

State of Connecticut
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



REPORT REGARDING
THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE BY THE BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT
ON OCTOBER 12, 2022
RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF NICHOLAS A. BRUTCHER

Robert J. Devlin, Jr.
Inspector General

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New Haven Judicial District State's Attorney's Office

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ADVISEMENT

This report describes the violent murder of two Bristol police officers and the subsequent killing of their assailant. In addition, some coarse language is used by the people involved and some of the photos and video recordings are disturbing. Some readers may find this material upsetting. My objective is to describe this event accurately. This necessarily involves the inclusion of some graphic material.

INTRODUCTION

On October 12, 2022, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Bristol Police Officer Alec Iurato¹ fired one shot from his department issued handgun fatally wounding Nicholas A. Brutcher². As required by statute, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated this incident.³ The results of that investigation are contained in this report.

In summary, the investigation establishes that on October 12, 2022, at approximately 10:32 p.m., Nicholas Brutcher called 911 complaining that his brother, Nathan, was being aggressive toward him. He requested that Bristol police officers come to 310 Redstone Hill Road. Sergeant Dustin DeMonte, Officer Alex Hamzy, and Officer Alec Iurato responded. Upon arrival, they approached the side door of the residence. They observed Nathan Brutcher inside the house and ordered him to come outside. At that time, from a concealed position on the neighboring property, Nicholas Brutcher fired upon the three officers multiple times, at first using an AR-15 style rifle and later with a handgun. All three officers were hit. Sergeant DeMonte and Officer Hamzy sustained fatal wounds. Although wounded in the upper leg area, Officer Iurato was able to move around the back of the house and ultimately to the location of the Bristol police cruisers parked on Redstone Hill Road. From that position, Officer Iurato fired one shot, striking, and killing Nicholas Brutcher, who remained armed.

Based on the facts developed during the investigation, I have determined that Officer Iurato's use of deadly force was justified to defend himself, others on scene, and other responding Bristol police officers from serious injury or death at the hands of Nicholas Brutcher.

INVESTIGATION

The events of October 12, 2022, occurred in four phases: (1) the fight at Bleachers bar, (2) the traffic stop following the police response to Bleachers, (3) the 911 call Nicholas Brutcher placed to Bristol Communications, and (4) the ambush of the officers at 310 Redstone Hill Road.

¹ On October 12, 2022, Alec Iurato was a twenty-six year old Caucasian male. He had been a Bristol police officer for four years and had no disciplinary history.

² On October 12, 2022, Nicholas A. Brutcher was a thirty-five year old Caucasian male.

³ General Statute §51-277a(a)(1) provides: "Whenever a peace officer, in the performance of such officer's duties, uses physical force upon another person and such person dies as a result thereof or uses deadly force, as defined in section 53a-3, upon another person, the Division of Criminal Justice shall cause an investigation to be made and the Inspector General shall have the responsibility of determining whether the use of force by the peace officer was justifiable under section 53a-22."

PHASE I: BLEACHERS

On October 12, 2022, sometime around 7:30 p.m., Nicholas Brutcher and his brother, Nathan Brutcher, left their parents' house and went to Bleachers Bar located at 300 Middle Street, Bristol. Both had been drinking before they went to the bar. That night, the bar had an "open mic" forum and Nicholas Brutcher planned to do some stand-up comedy.

One of the bartenders working that night, Bartender 1, told inspectors that Nicholas and Nathan Brutcher arrived at approximately 7:00 p.m., and she served them one beer. She did not know what the other bartender, Bartender 2, may have served them.

At one point, while he was sitting at the bar, another patron, whom Bartender 1 knew as Patron 1, came up to Nicholas Brutcher and put his arm around him. Bartender 1 saw Nicholas Brutcher elbow Patron 1 in the face/chest area. Bartender 1 told both to stop or she would call the police. Nicholas Brutcher and Patron 1 told her that they were going to take it outside. Bartender 1 followed Nicholas Brutcher and Patron 1 as they walked to the exit door. In the vestibule by the front door, Nicholas Brutcher punched Patron 1 on the head from behind knocking him to the ground. They then continued fighting in the parking lot. Bartender 1 called the Bristol Police Department and reported the fight. When she went back into the bar, Bartender 1 saw Nathan Brutcher playing pool with others. Nathan Brutcher did not know that Nicholas Brutcher was in a fight. Once told, Nathan Brutcher left the bar and went into the parking lot.

Inspectors interviewed Bartender 2, the other bartender on duty at Bleachers on October 12, 2022. She stated that Nicholas Brutcher and Nathan Brutcher were at the bar, but she did not serve alcohol to either one of them. While behind the bar, Bartender 2 observed Patron 1 get close to Nicholas Brutcher and put his arm around him. Nicholas Brutcher then elbowed Patron 1 in the head. The two then went outside. Bartender 2 stayed behind the bar while Bartender 1 dealt with the fight.

Patron 1 told inspectors that he was at Bleachers on October 12, 2022, and got into a physical altercation with Nicholas Brutcher. Patron 1 had been playing pool and needed change to continue playing. When he went to the bar to get change, he stood next to Nicholas Brutcher. Patron 1 described Nicholas Brutcher as "very aggressive" and without warning Nicholas Brutcher elbowed him in the head. Patron 1 wanted to "take it outside" and, as he walked toward the door, Nicholas Brutcher hit him from behind. The fight continued into the parking lot where other patrons broke it up. Bartender 1 told Patron 1 that she had called the cops. Patron 1 waited in the bar for the cops to arrive. He spoke to two female Bristol officers telling them that he did not want to press charges.

Another person to witness the fight at Bleachers was Friend 1. Friend 1 had known Nicholas Brutcher since freshman year in high school. He described Nicholas Brutcher as someone who liked to fight, even in his adult life, and a gun enthusiast. Friend 1 and Nicholas Brutcher had a mutual interest in stand-up comedy. The inspector's report summarizing the interview further states the following:

"[Friend 1] reported that this past Wednesday (10/12/22), he went to Bleachers for an open mic night and saw [Nicholas] Brutcher there. [Friend 1] reported that he and [Nicholas] Brutcher acknowledged each other, but there was no other real conversation. [Friend 1] reported that [Nicholas] Brutcher appeared drunk and so much so that the bartender wouldn't serve him. [Friend 1] reported that a person he knows as [Patron 1] came up to [Nicholas] Brutcher and touched his shoulder and said something to him. [Patron 1] didn't appear to be aggressive at that point, but [Nicholas] Brutcher told him not to touch him. When [Nicholas] Brutcher said this, [Patron 1] said something back and the two started going back and forth in a confrontational manner. [Friend 1] reported that [Nicholas] Brutcher warned [Patron 1], if he didn't back away, that he was going to elbow him in the face. The two exchanged more words and [Nicholas] Brutcher elbowed [Patron 1] in the face. [Patron 1] said "it's now on" and to come outside. As they walked out, the two began fighting in the vestibule and at one point a handgun that was in a holster fell to the ground. [This turned out to be Patron 1's gun.] The fight continued into the parking lot. [Friend 1] reported that he picked up the gun so no one could use it and gave it to the bartender. [Friend 1] reported that when the police came, people started leaving. [Friend 1] reported that he believes that [Nicholas] Brutcher left in a truck with his brother Nathan Brutcher."

To view a video recording of the elbow incident inside Bleachers, click [here](#). To view a video recording of the confrontation near the front door, click [here](#) and [here](#). To view the confrontation in Bleacher's parking lot, click [here](#).

PHASE II: TRAFFIC STOP

Officer Monica Finkle

On October 12, 2022, at approximately 8:52 p.m., Officer Monica Finkle heard a call regarding a physical fight at Bleachers and advised Bristol Communications that she would respond. Officer Harrison Pollock also responded to Bleachers and, upon arrival, bystanders directed his attention to a white pickup truck leaving the parking lot. Officer Pollock reported that he intended to stop the vehicle.

Upon arrival at Bleachers, Officer Finkle went inside the bar and spoke with one of the parties in the altercation – Patron 1. Patron 1 stated that, because the other guy was drunk, he did not want to pursue criminal charges for the fight. Patron 1 declined medical attention and

stated that he was not injured. Officer Finkle advised Sergeant Eric Wethered that the party at Bleachers did not wish to file a criminal complaint. Officer Finkle then went to the location of Bayberry Drive and Surrey Drive where Officer Pollock had stopped the white pickup truck.

At the location of the stop, Officer Finkle noted that Officer Teague Soucy-Field, Sergeant Wethered, Officer Mark McGrane, and Officer Pollock were already on scene. The officers were with two males identified as Nicholas Brutcher and Nathan Brutcher. Both parties were highly agitated and making rude remarks to the officers on scene. Officer Finkle's report notes:

"Nicholas was making degrading remarks towards Ofc. Soucy-Field stating things along the lines of him being too young to do the job. Nicholas also stated something along the lines of him being [homophobic reference].

"Nicholas then began making degrading remarks towards Ofc. McGrane stating that Ofc. McGrane "sucks his dog's dick" and they only gave him a dog because he's small. Nicholas continued to make remarks in an obvious attempt to bait officers into an altercation. At one point, Nicholas got into Ofc. McGrane's face and continued to make rude remarks about his police dog.

"Nicholas then began stating how "we want it so bad" indicating that we wanted to engage in a physical altercation with him. Nicholas kept making comments stating that the officers were afraid of him due to the amount of police presence. Nicholas also at one point stated, "We want it like he's a [racial epithet] ..."

