



State of Connecticut  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
NEW HAVEN JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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January 8, 2021

**PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT REGARDING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE  
ON ENFIELD STREET IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT ON JANUARY 6, 2021**

Patrick J. Griffin, State's Attorney for the Judicial District of New Haven, submits this preliminary status report regarding the investigation of the use of deadly force by members of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) led multi-agency task force in the vicinity of 96 Enfield Street, Hartford, Connecticut at approximately 9:17 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

On that date, State's Attorney Griffin was assigned by Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo, Jr. to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of **Benicio Vasquez** (d.o.b. 4/12/1986), an Hispanic male, age 34, of Hartford, who died of multiple gunshot wounds after an apparent exchange of gunfire with task force members. The investigation is to determine whether the use of deadly force was justified pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-22.

State's Attorney Griffin, along with inspectors and prosecutors from the New Haven State's Attorney's Office (NHSAO), responded to the scene to direct investigative resources. The Western District Major Crime Squad (WDMCS) of the Connecticut State Police (CSP) was requested to conduct the investigation. Given the involvement of both federal agents and local task force officers, the investigation is being conducted in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office and the FBI, including its Washington D.C. based Inspection Division.

A preliminary briefing on scene revealed that the FBI's Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force and Connecticut Violent Crimes Task Force were on Enfield Street for the purpose of serving a federal criminal complaint upon Brandon Spence, age 33, of Hartford. Spence is alleged to have violated the supervisory conditions imposed following his recent release from federal prison on weapons charges. At this stage in the investigation it appears that, while attempting to apprehend Spence, task force members encountered **Benicio Vasquez**, culminating in an apparent exchange of gunfire. The events that precipitated the apparent exchange of gunfire are the primary focus of the ongoing investigation.

A semi-automatic pistol, suspected to have been fired by **Benicio Vasquez**, was recovered on scene. Presently, the evidence suggests that two task force members fired their weapons. One has been identified as an FBI Special Agent, the other identified as Task Force Officer Christopher Kiely, a member of the New Britain Police Department. State's Attorney Griffin has been advised by federal authorities that, in accordance with FBI protocol regarding agent-involved use of force incidents, the identity of the Special Agent involved has not been authorized for public release at this time.

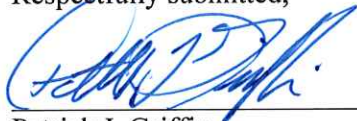
FBI task force members were not wearing body worn cameras and their vehicles were not equipped with dashboard cameras. Body worn camera footage obtained from responding Hartford Police Department (HPD) personnel does not capture the shooting. Rather, the available HPD footage reveals events following the shooting, including the administering of medical assistance to **Benicio Vasquez**. Given the graphic and sensitive nature of these videos, and out of respect for the family of the deceased, they will not be publicly released at this time.

An autopsy conducted by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on January 7, 2021, confirms that **Benicio Vasquez** died as the result of multiple gunshot wounds. At the time of this report, final autopsy and toxicology reports are not yet available.

On January 7, 2021, State's Attorney Griffin and members of the NHSAO met with **Benicio Vasquez'** mother to express their condolences and to explain and answer questions regarding the investigative process.

The NHSAO is committed to working closely with the CSP and federal authorities to complete an independent, objective, and thorough investigation in a timely and transparent fashion.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. Griffin  
State's Attorney  
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