January 24, 2020

Via Hand-Delivery

To the Honorable Committees on Judiciary and Public Safety and Security:

Pursuant to Section 3 of Public Act 19-90, attached please find the preliminary report of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Middlesex concerning the death of Mubarak Soulemane in West Haven, Connecticut, on January 15, 2020.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to State's Attorney Michael A. Gailor in Middletown.

Sincerely,

John J. Russotto
Acting Chief State's Attorney

JJR/md
Enclosure
Preliminary Status Report of Middlesex State’s Attorney Michael A. Gailor concerning the Use of Deadly Force in West Haven, Connecticut on January 15, 2020

Pursuant to Public Act 19-90, the Division of Criminal Justice hereby submits this preliminary status report regarding the investigation into the use of deadly force in West Haven, Connecticut on January 15, 2020.

Mubarak Soulemane, a nineteen year old black male, died as a result of gunshot wounds sustained during an encounter with Troopers from the Connecticut State Police on January 15, 2020, at approximately 5:05 p.m. in the town of West Haven. Officers from the town of West Haven were also on the scene.

After an autopsy was conducted at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on January 16, 2020, the certificate of death was recorded on January 17, 2020. The cause of death was determined to be gunshot wounds of the torso and extremities and the manner of death a homicide. A copy of the death certificate is attached to this report.

On January 15, 2020, the State’s Attorney for the Judicial District of New London was appointed to lead the investigation to determine whether the use of force was appropriate under General Statutes Section 53a-22. Due to caseload considerations and in order to ensure the timely completion of the investigation, on January 21, 2020, the matter was reassigned to the State’s Attorney for the Judicial District of Middlesex who will conduct the investigation with assistance from Inspectors from the Division of Criminal Justice.

The Division of Criminal Justice extends its condolences to Mr. Soulemane’s family and will work to complete this investigation in a timely manner for the benefit of both the family and the police officers involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael A. Gailor, State’s Attorney
Judicial District of Middlesex