"Nicholas stated to this officer at one point that I probably never ever had a real black eye before."

After it was determined that the parties would need a ride home, Officer Finkle used Nathan Brutcher's phone to call Catrina Brutcher, Nathan Brutcher's mother, to come and pick them up. Upon Catrina Brutcher's arrival, she picked Nathan Brutcher up without incident. Nicholas Brutcher refused to get into Catrina Brutcher's vehicle. Both Nathan Brutcher and Nicholas Brutcher were issued infraction tickets. Nathan Brutcher received a ticket for operating a motor vehicle without a license and creating a public disturbance, and Nicholas Brutcher received one for creating a public disturbance. Nicholas Brutcher threw his ticket on the ground and refused to pick it up in front of the officers. In an effort to de-escalate the situation, Officer Finkle picked up the ticket and gave it to Nicholas Brutcher. Nicholas Brutcher left on foot. Later, Catrina Brutcher returned. She apologized to Officer Finkle for her son's behavior and indicated that she intended to pick Nicholas Brutcher up and bring him home.

Officer Harrison Pollock

While responding to Bleachers, Officer Pollock was directed to a white pickup truck exiting the parking lot. Officer Pollock followed the truck, stopping it at the intersection of Bayberry Drive and Surrey Drive. Officer Pollock identified the driver of the vehicle as Nathan Brutcher and the passenger as Nicholas Brutcher. They admitted being at Bleachers and getting into an altercation but did not want anything done about it. Both denied any need for medical attention. Nathan Brutcher admitted that his license had expired and stated that he was driving Nicholas Brutcher home because Nicholas Brutcher was intoxicated.

Since there was no complaint stemming from Bleachers, Officer Pollock assumed the investigation and proceeded to issue Nathan Brutcher an infraction for a license violation and made arrangements to have the truck towed. When Officer Pollock attempted to speak to Nathan Brutcher, Nicholas Brutcher became irate and disruptive. Officer Pollock requested to speak to Nathan Brutcher outside the vehicle. Nicholas Brutcher insisted on being present for the conversation and refused to stay in the vehicle. Ultimately, Nicholas Brutcher was allowed to sit on the tailgate of the truck while Officer Pollock spoke to Nathan Brutcher at the front of the vehicle. Officer Pollock explained that due to Nathan Brutcher's expired license and Nicholas Brutcher's intoxication, neither would be allowed to drive the vehicle and the vehicle was going to be towed.

Officer Pollock then proceeded to complete the paperwork for Nathan Brutcher's infraction ticket. During this time, both Nathan Brutcher and Nicholas Brutcher were verbally aggressive towards the police. They would yell and swear profanities including racist epithets. This caused residents of nearby homes to come outside to see what was happening. Due to the noise and disturbance caused by Nicholas Brutcher and Nathan Brutcher, Sergeant Wethered directed Officer Pollock to add a charge of creating a public disturbance to Nathan Brutcher's infraction and give Nicholas Brutcher an infraction ticket for the same violation.

Officer Pollock stopped the white work truck at 8:56 p.m. The events at the traffic stop lasted for approximately thirty-four minutes. Officer Pollock cleared the scene at 9:30 p.m.

Sergeant Eric Wethered

Sergeant Eric Wethered was the patrol sergeant on duty on October 12, 2022. Upon learning that officers had been dispatched to a physical altercation at Bleachers, he responded to that area. Upon arrival at the Bleachers parking lot, Officer Finkle informed Sergeant Wethered that she spoke with one party involved in the altercation who was still inside the bar. He was not injured and did not want to file criminal charges. While speaking to Officer Finkle, Officer Pollock called in a motor vehicle stop related to the Bleachers incident. Sergeant Wethered then responded to the location of the stop and was informed by Officer Pollock that

Nicholas Brutcher was involved in the altercation at Bleachers but was not injured and did not wish to file criminal charges and that the driver, Nathan Brutcher, had an expired driver's license. Sergeant Wethered also could hear both Nicholas Brutcher and Nathan Brutcher yelling at officers continuously. He decided that both should be charged with creating a public disturbance.

Sergeant Wethered also witnessed an incident between Nicholas Brutcher and Officer Mark McGrane that he described in his report as follows:

"I do not recall exactly when the incident occurred, but during Nicholas' yelling at the officers I observed him walk over to Ofc. McGrane. Nicholas walked up to Ofc. McGrane in an aggressive manner with his "Chest puffed out." During this encounter, I was about 30 yards away and was not able to see clearly what was happening. I am unsure what words were exchanged if any. Ofc. McGrane attempted to create distance from Nicholas by extending his arms placing his hands on Nicholas' chest and slightly pushing Nicholas away. Nicholas took about two steps back and then suddenly began to stumble for about 30 feet before what looked like him throwing himself to the ground. Nicholas got up immediately and walked back to Ofc. McGrane's direction. Ofc. McGrane and Nicholas laughed, shook hands and hugged."

Officer Mark McGrane

Officer Mark McGrane also responded to the location of the traffic stop. He noted that Nicholas Brutcher was making comments intended to antagonize officers on scene. Nicholas Brutcher made derogatory comments referencing penis size of officers, performance of fellatio on a K-9, and his pay rate compared to that of the officers, asserting that he made more money than the officers earned.

In connection with the pushing incident, Officer McGrane described it as follows:

"While discussing whether Nathan Brutcher would be "jammed up" for his behavior, Nicholas Brutcher became more agitated and began to approach me in a belligerent manner. Nicholas seemed to be very agitated to the point I thought [h]e might want to harm us based on his body language and verbal attacks. I considered the movement toward me to be [in] a very quick and aggressive manner. Based on his verbal attack on myself and other officers, I believed he may have wanted to cause me harm. As Nicholas got about a few feet from me, I closed the distance and used two open hands to make contact with his upper body in an attempt to create distance so that I could reassess the situation. Nicholas moved back a few feet before becoming very dramatic and falling into a grassy area in a yard. I believe this was for dramatic effect, because he seemed to be laughing as he fell to the ground. He then jumped up as if nothing had ever happened. We then embraced each other [for] a quick second. I did not take

the embrace as a threat because at that point [he] was laughing and not presenting a threat to me.”

Skytop Motors

Skytop Motors towed Nicholas Brutcher’s work truck away from the scene of the traffic stop. The driver of the Skytop tow truck told detectives that he had a brief interaction with Nicholas Brutcher that was captured on the tow truck’s video recorder.

In the video, Nicholas Brutcher is seen approaching the truck. He speaks with the driver from the passenger side of the vehicle and states that he needs to pick the truck up from him. The driver tells him that there was a 48 hour hold on the truck. Nicholas Brutcher then responds, “No, there isn’t,” and that he would see him in the morning.

To view this portion of the truck camera video, click [here](#).

Digital Evidence of Traffic Stop

In their reports, each of the officers at the scene of the traffic stop refer to Nicholas Brutcher’s vulgar and disparaging comments. While accurate, their descriptions do not fully capture: (1) the degree of Nicholas Brutcher’s disrespect, (2) his provocation of the officers, and (3) the officers’ interaction with him. The best evidence of what happened can be gleaned from review of the body-worn camera recordings and dashboard camera recordings.

Officer Pollock Motor Vehicle Recorder (MVR), click [here](#).

Officer Soucy-Field Body-Worn Camera (BWC), click [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Officer Pollock MVR, click [here](#).

Officer Finkle BWC, click [here](#).

Officer Soucy-Field BWC, click [here](#).

PHASE III: 911 CALL

The following is a transcription of a call that Nicholas Brutcher (N.B.) placed to the Bristol 911 Communications (Dispatch) on October 12, 2022, at 10:32 p.m.:

Dispatch: Bristol 911. What is the address of the emergency?

N.B.: It’s, ah, three one zero Redstone Hill Road. Um, your officers, your officers had an altercation with a man earlier tonight and ... I don’t know if he’s good.

Dispatch: Yeah I did. Okay what's the emergency at 310 Redstone Hill Road?

N.B.: I don't know. It ... it ... it's just not, it's not good.

Dispatch: Okay. What's your name?

N.B.: Nicholas.

Dispatch: Nicholas. What's your last name?

N.B.: It's B-R-U-T-C-H-E-R

Dispatch: Okay. You called 911.

N.B.: Yes sir.

Dispatch: What's the emergency at 310 Redstone Hill Road?

N.B.: It ... I don't know if it's necessarily an emergency, but it really does ...

Dispatch: Okay. I, we did shift change. I have no idea what you're talking about. You called 911, what is the emergency?

N.B.: Yes sir. Ah, it's ... I can't even say if it really is an emergency. I just think that this young man needs some talking to.

Dispatch: What young man?

N.B.: Nathan.

Dispatch: Nathan what?

N.B.: Brut ... same last name.

Dispatch: Okay, where is he?

N.B.: He's in the home.

Dispatch: He's at your house at 310 Redstone Hill Road?

N.B.: Yeah ... it's, it's not very good ... I mean nothing violent.

Dispatch: Who is he in relation to you?

N.B.: My brother.

Dispatch: Your brother. Okay, what, what's going on?

N.B.: I ... like we, we got into an altercation with, with patrol officers earlier on in the night and he's just carrying on about it so.

Dispatch: Okay, where was the altercation?

N.B.: Ummm, I, I couldn't tell you the road, it was, it was, it had to do with some with stuff from, with, from Bleachers.

Dispatch: Okay. What's he doing right now that prompted you to call 911?

N.B.: He's just being very, like, aggressive.

Dispatch: Towards who?

N.B.: I mean anybody, anybody that he had come in contact with.

Dispatch: Okay, who else is at the house?

N.B.: It, it's, it's just him and myself.

Dispatch: Okay, what's he doing now? I mean, you say anybody he's come in contact with. You're the only one he's coming in contact with if it's just the two of you, so what ...

N.B.: No. I mean like, like, I, I, I don't want to fight my brother, he's just being very aggressive toward me at the current time. I, I don't want to get him in trouble.

Dispatch: Okay, how old is Nathan?

N.B.: Um, I want to say twenty-five.

Dispatch: Any weapons?

N.B.: No⁴

Dispatch: Was he, has he been violent at all, any physical?

N.B.: I mean a little bit physical, but ...

Dispatch: How? In what way?

N.B.: I mean just like how men get physical with each other when they're all upset and such.

Dispatch: Okay, so he was pushing you. I don't want to put words in your mouth, but can you tell me, was he pushing you around, did he punch you, did he tackle you, ah, I mean ...

N.B.: No, no, no I didn't get, I didn't get punched, but yeah definitely, definitely pushed and like, like him saying this is, this is coming off a previous ...

Dispatch: Okay, is he intoxicated right now?

N.B.: Yes.

Dispatch: Okay, and, and I'm gonna say, have you been drinking too?

N.B.: No.

Dispatch: Okay, alright, listen we're gonna have an officer come over and see you guys, okay?

N.B.: Alright, I appreciate you ...

Dispatch: Alright, thank you.

N.B.: Thank you.

----- . -----
At 10:38 p.m., the following communication went out from dispatch:

Dispatch: Five and Six, 310 Redstone Hill Road on a 1911. Brothers 214. They're, uh, arguing, one of them is being a little more aggressive, pushing around the complainant.

To hear the 911 call and subsequent dispatch, click [here](#) and [here](#).

⁴ There were multiple weapons at 310 Redstone Hill Road. Bristol Communications advised the responding officers that Nicholas Brutcher had numerous registered firearms.

PHASE IV: AMBUSH AT 310 REDSTONE HILL ROAD

Pursuant to the dispatch from Bristol Communications, Officer Hamzy, Officer Iurato, and Sergeant DeMonte responded to 310 Redstone Hill Road. Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte parked their police cruisers directly in front of the house on the south side of Redstone Hill Road facing east. Officer Iurato parked his cruiser on the north side of the street facing west. All three officers exited their cruisers and walked up the driveway to the side door of the house. As they approached the driveway, Officer Hamzy mentioned, "I went to school with this kid."

Unbeknownst to the officers, Nicholas Brutcher had hidden himself near some bushes at the front of the house next door. This house, 328 Redstone Hill Road, was the home of Brutcher's parents, Joseph and Catrina Brutcher. Nicholas Brutcher was outfitted with a camouflage shirt and pants as well as a camouflage vest. He was armed with an AR-15-style rifle and at least one handgun. He also had several magazines of ammunition. From this position, Nicholas Brutcher had a direct line of sight on the officers as they walked up the driveway.

The house at 310 Redstone Hill Road has a detached garage. An open breezeway connects the house and garage. As the officers approached the house, they observed a shotgun leaning against the garage. Officer Hamzy examined the shotgun. Nathan Brutcher was inside the house and appeared in the doorway. Officer Iurato ordered him to come outside. As he exited the house, Nathan Brutcher said, "I don't even have my phone."

At that moment, from his position on the neighboring property, Nicholas Brutcher unleashed a volley of gunshots. He fired these rounds from the AR-15-style rifle. All three officers were hit, as was Nathan Brutcher. Officer Hamzy fell first. Nathan Brutcher retreated into the house. Sergeant DeMonte proceeded through the breezeway into the rear yard and saw Joseph Brutcher. He then returned to the driveway and toward Officer Hamzy where he collapsed onto the pavement. Officer Iurato, who was struck in the upper right leg area, also moved away through the breezeway to the rear yard. Nicholas Brutcher emerged from his position next door and approached the fallen officers.

Nicholas Brutcher walked to the driveway and toward Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte. Nicholas Brutcher's parents, who had come outside and in the rear yard of their home, saw what happened next. Nicholas Brutcher proceeded to stand over each officer and fire multiple shots into them – first Sergeant DeMonte and then Officer Hamzy. Upon seeing this, Catrina Brutcher began to scream uncontrollably for Nicholas Brutcher to stop. At one point, Nicholas Brutcher's AR-15 stopped firing (he had incorrectly inserted the magazine) and he switched to a handgun and continued firing. During this time, Nicholas Brutcher yelled, "How proud are you of me? How proud?"

Officer Iurato moved along the back of the house emerging in the yard of the house on the west side of 310 Redstone Hill Road. He radioed for assistance and continued moving until he reached the police cruisers parked on Redstone Hill Road. Officer Iurato heard sounds indicating that Nicholas Brutcher was attempting to load a firearm. From his position, Officer Iurato could see Nicholas Brutcher who was still in the driveway in front of the garage. Bracing himself against Officer Hamzy's cruiser, Officer Iurato fired one shot striking Nicholas Brutcher at the base of his skull killing him.

Officer Iurato provided investigators with a written statement regarding his actions. The statement is printed in full in the [appendix](#).

BODY WORN CAMERA EVIDENCE⁵

Officer Alec Iurato

The BWC recording starts as Officer Iurato exits his patrol vehicle and walks toward the driveway of 310 Redstone Hill Road. Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte have already arrived. Officer Hamzy walks up the driveway first, followed by Sergeant DeMonte and then Officer Iurato. The exterior garage light is on, illuminating the upper portion of the driveway. There are lights on inside the house. A hand truck is laying down on the driveway pavement in front of the garage.

As Officer Hamzy approaches the garage, he shines his flashlight on a shotgun leaning against the garage wall. Officer Hamzy picks up the shotgun and inspects it. Moments later, Nathan Brutcher opens the side door.

Officer Iurato: Stop. Show me your hands.

Nathan: (Nathan Brutcher puts up his hands) I don't even have my phone.

Officer Iurato: Come out here.

Nathan: I don't even have my phone.

Officer Iurato: Come out here, right now.

Nathan: Okay.

Officer Iurato: Come out here, right now.

⁵ As is evident from the description of what happened, the body-worn camera recordings from the three officers are graphic. As to the BWCs of Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte, I have made the determination that making them part of a public report would be a serious invasion of their privacy and the privacy of their families. See General Statutes §29-6d(g)(2)(B)(ii) (No record created by BWC that involves a scene of a homicide need be disclosed if such disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy). While a written description is provided for all three recordings, only the recording from Officer Iurato's BWC is included in this report.

Nathan Brutcher steps out of the doorway and starts to close the door. At this moment, gunfire erupts. Many shots are fired. A woman's voice (Catrina Brutcher) is heard screaming.

Officer Iurato walks (unsteadily) into the rear yard. He radios, "Shots fired." A second volley of gunshots is now heard. Officer Iurato moves to the front yard of 300 Redstone Hill Road and makes a second radio transmission, "Shots fired, shots fired. More cars, send everyone." After a few seconds, he radios, "Officer shot, officer shot." In the background, Catrina Brutcher continues to scream, "No, no."

Officer Iurato continues moving. He stops near a tree in the front yard of 300 Redstone Hill Road. He is in obvious distress. He shines his flashlight, and the base of the tree is illuminated. A single gunshot is heard. Officer Iurato moves toward Redstone Hill Road and another volley of gunshots is heard. He makes his way to the rear of Sergeant DeMonte's police vehicle. The gunfire continues, and Catrina Brutcher continues screaming.

Officer Iurato moves forward to Officer Hamzy's police vehicle. He places his left hand on the vehicle's door handle to steady himself. Catrina Brutcher continues to scream. A male voice (Nicholas Brutcher) is heard, "How proud ..." Officer Iurato leans over the windshield of the police vehicle and takes aim toward the garage. His face can be seen reflected in the driver's side window. He fires one shot. While he walks to the driveway, Catrina Brutcher continues to scream, "No, no, no."

Officer Iurato walks up the driveway. He radios, "One down." Bodies are seen lying in the driveway. Bristol officers now arrive, including Officer Harrison Pollock. Officer Pollock proceeds past Officer Iurato up the driveway and views the scene.

Officer Pollock: Oh my God. Who else, was anyone else shooting? Were you hit?

Officer Iurato: My leg.

Officer Pollock: Get down.

Officer Pollock escorts Officer Iurato down the driveway to the street. More Bristol police vehicles are arriving.

To review this portion of Officer Iurato's body worn camera recording, click [here](#).

Officer Alex Hamzy

The recording begins with Officer Hamzy exiting his police vehicle and walking toward the driveway of 310 Redstone Hill Road. While walking, he turns to Sergeant DeMonte,

Officer Hamzy: I went to school with this kid.

Sergeant DeMonte: The caller or the other one?

Officer Hamzy: The caller, Nick.

Officer Hamzy walks toward the driveway. Lights are on inside the house and the exterior garage light is on. Officer Hamzy proceeds up the driveway toward the garage. He shines his flashlight on a shotgun leaning against the side of the garage. Officer Hamzy picks up the shotgun and checks it. Officer Iurato and Sergeant DeMonte are near the side door. Nathan Brutcher is standing in the doorway.

Officer Iurato: Come out, right now.

At this point gunfire erupts and many shots are heard. Officer Hamzy falls landing face up directly under the exterior light on the garage. Katrina Brutcher's screaming is heard in the background.

