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**PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT REGARDING THE USE OF
DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE AT 1672 NORTH BROAD STREET,
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT ON FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

Paul J. Narducci, State's Attorney for the Judicial District of New London, submits this preliminary status report regarding the investigation into the use of deadly physical force by a member of the Meriden Police Department at 1672 North Broad Street in Meriden, Connecticut at approximately 8:53 a.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021.

On that date, Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo, Jr., assigned this State's Attorney to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the use of force by a Meriden Police Officer, Eric Simonson, that resulted in injuries to Kenneth Strothers, a Black male, age 24, of an unknown last address. This State's Attorney, along with Inspectors from the New London Judicial District State's Attorney's Office (NLSAO), responded to the scene to assess the situation and direct investigative resources. State's Attorney Patrick Griffin and Inspectors from the New Haven State's Attorney's Office provided preliminary assistance and support. The Western District Major Crime Squad of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection was assigned to conduct the investigation. The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether the use of force was justified under Connecticut General Statutes section 53a-22.

Although it is important to stress that this investigation is ongoing, the preliminary briefing detailed that on February 12, 2021, the West Hartford Police Department, which had an active felony warrant for Kenneth Strothers, developed information that Mr. Strothers may have been staying in Meriden. West Hartford police officers determined that a person matching Strothers' description was staying at The Flamingo Inn on North Broad Street and they set up surveillance. West Hartford also notified the Meriden Police

Department. Detectives from Meriden PD joined in surveillance, and observed Mr. Strothers exit one of the rooms. Mr. Strothers became aware of the police presence and ran across North Broad Street onto the property of Access Storage of Meriden, located at 1672 North Broad Street. Detective Eric Simonson, the lead officer in pursuit, observed Mr. Strothers run around a red 2010 Chevrolet Equinox. During this encounter, Detective Simonson fired his service weapon one time, through the front passenger side window, striking Mr. Strothers in the abdomen. Emergency medical personnel were summoned to the scene and officers attended to Mr. Strothers pending the arrival of the medical personnel. Mr. Strothers was transported to the hospital, and is being treated for his injuries. A firearm was located under Mr. Strothers when the officers attended to him at the scene.

All available body worn camera and motor vehicle dashboard camera footage is being obtained from the Meriden and West Hartford Police Departments. Although the footage captures the surrounding events, there appears to be no footage of the actual shooting. Because the video does include footage of medical aid being rendered, privacy concerns prevent disclosure of the footage at this time. Any relevant footage will be released after addressing these concerns, provided that disclosure does not compromise the investigation.

The New London State's Attorney's Office is committed to working closely with investigators to complete an independent, objective and thorough investigation in a timely and transparent manner. Further updates will be provided in a manner that does not compromise the ongoing Division of Criminal Justice Investigation.



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