect in gaining the male pedestrian's attention. I parked my police cruiser within the right shoulder area and exited out onto the highway clad in my state police uniform. I walked northbound within the right shoulder and yelled, "Sir, can I help you?" The pedestrian slowly came to a stop as I continued to approach from his rear and I observed him turn rearward from his left side in a counterclockwise manner. I came to within a distance of approximately twelve (12) to fourteen (14) feet from the pedestrian when he turned fully facing my direction. I was located in an area that was equidistant from the pedestrian and my police cruiser. Immediately upon sighting me, I observed the pedestrian crouch down in a very rapid manner, bending at the knee and hip areas, respectively. The pedestrian simultaneously reached to his right side waist area with both hands. I feared that the pedestrian was going to produce a firearm or other type of weapon and immediately un-holstered my department issued service firearm. I leveled my service weapon at the pedestrian

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and observed him pull out and brandish a large hunting knife from his right side waist area. I observed that the man holding the knife in his right hand and I immediately yelled, "State Police, drop the knife" on two (2) occasions. He did not comply with my verbal orders to disarm. I observed the man rapidly flip the knife in a full 360 degree rotation, whereupon he rotated the knife in a circular motion clockwise toward his body, while catching the handle each of several times. I saw that as the man did this, he did not look at his right hand, but continued to stare at me intensely. I observed that the male handled the knife in an extremely proficient manner.

The male pedestrian started walking toward me and I saw him thrusting the blade of the knife toward me in aggressive stabbing manner and with apparent homicidal intent. I felt in imminent fear of death or serious bodily injury, so I retreated to the driver side and entered driver's seat of my police cruiser. I attempted to engage the transmission in reverse in an effort to increase the distance between myself and the male pedestrian for my safety, but was unsuccessful after approximately three (3) rapid attempts. The pedestrian continued to advance toward me in an aggressive and threatening manner while holding the blade of the knife toward me and thrusting in forward in a stabbing motion. As the pedestrian reached the front left of my police cruiser I was able to engage the transmission in reverse and backed rearward for a distance of approximately seventy-five (75) to one-hundred (100) feet where I parked the police cruiser within the marked white shoulder.

I utilized my police cruiser's mobile radio and broadcast to Troop L Dispatch, "Zero, Three, Nine Code A, Forty-Three northbound, elderly man with a knife!" I observed that the pedestrian continued to advance toward me in an aggressive and threatening manner while flipping the hunting knife and thrusting it forward with the blade facing me in a stabbing motion. I exited my cruiser with my service weapon drawn and I leveled it at the man. I yelled several times, "State Police, drop the knife, drop the knife or I'll shoot." The man did not comply with my verbal orders to disarm himself of the knife. I observed that he continued advance toward me in an aggressive and threatening manner with the knife. As I continued to verbally order the man to drop the knife I observed him charge at me in a rapid manner while holding the knife blade out toward me in his right hand. I felt in imminent fear of death or serious bodily injury, so I retreated

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to a location within the driver seat of my police cruiser. I attempted to engage the transmission in reverse in an effort to increase the distance between myself and the man for my safety, but was unsuccessful after approximately three (3) additional rapid attempts. As the pedestrian reached the front left of my police cruiser once again I was able to engage the transmission in reverse and \geq backed rearward a second time for a distance of approximately seventy-five (75) feet where I parked the police cruiser within the marked white shoulder, adjacent to the gore area of the Route 8 Northbound Exit #43 entrance ramp.

I utilized my police cruiser's mobile radio and broadcast to Troop L Dispatch, "He's charging me!" I exited my cruiser with my service weapon drawn and I leveled it at the man. I yelled several times, "State Police, drop the knife, drop the knife or I'll shoot." The man did not comply with my verbal orders to disarm himself of the knife. I observed that he continued advance toward me in an aggressive and threatening manner with the knife blade outward facing my direction. As I continued to verbally engage the approaching man to disarm, I observed a red pick-up type vehicle parked on the right side of Route 8 Northbound. The red pick-up truck was parked on the overpass north of my location near a yellow highway sign. I did not recall observing the red truck parked in that location initially and began to formulate thoughts regarding the safety of any occupants within the vehicle. I did not know if any of the occupants had been harmed by the man with the knife or if any of the occupants had been accompanying the armed individual. Despite my repeated verbal orders to disarm himself of the knife, I observed that the male pedestrian would not comply as he continued to advance toward me in an aggressive and threatening manner, while holding the knife outward toward me.

I believed that the armed male pedestrian posed a substantially great threat of causing serious physical injury and/or death to me and oncoming motorists. Due to the proximity of my police cruiser and the advancing male armed with a knife refusing my orders to disarm, along with the threat to the motoring public I entered the driver's seat of my police cruiser. I engaged the transmission in reverse and backed my police cruiser rearward and to the left. I utilized my police cruiser's mobile radio and broadcast to Troop L Dispatch, "Forty-three entrance, Forty-three entrance, I'm backing up trying to give him some room. He still has the knife out!" I parked my

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police cruiser across the travel lane of the Route 8 Northbound exit #43 entrance ramp, facing approximately northeast, in an effort to block oncoming traffic from advancing into the armed male pedestrian's path. As I exited my police cruiser I observed a small sport utility (SUV) type vehicle entering onto the Route 8 Northbound Exit #43 entrance ramp. I waved the vehicle to move to the left with my right hand as I had my service weapon pointed in the direction of the armed man, who was continuing to advance in my direction. I observed the man walk from the right shoulder area onto the travel portion of the entrance ramp. I saw that the man was flipping the hunting knife rapidly in his right hand and I continued to repeatedly yell, "State Police, drop the knife, drop the knife or I'll shoot." The man did not comply with my verbal orders to disarm himself of the knife and continued to advance toward me in an aggressive and threatening manner, while flipping the knife rapidly and thrusting in forward in a stabbing motion.

