

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

Case Number: 1900182722

Date: 04/24/2019

Time Started: 0910 hrs

Time Ended: 1029 hrs

H-
W- 203-432-4400
C-

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Terrance A. Pollock

I, Terrance A. Pollock, AGE: 46, date of birth 08/27/1972
of 101 Ashmun Street, town/city of New Haven, CT 06511

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.

My name is Officer Terrance A. Pollock, Badge #321, of the Yale University Police Department, which is located at 101 Ashmun Street, New Haven, Connecticut. I became a Yale University Police Officer on May 9, 2003 and have served as a patrol officer for the past sixteen years, currently assigned to dayshift. In 2006, I was selected as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and in 2008 I became a member of the Yale University Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. I was advised by counsel not to view any television, social media, videos, body-camera footage, or to speak with anyone about this incident. Therefore, the details of this statement are only from my personal recollection from the night of the incident.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, I was working overtime on the midnight shift and my patrol assignment was "Patrol 796", which covers the Science Park area of New Haven. I was operating a marked "Yale University Police" SUV cruiser, which has CT registration plate 796-YPD affixed to the rear of the vehicle. I was working a double that day, scheduled to work dayshift after the midnight shift.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at approximately 0415 hours, I was on duty in my patrol area when I heard the Yale Police Department's Communications Center dispatch a broadcast over the radio reporting something to the effect that they wanted patrol units to be advised that there had just been a "19", which is the code for a robbery, in Hamden. They informed us that the suspect vehicle was a red Honda Civic and that the vehicle was occupied by a male and female. I believe dispatch stated the occupants of the vehicle were also armed with a gun. Dispatch informed us that the suspect vehicle was "in-bound on Dixwell Avenue from Hamden." I do not recall if they gave out the registration plate number. I was not scanning or monitoring the New Haven Police dispatch center on my portable or cruiser radios. I was not scanning or monitoring Hamden Police Dispatch or the "hotline."

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

Witness: Ded - G #431
Detective Connolly #431

Signature: Terrance Pollock
Terrance A. Pollock

Witness: _____

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

I notarized, endorse here: D. Meier #796
Detective Meier #796

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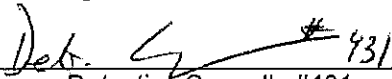
STATEMENT OF Terrance A. Pollock (Cont.)

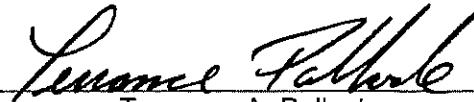
Immediately following the broadcast, I radioed to dispatched and asked if they could repeat the description of the suspect vehicle. To the best of my recollection dispatch repeated that it was a red Honda Civic and that the it was a "armed robbery." The next thing I remember, I was traveling north on Dixwell Avenue, near the intersection of Shelton Avenue, when I decided to pull over on the right shoulder of Dixwell Avenue, at the intersection of Argyle Street. I took this position/post because I did not want to travel that far away from my patrol area. I pulled into a parking spot, on the eastern shoulder of the roadway, directly in front of 425 Dixwell Avenue and turned off all of the running lights of my cruiser. I began watching to see if the suspect vehicle was going to continue into the downtown New Haven area on Dixwell Avenue.

I was parked watching traffic traveling on Dixwell Avenue for about five minutes, when I noticed a Hamden Police Department SUV cruiser approaching me, traveling south on Dixwell Avenue. The Hamden cruiser quickly passed my cruiser and the intersection of Argyle Street and continued south on Dixwell Avenue. As a result, I made a U-turn on Dixwell and began to travel south on Dixwell to catch up with the Hamden officer, because I wanted to inform him or her that I had not seen the suspect vehicle travel pass my location. As I began to accelerate to follow in the same direction, south on Dixwell Avenue, the Hamden cruiser made an abrupt U-turn and began traveling north on Dixwell Avenue. As a result, I also made a U-turn and began to follow in the same direction behind the Hamden cruiser.

As I began trying to catch up with the Hamden cruiser, I noticed the Hamden cruiser make a right turn (east bound) onto Argyle Street. At this point, I believe I was only about three or four car lengths behind the Hamden cruiser. As I began to turn right onto Argyle Street, I slowed down because I noticed the Hamden cruiser, which was facing east on Argyle Street, was pulled alongside a small red car, which was facing in my direction, traveling west on Argyle Street. This was the first time I saw the red car. I would say the red car, which was later identified as the red Honda Civic, was about 3 car lengths from the intersection of Dixwell Avenue and Argyle Street. I noticed the red Honda civic was running, with its headlights activated, in the travel portion of the roadway. As I noticed the Hamden cruiser pull up alongside the red car, I remember thinking it now made sense to me why the Hamden cruiser passed me on Dixwell Avenue and made the abrupt U-turn. I remember thinking to myself that the Hamden officer must have seen the red Honda Civic on Argyle Street, as he passed on Dixwell Avenue. I did not notice the red Honda Civic on Argyle Street while I was previously parked on Dixwell Avenue.

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Witness: Det.  #431
Detective Connolly #431

Signature: 
Terrance A. Pollock

Witness: _____

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I notarized, endorse here: 
Detective Meier #796

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STATEMENT OF Terrance A. Pollock (Cont.)