Radio: Shots fired.

Another volley of shots is heard.

Radio: Shots fired, shots fired.

After this radio broadcast, Nicholas Brutcher is heard saying:

Nicholas Brutcher: Shots fired motherfucker. Shots fired motherfucker.

Radio: Officer shot. Officer shot.

At this point, Nicholas Brutcher's father, Joseph Brutcher, yells:

Joseph Brutcher: No, don't you fuckin do it. Don't you fuckin do it!

Nicholas Brutcher: Get the fuck away from me.

A sound is heard that could be the malfunctioning of Nicholas Brutcher's gun.

Nicholas Brutcher: Oh, you lucky motherfucker. You lucky motherfucker.

Joseph Brutcher says something in the background.

Nicholas Brutcher is seen standing over Officer Hamzy.

Nicholas Brutcher: You, Alex Hamzy, I'm not going to kill you. I'm not going to kill you.

As Nicholas Brutcher continues to stand over Officer Hamzy, he uses a handgun to fire multiple shots at him.

Joseph Brutcher: What the fuck!

Brutcher: Yeah ... How proud are you of me? How proud?

Catrina Brutcher: Oh my God. Oh God!

The sound of a gun being manipulated can be heard.

Joseph Brutcher: Nick, stop!

A single shot is heard and Nicholas Brutcher falls.

Joseph Brutcher: He's dead.

Catrina Brutcher: No, no, ah, ah ... let me breathe, let me breathe.

Joseph Brutcher: He's done.

Catrina Brutcher: Oh God.

At this point Officer Iurato broadcasts, "One down, subject down." A few seconds later, the voice of Officer Pollock can be heard.

Sergeant Dustin DeMonte

The recording starts with Sergeant DeMonte arriving at 310 Redstone Hill Road. He parks behind Officer Hamzy's police vehicle. Sergeant DeMonte exits his vehicle and walks toward the driveway to the house. Officer Hamzy is walking in front and mentions that he went to school with the caller, Nick. At the bottom of the driveway, Officer Iurato joins Sergeant DeMonte.

They walk toward the side door of the house. Officer Hamzy shines his flashlight against the side of the garage. He picks up a shotgun. Sergeant DeMonte moves to the area of the driveway near the side door. Nathan Brutcher opens the door and starts to walk out.

Officer Iurato: Hey, stop. Show me your hands.

Nathan Brutcher: (Puts up his hands) I don't even have my phone.

Officer Iurato: Come out here.

Nathan Brutcher: I don't even have my phone.

Officer Iurato: Come out here right now.

Nathan Brutcher: Okay.

Officer Iurato: Come out here right now.

At this moment, gunfire erupts. Many shots are heard. Nathan Brutcher retreats into the house. Sergeant DeMonte makes his way through the breezeway connecting the garage to the house and into the rear yard. As he turns toward the east, Joseph Brutcher emerges. His hands are raised, and he is not wearing a shirt.

Sergeant DeMonte (into radio): Shots fired. Shots fired.

Joseph Brutcher approaches. Sergeant DeMonte points his handgun and orders him to put his hands up. Joseph Brutcher continues to hold his hands up.

Sergeant DeMonte: Get down.

Sergeant DeMonte turns back moving toward the driveway to 310 Redstone Hill Road. He radios,

Get an ambulance ... an ambulance

As Sergeant DeMonte reaches the driveway, another volley of gunshots can be heard, and he falls. Throughout all of this, Catrina Brutcher is heard screaming and wailing in the background.

Radio: Shots fired. Shots fired.

Nicholas Brutcher is now near both Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte who have collapsed on the driveway.

Joseph Brutcher: No, don't you fuckin do it. Don't you fuckin do it!

Nicholas Brutcher: Get the fuck away from me.

A sound is heard suggesting that Nicholas Brutcher is having difficulty with his firearm.

Nicholas Brutcher: You lucky mother-fucker. You lucky motherfucker.

Catrina Brutcher: No, Oh my God.

Nicholas Brutcher at this point fires one shot that strikes Sergeant DeMonte. He then moves to the spot where Officer Hamzy has fallen.

Nicholas Brutcher: You, Alex Hamzy. I'm not going to kill you. I'm not going to kill you.

Nicholas Brutcher, standing over Officer Hamzy, then proceeds to fire many shots at him. Sounds of screaming and wailing are heard in the background.

Joseph Brutcher: What the fuck!

Nicholas Brutcher: Yeah ... How proud are you of me? How proud?

Catrina Brutcher: Oh my God. Oh God.

Sounds are heard suggesting that Nicholas Brutcher is manipulating his gun. At this point, one loud shot is heard followed by the sound of a gun dropping to the driveway.

Catrina Brutcher: No, no. Oh, oh ... let me breathe, let me breathe.

Joseph Brutcher: He's down.

Officer Iurato: One down, one suspect down.

A few moments later, Officer Pollock's voice is heard and, shortly thereafter, the sounds of the other Bristol officers responding.

STATEMENTS

Catrina Brutcher

Inspectors interviewed Catrina Brutcher twice. First, during the early morning hours of October 13, 2022, and again on October 18, 2022. Catrina Brutcher is the mother of Nicholas and Nathan Brutcher. The following is a summary of her oral statements regarding the events of October 12, 2022.

Around 7:30 p.m., Nicholas Brutcher and Nathan Brutcher went to her house.⁶ They were heading out to a local bar where Nicholas Brutcher planned to do standup comedy. They wanted to borrow some of their father's cologne. Catrina Brutcher could tell that both had been drinking. She was aware that Nicholas Brutcher's drinking had increased over the past months. He would buy sleeves of nips and sometimes consume an entire sleeve and buy more. They left, and Catrina Brutcher fell asleep.

⁶ The house that she and her husband, Joseph Brutcher, rented at 328 Redstone Hill Road was directly next door to Nicholas Brutcher's house at 310 Redstone Hill Road.

Sometime around 9:00 p.m., the phone rang. It was a Bristol police officer who said, “We’ve got your sons pulled over. They are drunk and can’t drive. Could you come and get them.”

Catrina Brutcher drove to the location of the traffic stop. She got Nathan Brutcher into her car, but Nicholas Brutcher refused to get in. He was standing very close to a Bristol police officer and being confrontational. In her 10/13/22 interview, Catrina Brutcher described her reaction in these words:

“I said, You’re embarrassing me, Nick. You know our name in Bristol means a lot to us as a family. We’ve lived here all of our lives, raised all you kids here, you know. He (Brutcher) knows that, what it means to us, your character, you know ... So he shut up and backed up.”

In her 10/18/22 interview, Catrina Brutcher described this encounter as follows:

“Like I said, when I left him there with the officers he was going toe-to-toe with one of them, I was embarrassed and I told him that. I said, “Nick you’re embarrassing your family; you’re embarrassing our name. I will be back to pick you up in a few minutes. Step the fuck back!”

Catrina Brutcher drove Nathan Brutcher away from the location of the traffic stop and toward their home. When they passed Bleachers, Nathan Brutcher mentioned that Nicholas Brutcher had gotten into a fight. She dropped Nathan Brutcher off at 310 Redstone Hill Road and returned to the site of the traffic stop to pick up Nicholas Brutcher. Nathan Brutcher had left his cell phone in her car.

She picked up Nicholas Brutcher and drove him home. He sarcastically told her that he was sorry, “Soorrey Mom.” When she mentioned that he was lucky that the police only gave him a ticket, he replied, “I don’t give a shit.” They arrived home around 9:30 p.m.⁷ Nicholas Brutcher was talking to her about what happened and venting about “loudmouth this and loudmouth that.” Catrina Brutcher said, “Listen, I’m ready for bed. I don’t want to hear any more.” Nicholas Brutcher got out of her car and said, “Good night, Mom. I love you.” She went upstairs and got into bed with her husband. They discussed the situation with their sons, particularly their drinking.

⁷ During this ride, Nicholas Brutcher also had a conversation with Woman 1, his girlfriend who lived in Pennsylvania. When interviewed after the incident, Woman 1 told investigators that she had been in a six-month long-distance relationship with Nicholas Brutcher. The analysis of Nicholas Brutcher’s phone data casts some light on the nature of their relationship. See infra.

Feeling uneasy, Catrina Brutcher decided to go downstairs and smoke a cigarette and make sure everything was okay. When she got outside, Nathan Brutcher was there. She described her encounter with Nathan Brutcher as follows:

“When I got out there, Nathan said, Mom, Nick is putting on his armor, whatever if that’s what you call it, putting on his armor and his fatigues and he’s calling the cops and telling them to come back here. I was like: What the hell are you talking about.”

Catrina said that she did not think that Nicholas Brutcher would do that. So, she sent Nathan Brutcher back to Nicholas Brutcher’s house to go to sleep. She went back to her bedroom. After some time upstairs, Catrina Brutcher decided to come downstairs and go outside a second time. She attributed this to her intuition that something was not right. In her October 18, 2022, interview, she described what happened next.

Q: So, you come down to have a cigarette and your husband joins you this second time?

Catrina: Oh, yeah.

O: Okay, what made him come down?

Catrina: His intuition?

Q: You guys felt something wasn’t right?

Catrina: I did.

Q: Okay. And your husband felt something wasn’t right then came down with you?

Catrina: I don’t know; you have to ask him because I don’t know.

Q: Alright, you guys are having a cigarette. How long do you think ...

Catrina: No, we didn’t get to light. I mean, I lit mine, but he went to light his ... and the shit, we heard firing.

