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DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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June 18, 2021

PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT
REGARDING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE
BY A BRIDGEPORT POLICE OFFICER ON JUNE 15, 2021

The Division of Criminal Justice submits the following preliminary status report by Stamford/Norwalk State's Attorney Paul J. Ferencek regarding a police-involved shooting incident in Bridgeport, which occurred on June 15, 2021 at approximately 10:12 p.m.

I was assigned by Chief State's Attorney Richard J. Colangelo, Jr., to lead the investigation to determine whether the use of deadly force was appropriate under Connecticut General Statutes section 53a-22. I directed the Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad (EDMCS), headed by Sergeant Brett Langevin, to conduct the investigation. As of this date, the EDMCS has processed the crime scene and is conducting interviews of witnesses.

Preliminary briefing conducted at the scene indicated the following: On the above date and time, FBI agents and officers from the Bridgeport Police Department assigned to the federal Safe Streets Task Force attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop on a vehicle being operated at the intersection of Main and Catherine Streets. The stop was based on information from a credible source who indicated that the occupants were in possession of an illegal handgun and planned to use it. The vehicle stopped at a traffic signal and officers in five separate unmarked vehicles attempted to conduct the stop by surrounding it. Four of the five police-operated vehicles had their lights and sirens activated. The suspect vehicle reversed direction, backing into both a civilian vehicle directly behind it and the door of an unmarked cruiser, causing Bridgeport police officer Mark Martocchio to be partially wedged between the inside driver's door and frame. The suspect vehicle then proceeded toward an area where officers were located on the roadway.

At that point, Bridgeport police officer Carlos Vasquez discharged a single round from his duty weapon at the vehicle. The round entered the driver's door and struck the operator in the upper leg area. The vehicle then crashed into a light pole. The operator, identified as Dennis Waiters of Stamford, sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported to Bridgeport Hospital for treatment. The front passenger, identified as Lamaine Heard of Bridgeport, ran from the vehicle and was apprehended a short distance from the crash scene. Police located a loaded semi-automatic handgun on the floor of the front passenger compartment. The Bridgeport State's Attorney's Office is determining whether criminal charges will be lodged against Waiters and Herd.

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An outdoor video camera captured a portion of the incident, but it is of poor quality. I have directed that it be publicly released. Pursuant to Bridgeport Police Department policy, none of the officers involved were wearing body-worn cameras due to the undercover nature of their work. The FBI does not require its agents to wear body-worn cameras.

It should be noted that as of this date, the above factual synopsis has not been confirmed, and all information uncovered thus far is subject to a thorough and complete investigation by the Stamford/Norwalk State's Attorney's Office and the Connecticut State Police.

Respectfully submitted,



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Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk