

W:860-721-2900

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

Date: 05/02/2019
Time Started: 0900
Time Ended: 1335

WITNESS STATEMENT OF

I, Layau Eulizier, Jr., date of birth 11/29/1992

Of 250 Silas Deane Highway, town / city of Wethersfield.

Make the following statement, without fear, threat, or promise. I have been advised that any statement(s) made herein which I do not believe to be true, and which statement is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance of his/her official function, is a crime under C.G.S. section 53a-157. X *de*

time, I was concerned that the vehicle might be coming towards my cruiser. I quickly attempted a U-Turn while keeping an eye on the suspect vehicle to avoid a collision as it was my belief that the vehicle was now coming towards me. As I moved into the left, northbound lane, I briefly stopped my vehicle because I observed that the suspect vehicle start to lose control on the wet roads. The suspect vehicle crossed directly behind my cruiser right where my cruiser had been positioned. Had I not moved forward, I believe that the suspect vehicle would have broadsided my cruiser. After the suspect vehicle left my field of vision, I completed the U-Turn, and positioned my police vehicle facing northbound in the northbound lane. The suspect vehicle continued to lose control and spun around 180 degrees, in front of oncoming traffic, as its rear end entered the entrance to the parking lot of 955 Silas Deane Highway. I accelerated my police vehicle towards the suspect vehicle to position my patrol vehicle directly in front of it to keep it from driving forward and to further cease all erratic operation. As my cruiser approached the suspect vehicle, my cruiser impacted the front of the suspect vehicle. I was braking and must have misjudged the distance and road conditions as my intent was not to ram the suspect vehicle but to position my vehicle in front of the suspect vehicle as close as possible. When our vehicles made contact, I believed the operator of the suspect vehicle would cease operating the vehicle.

I exited my patrol vehicle, unholstered my department issued firearm, Glock 22: LPA392, and pointed it at the driver of the vehicle as I yelled the command, "Show me your hands." When I exited my cruiser, my intention was to wait until Officer Salvatore arrived before I approached the vehicle. I knew Officer Salvatore was only seconds away. I did not believe at this point that the suspect vehicle would move. At this point, I observed the operator of the vehicle turn the steering wheel quickly with one hand as well as reach toward the center console below. I did not know if he was reaching for something or reaching for the gear shifter. I was only focused on the driver and did not see if there was a passenger in the car. The operator continued to operate the vehicle in an erratic manner by accelerating backwards in front of oncoming traffic. I observed there was a vehicle stopped in the southbound lanes behind the suspect vehicle and I was concerned that he might accelerate towards that vehicle, so I continued on foot to keep the vehicle in my sight. As the suspect vehicle was reversing, it was turning so the front of the vehicle would have been pointing north.

As the vehicle was still moving in reverse, a police cruiser struck the suspect vehicle. I remember hearing the collision more than seeing it. I believed that it was Officer Salvatore's vehicle that hit the suspect vehicle. I could not see inside the suspect vehicle through the side windows due to its heavy dark tinting. I continued around the front of the cruiser. I remember thinking that it was my cruiser that I was running in front of. I was thinking that I wanted to position myself using the front of my cruiser as cover and in a manner where I could at least see the operator of the vehicle through the windshield as all of the windows were so heavily tinted. It happened so quickly, that as I came around the front of the cruiser, I suddenly found myself directly in front of the suspect vehicle. I don't know how I ended up in the path of travel. I remember thinking that the car wasn't where I thought it was going to be when I got to the front of the cruiser. As soon as I got around the front of the cruiser and began yelling "show me your hands", the suspect vehicle accelerated. As my momentum was

By affixing my signature to this statement, I acknowledge that I have read it and/or have had it read to me and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. X

Witness: *[Signature]* Signature: X *[Signature]* #831

Witness: _____

Personally appeared the signer of the foregoing statement and made oath before me to the truth of the matters contained therein.

If notarized, endorse here: *[Signature]* #431

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My name is Officer Layau Eulizier Jr. I was a sworn police officer for the Manchester Police Department (Connecticut) from September 2014 to August 2018. I transferred to the Wethersfield Police Department (Connecticut) as a sworn police officer in August 2018. I was in the Air Force from 2011-2017, and was deployed to the United Arab Emirates in 2016 for 6 months. I watched the dashcam videos twice, but the following statement is based on my recollection of the events and not on the dashcam video.

On Saturday, 04/20/2019, I was assigned the Evening Shift Patrol District 2-Plan A, in accordance with the Wethersfield Police Department (WPD) district assignments in a clearly marked patrol vehicle (Car #13). At approximately 1758 hours, I was inside of the Wethersfield Pizza House restaurant located at 955 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, CT, ordering dinner, when I heard Officer Peter Salvatore of the Wethersfield Police Department (WPD) broadcast over WPD Channel 1 that he was attempting to stop a motor vehicle and requested backup. Officer Salvatore was assigned to Wethersfield Police Patrol District 5 – Plan A. I was in Officer Salvatore's patrol area and I could hear a siren, so I made the assumption that he was nearby. I did not hear the exact location, but I heard the brief activation of the audible siren that was equipped on a police vehicle from inside the restaurant. Over the radio, I heard Officer Salvatore ask WPD Officer Nuno Martins if he was in the area. Officer Martins replied that he was investigating a call for service on the other side of town.