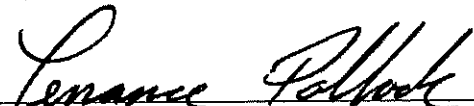
The next thing I noticed was the Hamden cruiser came to a complete stop, at a slight angle to my left, in a northeastern direction, alongside the red car. Immediately I noticed the Hamden officer jump out of the driver's side of his cruiser and began approaching the driver's door of the red car. I did not hear the Hamden officer say anything because I was still seated inside my cruiser and the windows were closed. I then noticed the operator of the red car opened the driver's door and appeared to be getting out of the red car. As this was happening, I saw the Hamden officer stopped moving forward toward the driver's door, and then quickly jump back away from the red car and quickly to his right (toward the passenger-side of the vehicle). At that moment, I heard a series of gunshots and believed that the Hamden officer and the suspect were exchanging gunfire. As I was seated in my cruiser, I heard what I thought were bullets striking the front of my cruiser. Seeing how the Hamden officer reacted, hearing the shots being fired, and believing the suspect was firing into my cruiser, I immediately thought that both the Hamden officer and I were being shot at by the operator of the red car. I was in fear for my life and thought I could be killed. I remember thinking I needed to get out of my cruiser immediately to return fire to defend myself and get myself into a safer location.

Fearing for my life, I immediately opened the driver's door of my cruiser using my left hand, exited my cruiser, and drew my issued department duty weapon (a black Glock 22, .40 Caliber) with my right hand. I immediately discharged my duty weapon to eliminate the imminent threat of deadly force against the Hamden officer and me. I discharged my firearm in the direction of the operator of the red Honda Civic. To the best of my recollection, I believe I fired two times. As I was shooting, my cruiser began moving toward the red vehicle. I was in such fear for my safety and realized I needed to get out of my cruiser so quickly that I forgot to place my cruiser in park before I exited. As I continued to back up and retreat from the gunfire, I could hear additional gunshots coming from the general area of the Honda Civic. Because my cruiser was slowly moving forward, I immediately began retreating and discharged my duty weapon a third time in the direction of the operator. I then crossed Dixwell Avenue in order to gain cover from the additional gunfire. As I retreated, I continued to hear gunfire coming from the area of the red car.

When I got across to the west shoulder of Dixwell Avenue, I took cover behind a black car and to the best of my recollection believe I immediately radioed into the Yale Police Department Communications Center saying, "99...(means priority call) Signal 4 (Means Officer needs help) I need help. Dixwell." Someone radioed asking what my location was and I told them that I was on Dixwell, near the intersection of Shelton. I said this because I was not familiar with Argyle Street. I looked across Dixwell Avenue onto Argyle Street and could see that my cruiser came to a stop against the front end of the red Honda Civic. My cruiser was now blocking my view of the operator of the Honda civic. Within a short period of time, I noticed another cruiser coming southbound on

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Detective Connolly #431

Signature: 
Terrance A. Pollock

Witness: _____

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STATEMENT OF Terrance A. Pollock (Cont.)

Dixwell with its emergency light activated. As the cruiser pulled slightly onto Argyle Street, I noticed it was a Hamden cruiser. I began waiving to the Hamden officer in the cruiser to back up because he was so close to the gunfire on Argyle Street. The officer backed the cruiser up Dixwell Avenue, just north of Argyle Street, and exited his cruiser immediately. I do not know who the officer was and do not remember what the officer looked like. At this point other cruisers were arriving on scene.

After hearing no additional gunfire, but believe a threat still existed, I ran to the rear of my cruiser and retrieve my patrol rifle (Colt AR-15). At that point, I carefully approached the passenger side of the suspect vehicle to provide cover for the other officers securing the two occupants of the red vehicle. After the scene was secure, Sergeant Josh Passay, arrived on scene to check on my well-being and briefly spoke with me about the incident. At that time Sergeant Passay secured my Glock. Then Officer Adam Marong approached me and asked if I was injured or needed any medical attention. We began checking myself and I felt a burning sensation on my lower right leg, just above my ankle. The area was burning and had some bleeding. I do not know how this injury occurred, but I know it happened during the shooting. Ofc. Marong transported me to Yale New Haven Hospital, located at 20 York Street, New Haven, for medical attention. I was treated and released later that morning. I then went to Hamden Police Department, where I was photographed by the State Police.

My department issued duty weapon, Glock 22, .40 caliber, is equipped with a tactic light. During the shooting, I did not intentionally activate the tactical light, but I inadvertently pressed the toggle switch a few times. I attempted to activate my body-worn camera during the event; however, I had powered it off earlier to conserve battery power as I was working a double shift and the battery life is only approximately eight (8) hours. As a result, the body camera did not capture the shooting. Also, I believe the MVR in my cruiser was powered on, but did not activate because I did not have time to activate my emergency lights when I turned onto Argyle Street. However, I believe the MVR constantly records video only, even when it's not activated.

After learning the names of the occupants in the red Honda Civic, they do not sound familiar and I do not recall ever having contact with them in the past. I also did not know the Hamden Officer that was on scene, and have not had contact with him previously, during this incident, or afterwards.

I am giving the State Police consent to retrieve my medical records from Yale New Haven Hospital relative to this incident. *(encl)*

3TC TAP
(C)

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Witness: Detective Connolly #431

Signature: Terrance A. Pollock

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