



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk

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Friday, September 18, 2020
Preliminary Status Report of Investigation
Re: Bridgeport, Connecticut – September 16, 2020

The Division of Criminal Justice submits this preliminary status report regarding a police-involved use-of-force incident in Bridgeport, Connecticut on September 16, 2020.

On September 16, 2020, I was assigned by Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo, Jr., to lead the investigation to determine whether the use of force was appropriate under Connecticut General Statutes Section 53a-22. I have directed the Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad (EDMCS), headed by Sgt. Brett Langevin, to conduct the investigation. As of this date, the EDMCS has processed the crime scene and is conducting interviews of potential witnesses.

On September 16, 2020, at approximately 1:15-1:30 a.m., Bridgeport police Officers Eliud Henry and Sean Curran were dispatched via a 911 call to 351 Clinton Avenue on the report of an assault. When officers arrived, they were directed by a resident to the third floor. Upon ascending the third floor stairwell, officers called out the victim's name. Blood smears were clearly visible on a portion of the lower stairwell wall, the stairwell lower door casing, and the banister. Additionally, blood smears were present on a closed third-floor door visible from the stairwell. At that time, a shirtless male wearing boxer shorts appeared on the third-floor landing and then proceeded to slam through that door, which lead to a bathroom. The male was later identified as Juan Villa (D.O.B. 04/08/93) of Bridgeport. Mr. Villa then began attacking a male inside the bathroom with a large knife. Officer Henry, 45, who has been employed by the Bridgeport Police Department since April 25, 2011, deployed his Taser upon Mr. Villa, but it is unclear whether the Taser struck Mr. Villa.

Mr. Villa continued to repeatedly stab the victim in the head. Officer Henry mounted the stairway and ordered Villa to drop the knife. As Villa continued the assault upon the victim, Officer Henry fired one shot at Mr. Villa, which temporarily disabled him. As officers attempted to secure Mr. Villa, Mr. Villa actively resisted. Emergency medical personnel arrived shortly thereafter and began treating both Mr. Villa and the victim prior to transporting them to St. Vincent's Medical Center. Both are expected to recover.

I have directed that body camera footage be released. Further information will be provided as the investigation progresses in a manner that does not compromise the ongoing Division of Criminal Justice inquiry.

PAUL J. FERENCEK
State's Attorney
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