I exited the Wethersfield Pizza House and entered my clearly marked Wethersfield Police vehicle (Car 13). As I got into my cruiser, I looked at the police vehicle "tracking" map that is included in the NexGen Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software on my mobile display terminal (MDT) and saw that Officer Salvatore stopped a vehicle at the Goodyear Auto Service store, which was just south of my location. As I exited the parking lot of the Wethersfield Pizza House, I observed a police vehicle with its emergency lights activated in front of the Goodyear Auto Service store located at 1020 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, CT.

I drove towards Officer Salvatore's location. At this time, I did not know the nature of the traffic stop, I was responding as the requested backup officer. As I neared his location, Officer Salvatore broadcast over the radio that the vehicle he stopped took off. I observed the vehicle that Officer Salvatore stopped traveling northbound on the Silas Deane Highway in the right lane of two at a high rate of speed. I knew this was the vehicle as it was coming from directly in front of where Officer Salvatore's cruiser was and there were no other cars coming from that area.

When I first observed the suspect vehicle, it was traveling in the rightmost northbound lane of the Silas Deane Highway. It was raining at the time and the roads were wet. I activated the emergency lights and siren of my police vehicle and positioned it in the center southbound lane. As I positioned my cruiser near the center double yellow line, I observed the suspect vehicle travel from the rightmost northbound lane, pass a motor vehicle that was in the left-hand northbound lane and continue at an angle towards my patrol vehicle. At the

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Witness: *[Signature]* Signature: X *[Signature]* 11/331

Witness: _____

Personally appeared the signer of the foregoing statement and made oath before me to the truth of the matters contained therein.

If notarized, endorse here: *[Signature]* 431

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carrying me into the line of the suspect vehicle, I knew that there was nowhere I could go. I believed the vehicle was about to strike me. This happened so quickly and because of my momentum I was only able to move backwards and was not able to retreat to the left or right, away from the vehicle. At this point, I was inches from the front of the vehicle and I feared for my life and knew that I had to stop the operator from running me over with his vehicle. I discharged two rounds which I observed make contact with the front windshield of the suspect vehicle. I did not know if the operator was struck at the time. As I moved to my right, out of the way of vehicle, I noted that my gun was jammed. I did not try to fire a third time, I observed the gun to be in lock-back as I was out of the path of travel. I racked it back and cleared the jam.

Immediately after discharging two rounds from my firearm, the suspect vehicle ceased its quick acceleration, came to a brief stop, and then continued to travel northbound on the Silas Deane Highway at a northeasterly angle. I broadcast over the radio that shots were fired. I observed the suspect vehicle travel onto the sidewalk and strike an advertisement sign on the property of 936 Silas Deane Highway. I immediately requested an ambulance to stage in the nearby area due to the possibility that the operator may have been struck by my discharged rounds.

I observed the passenger door open and a female attempt to exit the vehicle. Officer Salvatore gave instructions to the female to get on the ground and clearly display her hands. Due to the heavy tinting of the suspect vehicle windows, I was unable to see the operator and determine the operator's behavior and health status. Officer Salvatore reminded me to take cover. I believe he said this because it was unknown if the suspect had a weapon or the reason he fled the scene and attempted to run me over with the vehicle. I walked backwards and utilized a tree on the westernmost side of the Silas Deane Highway as cover, while still pointing my firearm at the suspect vehicle.

I observed Lt. Connolly arrive and take command of the scene. Lt. Connolly instructed me to position my police vehicle closer to where the suspect vehicle rested to utilize it as cover in case gunshots were going to be fired from the suspect vehicle. After positioning my patrol vehicle as directed, I positioned myself near the front engine compartment to shield me from any gunshots that may come from the suspect vehicle. I later observed WPD Chief Cetran arrive on scene in his unmarked police vehicle to assist. WPD Officer Martins, Officer Baich, and Officer Hilchuk later arrived on scene and assisted with securing the female passenger, removing the operator from the vehicle, and rendering first aid. I retrieved the first aid kit and automated external defibrillator (AED) from my patrol vehicle to start lifesaving measures after the operator was removed from the vehicle. I notified WPD Dispatch to send ambulatory units to the scene immediately after it was determined to be safe.

After assisting with the closure of the Silas Deane Highway just south of the Maple Street intersection. I was removed from the scene by Detective DeMonte.

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Witness:  Signature: X  #371

Witness: _____

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Detective DeMonte later took photos of me, secured my firearm, and seized my uniform of the day as evidence to include my patrol boots, ballistic vest, and duty belt. Detective DeMonte later drove me to St. Francis Hospital for evaluation where I was later released.

The suspect was later identified as Anthony J. Vega-Cruz (DOB 11/30/2000). I have never had contact with the operator or passenger prior to this. The passenger within the vehicle was later identified as Stephanie L. Santiago (DOB 03/14/2001). The vehicle operated by the suspect was a 2004 Infiniti G35 bearing Vehicle Identification Number, JNKCV51F84M716852. The marker plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle operated by the suspect was Connecticut Registration No. 484YOS. I have never had contact with or attempted to stop this vehicle before. *end*

BTZ
Ⓢ

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If notarized, endorse here: *Det. B G #331*