August 11, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Office of Inspector General together with the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad, and the West Hartford Police Department are investigating the officer-involved shooting of Mike Alexander-Garcia, age 34, on August 8, 2023 near 980 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford, CT.

On August 8, 2023 at approximately 5:00 p.m., West Hartford police were attempting to stop a stolen Hyundai Elantra that was traveling east on New Britain Avenue. At the intersection of New Britain Avenue and South Street, the Hyundai struck a silver BMW and then a blue Honda Pilot. After the collision with the Honda Pilot, the Hyundai 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.

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 investigation is continuing.