



State of Connecticut

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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August 11, 2023

Preliminary Status Report Regarding Use of Deadly Force by the West Hartford Police Department on August 8, 2023

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 West Hartford Police Department on August 8, 2023. The Office of Inspector General is investigating an officer-involved shooting that resulted in the death of Mike Alexander-Garcia, a Hispanic male, age 34.

On August 8, 2023, the West Hartford Police Department received notification from a stationary license plate reader that a blue Hyundai Elantra, reported stolen on August 4, 2023, was in the area of the West Farms Mall. West Hartford officers proceeded to the area to attempt to find the vehicle.

Officers located the vehicle traveling east on New Britain Avenue and attempted a motor vehicle stop. When the vehicle fled, officers utilized "Stop Sticks" in an effort to disable the vehicle. At the intersection of New Britain Avenue and South Street in West Hartford, the stolen Hyundai struck a silver BMW and then a blue Honda Pilot. After the collision with the Honda Pilot, the vehicle became disabled.

Two occupants of the vehicle, Lyle Solsbury, and Mike Alexander-Garcia, exited the vehicle. Officers quickly apprehended Solsbury. Alexander-Garcia fled east on New Britain Avenue. He unsuccessfully attempted to carjack two vehicles as he made his way to Town Fair Tire at 980 New Britain Avenue. He entered a Toyota RAV4 in one of the garage service bays. Moments later, West Hartford K-9 Officer Andrew Teeter entered the garage bay. In an effort to apprehend Alexander-Garcia, Officer Teeter deployed the K-9 into the Toyota and then entered the passenger side of the vehicle. Despite the K-9 and Officer Teeter being in the vehicle struggling with Alexander-Garcia, he backed out of the garage and drove out of the Town Fair Tire parking lot striking two vehicles. One of those vehicles was the K-9 police vehicle. As Alexander-Garcia continued to drive, Officer Teeter discharged his weapon multiple times striking Alexander-Garcia in the torso. The Toyota crashed into a utility pole across the street from Town Fair Tire near the intersection of New Britain Avenue and Shield Street.

Alexander-Garcia was taken to Hartford Hospital. He was pronounced dead at 5:53 p.m.

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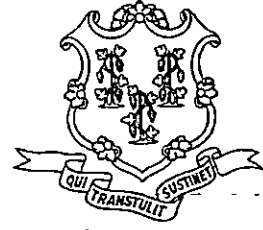
Officer Teeter sustained a broken rib and multiple head lacerations. There was no apparent injury to the K-9.

To access relevant portions of Town Fair Tire camera recording, click [here](#). To access the relevant portion of Officer Teeter's dashboard camera, click [here](#). To access the relevant portion of a responding officer's dashboard camera, click [here](#). To access the relevant portion of the patrol supervisor's dashboard camera, click [here](#). To access the relevant portion of Officer Teeter's body-worn camera, click [here](#).

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be: "Gunshot Wounds of Torso." A copy of 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, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad, and the West Hartford Police Department are conducting the investigation.

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



08/09/2023

Office of Inspector General
PO Box 460
Cheshire, CT 06410

RE: NOTIFICATION TO POLICE

OCME CASE # 23-15341

PD CASE #

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

Name of the Deceased	Found Dead On:	Autopsy Performed:
Unidentified Hartford	08/08/2023	Yes, 08/09/2023

The cause of death has been certified as:
GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF TORSO

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.