I feared that the armed male's proximity to oncoming Route 8 Northbound traffic was too close and that the possibility existed for him to enter onto the dangerous highway, thereby creating a substantial threat of serious physical injury and/or death to me and oncoming motorists. I entered the driver's seat of my police vehicle and engaged the transmission in reverse. I subsequently backed my police cruiser rearward and left across the marked bifurcation gore area and entered upon the travel lanes of Route 8 Northbound. I overheard Troop L inquire with regard to my status and I utilized my police cruiser's mobile radio and broadcast to Troop L Dispatch, "Trying to stop traffic, he's in traffic now!" I parked my police cruiser across the right and left travel lanes of the Route 8 Northbound, facing approximately northeast, in an effort to block oncoming traffic northbound traffic from advancing into the armed male pedestrian's path. My police cruiser was positioned diagonally across the travel lanes of Route 8 Northbound with the left side doors facing toward the metal flex-beam guard rail. The median area to the left of the guardrail was densely wooded with an embankment declining to the west. I exited my police cruiser and stood outside of the car within the area defined by the open door. I looked to my right and observed a white "Lincare" commercial vehicle type van stopped in the right lane of two (2) lanes. I saw that other vehicles traveling on Route 8 Northbound toward my location were slowing to a stop in both the right and left lanes of Route 8 Northbound. I believe that the (SUV) was stopped on the Route 8 Northbound exit #43 entrance ramp at that time. I had my department issued service firearm

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drawn and observed the male pedestrian armed with the knife approaching my police cruiser in an aggressive and threatening manner. The male continued to hold out the knife with the blade facing toward me in a stabbing manner while walking west across the travel lanes of Route 8 Northbound. I continued to yell as loud as I could at this point numerous times, "State Police, drop the knife, drop the knife or I'll shoot!" The armed male failed to comply with my repeated verbal orders to disarm himself of the knife and advanced to a position opposite my police cruiser. The male took a position near the right front passenger side door area and I could see that he still held the hunting knife in his right hand. The armed man started to walk to his right in a clockwise manner around my police cruiser as I continued to yell as loud as I could for him to drop the knife. I observed the male turn and face my direction as I moved from a position within the open left side door area of my police cruiser. I had no further area of retreat due to my location on the limited access highway, so I moved to a position adjacent to the left front fender of my police vehicle and continued to yell loudly at the man to drop the knife as I had my service firearm leveled and pointed at the armed male. The man did not comply with my verbal orders to disarm himself of the knife and I did not hear him utter any words at any time during the incident. I observed the armed man begin to flip the hunting knife once again in a rapid motion and catching it in his right hand as he continued to stare at me intensely with apparent homicidal intent. I was in imminent fear that the armed man was going to cause death and/or serious physical injury to myself and oncoming motorists if allowed to continue his aggressive and threatening advancement while disregarding any verbal commands to disarm. I had no further area of retreat from the continued advancement of the armed individual without endangering myself and/or the motorists, who were stopped directly to my south in traffic on Route 8 Northbound. In an effort to stop the armed male from continuing any further, I discharged my service firearm one (1) time. I observed that the round struck the armed male in the chest area and he immediately fell to the ground near the right front fender area of my police cruiser. I immediately reached into my police cruiser and utilized the mobile radio and broadcast to Troop L Dispatch, "Shots fired, one down!"

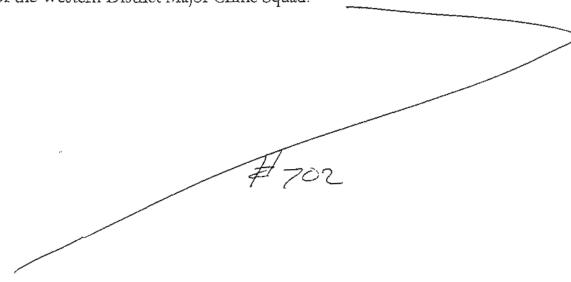
I observed a red pickup truck backing rearward (South) to my location. The pickup truck was operated by a white male, who began to yell that help was coming several times as I walked in a

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counter-clockwise manner around my police cruiser toward the right side. I subsequently observed the male armed with the knife lying motionless on the pavement area to the right front of my police cruiser. I observed a Connecticut State Police cruiser arrive with emergency lights and audible siren. Trooper Chad Gomez #317 quickly exited and came to my location and summoned Troop L Dispatch to contact emergency medical services to respond to the scene. Tpr. Gomez inquired if there were any additional threats and we subsequently approached the armed male on the ground. Tpr. Gomez removed the knife from beneath the male subject and placed the knife on the ground to the left of the man's prone body. Tpr. Gomez then placed both of the subject's hands to the subject's back and handcuffed him on the ground. Tpr. Gomez and I retrieved a medical kit from Tpr. Gomez' police cruiser. Trooper First Class William Arbour #315 also arrived at the scene and provided information to Troop L Dispatch that there were no injuries sustained by CSP personnel. Medical aid was rendered to the male subject, who remained motionless on the ground and I was subsequently escorted away from the scene by Lt. David DelVecchia to an area at the bottom of the Route 8 exit #43 entrance ramp. I was subsequently transported to the Troop L - Litchfield Barracks where I fully cooperated with investigative efforts by members of the Western District Major Crime Squad.



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