Q: Okay.

Catrina: Heard gunshots.

Q: Got it.

Catrina: And we ran right to the front.

Q: Yep, we ... you run to the front. Where do you see Nick, that, that you remember?

Catrina: At that point.

Q: Yeah.

Catrina: Come down my front lawn with his AR rifle, and I believe I saw him go from this (gesturing her forearm perpendicular to the ground) to this (gesturing her forearm parallel to the ground).

And I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I couldn't believe it, what I was seeing, because he was just going back and forth (gesturing side to side) and it didn't seem real to me. I didn't, I didn't think that it was real, that's ... and I was screaming, "Nick stop, stop, stop."

Q: That's

Catrina: That's when he did what he did to the officers, stood over them and did what he did. I probably lost my mind.

In her October 13, 2022, interview, Katrina, in part, described her observations when she went outside the second time:

Catrina: [Crying] I was screaming. I don't think I ever screamed like that before in my life. My son walked over to one of the officers that was down and just shot him point blank in his head. [crying]. I was just screaming at him to stop.

He said something about being embarrassed. And I don't know if it was about what I said earlier – "Don't embarrass yourself" – I think I said that to him when I was picking him up: "Just come on, you have lots of friends on the force and that you know in Bristol." He didn't hear anything that I was saying. He went over and ... did the other one, the same thing again.

Flashes, I just saw flashes.

When inspectors asked Katrina if there was anything that she thought was important that they did not ask her, she replied:

"I, I mean I ... I wish I had spent more time in the car listening to him just babble cause apparently that's what he needed. Cause by himself he was dangerous ... and I didn't realize that."

Joseph Brutcher

Joseph Brutcher was interviewed during the early morning hours of October 13, 2022, and again on October 18, 2022. His description of the events that occurred during the evening hours of October 12, 2022, was largely consistent with that of his wife, Catrina Brutcher. In response to a question about the timeline for events, he told inspectors that a little after 9:00 p.m., Catrina left to pick up Nicholas Brutcher and Nathan Brutcher. She returned at approximately 9:35 to 9:40 p.m. Joseph Brutcher went outside at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Joseph Brutcher related his observations as follows:

Q: So, when's the first time you saw Nick?

Joseph: The first time I saw Nick he was in the driveway over, basically, over the cops ... When I saw the cops fall, I ran back toward my wife to grab her ... And, when I turned around again, Nick's in the driveway.

Q: Did you see Nick shoot at the cops. Do you remember that or not?

Joseph: No, no, not to make them fall. Just when he was standing over them.

Q: You see them fall. You just see them come up the driveway?

Joseph: They fall. I turned around to go to my wife. I turn around again and Nick's there.

Q: Okay. What happened from there?

Joseph: He fuckin unloaded.

Q: On one cop or both?

Joseph: You know what, I remember one. I remember one. I think both though because that, when he did that, I ran to my wife and ... tried to protect her from seeing it. Just grabbed her and put her head on my shoulder.

Q: And do you remember how Nick gets shot?

Joseph: Um, I believe he took his own life. I didn't see it. I saw him fall and never move. He had a pistol ... he had a pistol in his hand by that time because when he was over with the AR, he either unloaded it or it jammed. He set it down, pulled out his pistol, and then I think he did the second cop.

Yeah ... that's what I remember.

Joseph stated that he yelled at Nicholas Brutcher to stop, but Nicholas Brutcher never acknowledged either Joseph Brutcher or Catrina Brutcher. Joseph Brutcher said, "He was in a trance-type thing."

Investigators asked Joseph Brutcher about Nicholas Brutcher's reaction to his divorce.

Q: Was he recently divorced?

Joseph: Yeah.

Q: Okay.

Joseph: Um, couple of years now.

Q: He took it pretty hard?

Joseph: He took his ex-wife getting pregnant by his best friend harder.

Q: That's tough, that's tough. I'm not going to say it's not. Your wife said his ex-wife was having her baby today?

Joseph: Today, she's getting induced today.

Q: Do you think that that had something to do with ...

Joseph: That's a stressor.

Q: his stress level today?

...

Joseph: I, I thought he was doing real good because when he first found out that, that his ex-wife was pregnant with his best friend, but they were dating before Nick and his ex-wife were even together. And then after they got divorced, those two hooked back up. Nick really took that hard especially when he found out she was pregnant. He was having ... he might have some suicidal thoughts at that point ... some homicidal thoughts toward him and her.

Q: He expressed it verbally?

Joseph: Yes.

Q: He had expressed ... the type of thing that ...

Joseph: Yes, when he was drunk, only when he was ... he would get hammered and say, "I'm going to fuckin kill him."

...

I'm going to kill his whole blood line, he said at one point. But I thought it was just drunken babble.

When asked if Nicholas Brutcher was a member of any militia groups, hate groups, or anything like that, Joseph responded:

"Not anti, no I mean he just had ... mild anti-government and authoritative issues."

During the second interview, Joseph Brutcher initially denied any knowledge that Nathan Brutcher had told Catrina Brutcher that Nicholas Brutcher was dressing up in body armor and calling the police. After close questioning, Joseph Brutcher ultimately admitted that Catrina Brutcher told him those things. He said after his wife came upstairs and told him that, he laid in bed for ten minutes. Joseph Brutcher described his thinking as follows:

"I was getting up to do something, but it was too late. I waited too long. I didn't think anything like this could ever happen ... I waited in bed ... not another drunken night. I'm sick of this drunken bullshit with Nick. He's been drinking his ass off. I was just sick of it. Living next door to it. Okay, so I drag my feet to get down there ... never believed that the cops were called."

Joseph Brutcher expressed extreme guilt that he had not acted to stop what happened:

"It's my fault!"

Throughout the second interview Joseph Brutcher insisted that Nathan Brutcher was innocent and had nothing to do with the shootings. He attributed Nathan Brutcher's flawed memory of what happened to his consumption of a Xanax bar and possibly post-traumatic stress. Joseph Brutcher accepted Nathan Brutcher's statement that he did not remember and did not discuss what happened with him.

Nathan Brutcher

Nicholas Brutcher's gunfire directed at the police officers also struck Nathan Brutcher. He sustained gunshot wounds to his right lateral thigh and left inner knee. He was taken to

Saint Francis Hospital and admitted for treatment on October 12, 2022, at 11:34 p.m. After receiving treatment, he was discharged two days later on October 14, 2022. A toxicology screen showed an ethanol level of 153 (0.153 g/100ml). The hospital did not test for benzodiazepines such as alprazolam (Xanax).

Inspectors interviewed Nathan Brutcher on October 14, 2022, following his release from the hospital and again on October 18, 2022. In both interviews, Nathan Brutcher gave essentially the same account of his recollection of the events surrounding the shooting.

Nathan Brutcher described the incident at Bleachers and the problem between Nicholas Brutcher and a guy there. Nathan Brutcher said that he drove away from Bleachers in Nicholas Brutcher's work truck and was pulled over by an officer. He said that he ate a full bar of Xanax when the police pulled him over. He recalled eight police officers at the scene of the stop and his brother bickering with the police. He received a ticket. When his mother, Catrina Brutcher, picked him up, he was starting to feel the effect of the Xanax.

Nathan Brutcher said that he went to his brother's house on Redstone Hill Road and laid down on a couch. He put a movie on. He believed that Nicolas Brutcher was with him. He passed out and woke up when he heard gunshots. Nathan Brutcher said that, as he walked down the hallway, he caught two shots in his legs. Nathan Brutcher did not recall being at the kitchen door and being asked to come out by an officer. After being shot, he claimed that he hid in his niece's room.

During the second interview, inspectors confronted Nathan with items of evidence in an effort to test his story. They played a recording of the 911 call for him. He identified the voice on the call as his brother Nicholas Brutcher. Nathan Brutcher denied being with Nicholas Brutcher when he made the call. He said that he had no idea that his brother was going to make a call. The inspectors then confronted Nathan Brutcher with Catrina Brutcher's video statement in which she states that Nathan Brutcher told her: "Nick is putting on his armor and calling the cops and telling them to come back." Nathan Brutcher claimed that he was asleep and had no clue what his brother was going to do. Inspectors played that portion of the mother's interview a second time. Nathan Brutcher persisted in asserting a lack of recollection: "I don't remember anything except getting woken up by gunfire ... I swear."

Inspectors also showed Nathan Brutcher body-worn camera video of him standing in the doorway before the discharge of any gunshots. Nathan Brutcher repeatedly asserted a lack of memory of this happening. He again mentioned that he had taken Xanax. Despite being confronted with this evidence that was inconsistent with his account of what happened, Nathan Brutcher did not waver from his claim of lack of recollection. When the inspectors expressed skepticism about this memory lapse, Nathan responded: "I'm being as truthful as I know to be true."

Tesla Driver

After the incident, the driver of a Tesla automobile informed the Bristol police department that he was driving his car on Redstone Hill Road as the shooting was happening and the Tesla's cameras may have recorded video of the incident. CDMCS detectives interviewed the driver who stated:

“On October 12th, 2022, at approximately 10:20 in the evening, I left Tunxis Field in the City of Farmington after playing two softball games. I was in the vehicle alone as I made a right turn onto Redstone Hill Road in the City of Bristol from Birch Street. As I was passing the Citgo gas station, I heard what sounded like three or four gunshots. I continued to drive down Redstone Hill and noticed two police cars, one on each side of the road. I questioned if they were gunshots after I saw the police cars. I looked to my left and observed a silhouette of a person, who looked like they were standing on a porch. I was unable to see what they were wearing or what they looked like. The person appeared to be holding a large gun that was pointed at a forty-five-degree angle at the sky. The gun appeared to have a shoulder sling hanging down from the rifle. As I passed by, I then noticed another police car parked behind the one parked on the south side of Redstone Hill Road. I did not observe any other people outside or police officers. I did not hear anything suspicious such as people screaming. I continued down Redstone Hill Road where I made a right turn onto Emmett Street. Prior to turning into my condo complex, I heard the sound of emergency sirens. I arrived home at approximately 10:45 p.m. I continued to hear sirens once I was in my condo.”

To review the relevant portion of the Tesla's forward-facing exterior camera, click [here](#).

Norberto Rodriguez

On October 13, 2022, both the *New York Times* and *Hartford Courant* published articles about the shootings. Both articles quoted a person identified as “Norberto Rodriguez” in the *New York Times* article and “Anthony Rodriguez” in the *Hartford Courant* article. Rodriguez lived in the apartment complex across the street from 310 Redstone Hill Road. He claimed to have witnessed the incident. Among other things, he told both newspapers that the first officer was shot before he even exited his police car and that the other two seemed to be hit while running to take cover and return fire.

On October 17, 2022, OIG Chief Inspector James Viadero and OIG Inspector William Brevard conducted a canvass of residents on Redstone Hill Road to determine if any persons had information that was relevant to the investigation. They went to 279 Redstone Hill Road, Apt. #56 and spoke to “Roberto D. Rodriguez.” Rodriguez stated that his Ring doorbell camera captured audio of the shots, but he had no other pertinent information.

On April 24, 2023, a CDMCS detective contacted “Roberto Rodriguez” at the phone number provided by Chief Viadero. The person who answered confirmed that he was Norberto Rodriguez. When asked if he had told Chief Viadero what he observed, he said that he did not because it was a short conversation. During the phone interview, Rodriguez described to the detective his observations on October 12, 2022. His description contradicted the account reported in the newspaper articles. Following the phone call, the detective attempted to meet Rodriguez to take a written statement. Between May 8, 2023, and May 25, 2023, the detective attempted to contact Rodriguez by phone ten times, by text three times, and made a visit to his apartment. All these efforts were unsuccessful.⁸

Rodriguez’s statements to the media were inconsistent with each other and inconsistent with the facts established by the investigation. The officers were not shot near their police cruisers. Moreover, his failure to report any of his observations to Chief Viadero during the neighborhood canvass, along with his refusal to cooperate with the detective’s efforts to obtain a written statement, raise serious questions about the accuracy of his account of what happened.

SCENE /FORENSICS

Following the incident, CDMCS detectives responded to 310 Redstone Hill Road. They processed and documented the scene. Detectives took photographs, seized evidence, and transported seized evidence to their Division of Scientific Services for forensic analysis.

Scene

Detectives processed the scene of the shooting at 310 Redstone Hill Road, Bristol, on October 13, 2022, from approximately 2:00 a.m. to 7:34 p.m. They noted that Redstone Hill Road runs generally in an east – west direction.

310 Redstone Hill Road

The house was approximately forty feet off the south side of the roadway. It was a one-story single-family residence. The front of the house faced north toward Redstone Hill Road. A driveway to the east of the residence leads to a one-car garage. An open breezeway attached the garage to the east side of the house. A white door opened into the kitchen. At the time of the shooting, the garage door was closed. It was opened during a security sweep of the premises.

⁸ If the Office of Inspector General had full investigative subpoena power, I would have used such authority to examine Rodriguez under oath.

Detectives noted twenty-one defects in the garage door consistent with bullet strikes. On the east side of the residence, were eighteen defects consistent with bullet strikes.

Officer Hamzy

Officer Hamzy was found lying in a supine position in the driveway east of the breezeway. He had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his head and face. A loaded Glock 45 handgun was underneath his right leg. Adjacent to his left knee was an empty twenty-seven round Glock 9mm magazine. Surrounding Officer Hamzy were twenty-one 9mm expended shell casings, one shotgun shell, and ten deformed bullet projectiles.

Nicholas Brutcher

Nicholas Brutcher was lying on his left side in the driveway north of the eastern corner of the garage. He had sustained a gunshot wound to the base of his neck. In the driveway, was a Glock 17 handgun with no magazine and no bullet in the chamber. To the east of Nicholas Brutcher, was a seventeen round Glock magazine loaded with fifteen rounds, a camouflage magazine pouch containing one AR style magazine with twenty-eight rounds of 5.56 ammunition. Northeast of his body was a 5.56 AR-15 style Stag Arms rifle with a magazine inserted upside down.

Sergeant DeMonte

North of Officer Hamzy was a large pool of blood-like substances (BLS) believed to be the location of Sergeant DeMonte prior to Bristol officers transporting him to the hospital. West of the BLS pool, detectives located a fully loaded Glock 45 9mm handgun.

Driveway

Throughout the driveway detectives located multiple 9mm expended shell casings and deformed bullet-like projectiles. Leaning against the northeast side of the garage was a Mossberg 930 semiautomatic shotgun loaded with seven 12-gauge shells. A single shotgun shell was found near Officer Hamzy's right arm. Review of the body worn camera recordings showed Officer Hamzy handling the shotgun and ejecting a shell from the chamber.

Vehicles

Officer Hamzy's police vehicle (#6) was parked facing east on the eastbound shoulder of Redstone Hill Road between 300 and 310 Redstone Hill Road. Sergeant DeMonte's police vehicle (#11) was directly behind Officer Hamzy. Detectives located one 9mm Luger expended shell casing between the curb and Sergeant DeMonte's vehicle. Officer Iurato's police vehicle

(#5) faced west on the westbound shoulder of Redstone Hill Road across from 328 Redstone Hill Road.

Garage

Detectives located a gun safe inside the garage. Seven firearms were seized from the safe.

Interior of 310 Redstone Hill Road

In the kitchen, detectives found and seized twenty-five .357 rounds, one 9mm round, and a Glock 19 9mm pistol that was loaded. The Glock 9mm pistol was located on top of a wooden cabinet that was on top of the refrigerator. The oven door was shattered, and shards of glass were on the floor. The kitchen cabinets were perforated with holes.

From the primary bedroom, detectives seized multiple ammunition storage containers containing an assortment of different calibers of ammunition. Beneath the bed frame was a gun case containing a Sig Sauer 1911 .45 caliber pistol and a Remington Model 700 with three unloaded magazines. In the bedroom closet, was a green tactical vest containing two loaded ten round magazines.

328 Redstone Hill Road

Nicholas Brutcher's parents' house at 328 Redstone Hill Road was on the south side of the roadway east of 310 Redstone Hill Road. A driveway was on the west side of the property and a row of shrubs was on the west side approximately five feet from the house. In the kitchen, detectives found Nathan Brutcher's cell phone.

At the exterior northwest corner of the residence, detectives seized fifty-nine expended 5.56 shell casings, two empty AR magazines, and a green Remington bolt action rifle with a tripod loaded with one round in the chamber and four in the magazine. It was from this location that Nicholas Brutcher started firing at the officers.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

At the time of Nicholas Brutcher's autopsy, detectives seized several items including a camouflage plate carrier with magazine pouches containing two AR magazines each containing thirty rounds of 5.56 ammunition. Also seized were Nicholas Brutcher's camouflage cargo pants that contained twenty 308 Winchester rounds.

Distance Calculations

Using a laser, detectives determined the distance between Nicholas Brutcher's concealed position on the west side of 328 Redstone Hill Road to the location of the fallen Bristol officers to be fifty-one feet. Detectives also calculated the distance from Officer Iurato's shooting position near police vehicle #6 to Nicholas Brutcher's body to be seventy-eight feet.

PHOTOGRAPHS



328 Redstone Hill Road
Home of Joseph and Catrina Brutcher



328 Redstone Hill Road
Back porch



310 Redstone Hill Road
Nicholas Brutcher's house – front



310 Redstone Hill Road
Rear



Officer Iurato's handgun



Officer Iurato's duty belt



Shell casing



Close up shell casing



Mossberg Shotgun



Driveway



Remington with tripod



Remington near bushes



Nicholas Brutcher



Nicholas Brutcher



Nicholas Brutcher, AR-15



Nicholas Brutcher's utility belt



Nicholas Brutcher's Glock 17



Camouflage vest



Camouflage pants



Camouflage shirt w/trajectory rod



Stag Arms AR-15



Stag Arms AR-15
Magazine inserted upside down



Stag Arms AR-15



Mossberg Shotgun



310 Redstone Hill Road
Breezeway



310 Redstone Hill Road
Driveway



Green Remington w/tripod

SEIZED EVIDENCE

As relevant to this report, detectives seized the following items of evidence:

Firearms

- #40 - one Glock 17 (S/N TXL025), 9mm handgun
No magazine and no bullet in chamber
- #44 - one Mossberg 920 (S/N AF067787), 12 gauge shotgun
Loaded with 7 rounds in magazine tube
- #45 - AR style Stag Arms rifle (S/N 115775), 5.56
With magazine (inserted upside down) containing 30 rounds of 5.56
ammunition
- #73 - green Remington 700 VTR (S/N G6730416), bolt action rifle
One chambered round and four rounds in the magazine

Firearms Evidence

- #76 - One Speer 9mm Luger +P expended shell casing
- (Various Evidence Numbers) – Nineteen deformed bullets
- (Various Evidence Numbers) – Twenty-four 9mm FC Luger expended shell casings
- (Various Evidence Numbers) – Fifty-nine 5.56 expended shell casings

Gunshot Residue Test

On October 13, 2022, a CDMCS detective collected samples from Nathan Brutcher's hands to determine the presence of gunshot residue (GSR). These samples were submitted to the laboratory for chemical analysis.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Latent Prints

The laboratory examined the four seized firearms believed to be owned by Nicholas Brutcher for latent fingerprint impressions – Glock 17 (S/N TXL0250), Mossberg 930 (S/N AF067787), AR style Stag Arms rifle (S/N 115775) and the inserted magazine, and green Remington 700 VTR (S/N G6730416). The laboratory was unable to develop any impressions of value on the examined items.

DNA

The laboratory examined the same four firearms for DNA profiles. The laboratory also obtained a known blood stain for Nicholas Brutcher from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner from which they were able to develop a DNA profile. The results of DNA testing revealed that there was a mixture of two to three DNA profiles on each firearm that consisted of Nicholas Brutcher's DNA and one to two unknown individual's DNA.

Nicholas Brutcher's Cell Phone

During the investigation, CDMCS detectives seized Nicholas Brutcher's iPhone (phone number 860-406-1463). Initially, the contents of the phone could not be examined because detectives did not have the passcode or a passcode bypass. In September 2023, however, detectives successfully identified the passcode and examined the phone's contents.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) analyzed the phone's contents. See discussion of BAU analysis *infra*.

Firearms

The laboratory test-fired all submitted firearms, and all were determined to be operable.

The laboratory compared the Speer 9mm Luger +P expended shell casing (#76) recovered from the scene and compared it to the test fired cartridge from Officer Iurato's Glock

45 9mm semiautomatic pistol (S/N BLAX070) (#79). The examiner concluded that #76 was fired from #79.

The laboratory compared one 9mm FC Luger expended shell casing seized from the scene (#87) and compared it to the test fired cartridge from Nicholas Brutcher's Glock 17 (S/N TXL025) (#40). The examination concluded that #87 was fired from #40.

The laboratory also compared one of the recovered expended 5.56 shell casings to the test fire data for the Stag Arms AR-15 assault rifle (#45) and determined that they were possibly linked. Detectives concluded that, given the totality of evidence, it was obvious that the casings were fired from that weapon.

The laboratory compared the bullet fragments submitted to a test fired projectile from Nicholas Brutcher's Glock 17 (S/N TXL025) (#40). While the projectiles seized from the scene had the same rifling characteristics as the fired projectile from #40, it was not possible to make a positive match due to insufficient detail on the projectiles. These projectiles were eliminated from having been fired from #79 (Officer Iurato's Glock 45 9mm pistol).

Chemistry Unit

The laboratory's Chemistry Unit tested the samples obtained from Nathan Brutcher's hands for the presence of gunshot residue (GSR). Nathan Brutcher's right hand had particles classified as "consistent with primer-gunshot residue" and his left hand had a particle classified as "consistent with primer-gunshot residue."

According to the report, particles can be classified as "commonly associated with pGSR", "consistent with pGSR", or "characteristic of pGSR" depending on the elemental composition of the particles discovered. Particles with a composition of lead + antimony + barium are deemed "characteristic of pGSR." Particles with a composition of any two of the three elements are classified as "consistent with pGSR" and particles with only one of the three elements are classified as "commonly associated with pGSR."

The report notes that pGSR particles can be present on an individual's hands from a recently discharged firearm. Such particles can also transfer from items by casual contact. The presence of pGSR does not prove whether an individual discharged a firearm, nor does it determine whether a firearm was discharged near a sampled item.

AUTOPSY EVIDENCE

In the days following the shootings, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner performed autopsies on the bodies of Nicholas Brutcher, Sergeant Dustin DeMonte, and Officer Alex Hamzy.

NICHOLAS BRUTCHER

On October 14, 2022, Associate Medical Examiner Shana Straub, M.D. performed an autopsy on the body of Nicholas Brutcher. The autopsy report describes the cause of death as a “gunshot wound to the head with spinal cord injury.” The manner of death is listed as “homicide (shot by police).” The report describes the principal injury to Nicholas Brutcher as a penetrating gunshot wound of the neck. More specifically, the report states:

“Perforating Gunshot wound of the Neck

Entrance: A gunshot wound of the base of the posterior right neck is located approximately 7-1/2” below the top of the head and 3” right of midline. It is a 3/8” diameter, circular defect with a surrounding asymmetric margin of abrasion measuring up to 3/8” from the 4 to 6 o’clock positions. There is a surrounding rim of red-purple contusion. There is no fouling or stippling of the adjacent skin.

Wound Track: After penetrating the skin of the posterior right neck, the projectile traveled through the soft tissues of the posterior neck, fractured the spinous process of C4 and the laminae of C4 and C5, and exited through the posterior left neck. There is moderate soft tissue hemorrhage along the wound track. There is marked epidural and focal subarachnoid hemorrhage of the underlying cervical spinal cord which has softening and parenchymal hemorrhage at the level of the fractures.

Exit: A gunshot exit wound of the base of the posterior left neck is located approximately 7-3/4” below the top of the head and 3-1/2” left of midline. It is a 1/2” slit-like defect with irregularly abraded margins measuring up to 1/8”.

Direction: Right to left, slightly back to front, and slightly downward.”

Samples of Nicholas Brutcher’s blood were sent to NMS labs for toxicological analysis. Nicholas Brutcher’s blood-alcohol concentration was 0.234 g/100ml (approximately three times over the legal limit to drive). In addition, he had both cocaine and THC in his system.

The OCME removed a number of items/clothing from Nicholas Brutcher’s body, including the following:

Set of black handcuffs
Multi-camouflage tactical vest
Camouflage long sleeve shirt
Pair of team soldier camouflage pants
Brown tactical belt with holster and magazine pouch
Camouflage first aid kit, belt attachment with first aid supplies
Black watch with leather strap.

SERGEANT DUSTIN DEMONTE

On October 13, 2022, Chief Medical Examiner James R. Gill, M.D., performed an autopsy on the body of Sergeant Dustin DeMonte. He determined the cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds of the head, torso, and extremity. Dr. Gill described the manner of death as: "HOMICIDE (POLICE OFFICER SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY)."

OFFICER ALEX HAMZY

On October 13, 2022, Chief Medical Examiner James R. Gill, M.D., performed an autopsy on the body of Officer Alex Hamzy. He determined the cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds of the head and torso. Dr. Gill described the manner of death as: "HOMICIDE (POLICE OFFICER SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY)."

BACKGROUND: NICHOLAS BRUTCHER

Nicholas Brutcher grew up in Bristol, Connecticut. He was the oldest of four sons born to Catrina Brutcher and Joseph Brutcher. Nicholas Brutcher attended Bristol Central High School, graduating in 2005. He earned varsity letters on both the football and wrestling teams. After the shooting, the media interviewed some of his high school classmates about their recollection of him:

Several classmates described him as a "bully" who was known to engage in fights. One classmate stated, "He was a bigger kid on the football field and he threw his weight around," another commented, "Nick was a little rougher around the edges."

According to his mother, sometime after high school, Nicholas Brutcher sought to enlist in the United States' Army but was rejected. She thought the rejection was for a physical reason. One of his high school classmates told investigators the same thing. This investigation sought to verify his attempted enlistment, but the Department of Defense informed us that they have no records on Nicholas Brutcher as no records are retained for persons who do not

actually become soldiers. It appears, however, that Nicholas Brutcher held himself out as being a veteran. During a neighborhood canvass, one person told OIG inspectors that Nicholas Brutcher told her that he was ex-military.

Nicholas Brutcher married in November 2015 and had two children. The marriage ended in divorce in 2019.

After the divorce, his ex-wife entered into a relationship with one of Nicholas Brutcher's former friends. In early 2022, Nicholas Brutcher learned that his ex-wife was pregnant with the friend's baby. This news caused Nicholas Brutcher to spiral downward: drinking heavily and taking prescribed antidepressants. Others confirmed this fact. After learning of the relationship between his ex-wife and good friend, he started drinking hard liquor seven days a week. Also, according to his mother, Nicholas Brutcher continued to be in love with his former spouse and was distressed that his friend had supplanted him as the "father" of what he considered to be his family.

When interviewed, the friend recounted an incident where Nicholas Brutcher discovered him watching the children and became quite upset. He told the former friend, "You're not better than me," "She belongs to be with me." The former friend considered such comments to be a threat.

The ex-wife delivered her baby via induced labor on October 12, 2022 – the day of the shootings.

Friend 1

In addition to relating to OIG inspectors his observation of the events at Bleachers, Friend 1 also spoke generally about Nicholas Brutcher – a person he had known since high school. Friend 1 described Nicholas Brutcher as someone who, on the one hand, had a friendly way and was very sociable; he knew many people. On the other hand, he had a switch that could flip – he would drink and want to fight. No one wanted to be around him for that. Nicholas Brutcher was someone with a complex personality. He liked guns and loved fighting.

Friend 1 confirmed what others said about Nicholas Brutcher's divorce and its aftermath. He was embittered that his ex-wife entered into a romantic relationship with his former friend. Nicholas Brutcher made clear that he never wanted to see him or her again.

Friend 1 and Nicholas Brutcher shared an interest in stand-up comedy. In Friend 1's view, Nicholas Brutcher's "comedy" was dark and tasteless. He told jokes about dead babies, suicide, and disabled persons. Friend 1 did not find it funny.

According to Friend 1, after high school, Nicholas Brutcher told him that he was thinking about working in law enforcement, but he never pursued it. Politically, Friend 1 thought Nicholas Brutcher was libertarian. A small government type guy – let me have my guns and stay out of my business. Friend 1 stated that Nicholas Brutcher wasn't overtly political or involved in subversive or militia groups. He did not display a hatred of law enforcement.

Friend 1 ended the interview returning to the post-divorce relationship between his ex-wife and his former friend. Nicholas Brutcher was quite hurt by this. Friend 1 recalled Nicholas Brutcher saying: "I don't want to kill [the former friend]" and "I'm just trying the hardest I can not to kill the guy."

Friend 2

During Catrina Brutcher's interview, she mentioned that one of Nicholas Brutcher's friends was Friend 2. A CDMCS detective conducted a phone interview with Friend 2 on April 27, 2023. The detective's report regarding this interview states:

"[Friend 2] stated that he met Nicholas Brutcher when they were freshmen at Bristol Central High School approximately 21 years ago. He explained that they continued their friendship up until the shooting incident. [Friend 2] stated that they would see each other on average once every two weeks prior to his divorce, which occurred approximately two years ago. He explained that after Nicholas' divorce and him [Friend 2] getting married, the frequency that they saw each other decreased. [Friend 2] stated that while Nicholas was going through his divorce, he observed his personality turn "dark" and "jaded." He continued to state that Nicholas struggled with alcohol and substance abuse, primarily cocaine, which got worse after the divorce. [Friend 2] explained that Nicholas in the past had also confided in him that he had thoughts about suicide, with the most recent being approximately six months prior to the shooting after he found out his ex-wife was pregnant. [Friend 2] stated that he last saw Nicholas a month prior to the shooting, but he spoke to him the day before the shooting over the phone. He explained that Nicholas seemed as though he was doing better, which he thought was from him dating a new girlfriend During the phone conversation, Nicholas told [Friend 2] that he did not feel suicidal any longer and that he felt great about the way his life was going. [Friend 2] explained that Nicholas never expressed any anti-government ideas and that he was actually pro-police. He stated that he did not see any indications that Nicholas would ever commit this type of crime."

Friend 3

Friend 2 provided the name of another of Nicholas Brutcher's friends, Friend 3. On May 2, 2023, a CDMCS detective conducted a phone interview of Friend 3:

“[Friend 3] stated that he first met Nicholas around 2009 and 2010 after college. [Friend 3] explained that he went to Bristol Eastern High School and Nicholas attended Bristol Central High School, however he did not know about Nicholas Brutcher. He stated that while he was in high school, he heard about Nicholas frequently getting into fights with people. [Friend 3] stated that once they became friends, they would hang out regularly. [Friend 3] stated that he also worked with Nicholas at New England Liner Systems, so he would see him multiple times during the week. He explained that he saw Nicholas on October 12, 2022, and he seemed to be acting completely normal. He explained that their friendship extended outside of work. [Friend 3] stated that he was in Nicholas’ wedding party and Nicholas was in his wedding party. [Friend 3] stated that Nicholas was dating his wife’s best friend ... and their relationship escalated quickly into marriage. They had two children together and then their relationship began to fall apart approximately two years ago. [Friend 3] stated that due to the conflict of interest between his wife being good friends with [Nicholas Brutcher’s ex-wife], he stopped associating with Nicholas as much. He explained that approximately six months after the divorce, [Nicholas Brutcher’s ex-wife] began dating a mutual friend of both Nicholas and [Friend 3]. [Friend 3] stated that [the ex-wife] was pregnant with the new boyfriend’s child, which upset Nicholas further. He explained that Nicholas was going to therapy to work through his issues. He explained that a few months prior to the incident, Nicholas called him while he was intoxicated and stated that he wanted to kill [the] parents [of his ex-wife’s new boyfriend]. [Friend 3] stated that he was able to calm him down, causing Nicholas to realize what he was actually saying and retract his statement. [Friend 3] stated that Nicholas seemed to struggle with his identity of being the tough guy or the laid-back type of person. He explained that after the divorce he started to transition back into the tough guy “toxic masculinity” personality. [Friend 3] stated that Nicholas was a heavy drinker and his alcohol consumption increased during the divorce. He explained that he did not think that Nicholas would commit such a violent crime but looking back on what happened, he did see some signs. [Friend 3] elaborated stating that Nicholas was very interested in firearms and that they were almost his identity. He also mentioned his home life and how he grew up with his mother [who had a drinking problem]. [Friend 3] explained that he also had the reputation of being a tough guy. He stated Nicholas was not anti-police and that he was actually friendly with Officer Alex Hamzy.”

Guns

According to the State Police Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU), Nicholas Brutcher had fourteen registered firearms:

	Date of Purchase
Remington 700 VTR (S/N 6730416) .308 Win	10/09/2008
Stag Arms 15 (S/N 115775) 5.56	04/07/2010
Savage Mark II (S/N 140733S) .22 LR	10/02/2010
German Sport Guns GSG-5 (S/N A312129) .22	02/19/2011

Mossberg Model 535 (S/N AT108763) 12 gauge	12/19/2011
Glock 17 (S/N TXL025) 9mm	12/19/2012
Sig Sauer 1911 (S/N GS85483) .45	04/09/2013
Glock 23 (S/N TMA434) .40	12/20/2012
Glock 19 (S/N VKU603) 9mm	07/23/2013
Remington 700 (S/N RR45878H) .300 Win Mag	08/11/2016
Mossberg 715T (S/N EMK3976408) .22	01/25/2017
Mossberg 930SPX (S/N AF067787) 12 gauge	07/26/2018
Anderson Manufacturing AM15 (S/N 19347873) no caliber	03/12/2020
Anderson Manufacturing AM15 (S/N 19347893) no caliber	03/12/2020

The Stag Arms 15 rifle met the statutory definition of an assault weapon. See General Statutes §53-202a(1)(E) (definition of assault weapon includes a semiautomatic center fire rifle that can accept a detachable magazine and has a pistol grip or a forward pistol grip). Although Nicholas Brutcher legally purchased this weapon in 2010, to maintain lawful possession he needed to apply for a certificate of possession with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) by the mandatory registration date of January 1, 2014. General Statutes §53-202d. There is no record of Nicholas Brutcher applying for such a certificate of possession for the Stag Arms 15.

Under Connecticut law, a large capacity magazine is a magazine that can accept more than ten rounds of ammunition. General Statutes §53-202w(a)(1). Possession of such a magazine is prohibited, unless the magazine was legally possessed prior to April 4, 2013, and the owner applied for a certificate of possession with the DESPP prior to January 1, 2014. General Statutes §53-202x. Multiple large capacity magazines were in the immediate area where the shooting incident occurred, as well as within 310 Redstone Hill Road. There is no record of Nicholas Brutcher applying for a certificate of possession for any of these large capacity magazines.

Accordingly, Nicholas Brutcher, on October 12, 2022, did not legally possess either the Stag Arms assault rifle or any of the recovered large capacity magazines.

Employment

Nicholas Brutcher was employed by New England Liner Systems, 40 Westfield Drive, Plantsville, CT. On November 10, 2022, a CDMCS detective conducted a telephone interview of the owner of the company, David Welch. The detective's report of that interview reads:

"During the interview, David stated in part that he is the owner of New England Liner Services, located in Plantsville, CT. He stated that the company has around forty employees, and that five of which are supervisors.

“He stated that Nicholas started working for the company when Nicholas was around nineteen years old. He stated that Nicholas started as a good employee and worked his way up to becoming a supervisor of large-scale job sites. He stated that Nicholas was provided a take home vehicle when he was promoted to supervisor. He stated that in the past few years Nicholas became unreliable while working at large job sites. He stated that Nicholas would sit in his work truck and not get a lot of work done. He stated that Nicholas was moved to working smaller jobs and primarily working around the shop.

“He stated that Nicholas’ behavior became worse around six to nine months before the shooting incident on 10/12/2022. He stated that Nicholas was not engaging, socializing, focusing, and wasn’t doing what he was supposed to be doing. He stated that he knew that Nicholas was struggling with depression and was having issues with his family life. He stated that he heard Nicholas was a big drinker, although he never saw Nicholas drinking or intoxicated at work.

“He stated that Nicholas discussed how he had been speaking with someone over Zoom about his depression issues and how he had been to counseling for an issue with his children. He stated that he didn’t believe that Nicholas continued with his counseling. He stated that he and Nicholas only socialized while at work, and they did not spend time together outside of work. He stated that Nicholas never made any concerning comments to him, and that Nicholas never showed any violent behavior.

“He stated that Nicholas’ behavior got to the point that he would arrive at work late and leave early every day. He stated that Nicholas would only show up to the shop for a few hours per day, arriving at around 9:00AM, and leaving at around 12:00PM. He stated that work was very busy this season, and that when work slowed down, he planned on having a discussion with Nicholas. He stated that he was going to tell Nicholas that he was concerned with his mental health, and that he needed to attend a treatment program for his issues. He stated that due to the shooting incident on 10/12/2022, that discussion never took place.

“He stated that he believes Nicholas worked a full week prior to 10/12/2022. He stated that the business doesn’t require employees to clock in or out and that there is no record of exact hours worked. He stated that he remembered Nicholas working at the shop for a few hours on 10/12/2022, and that he seemed his normal self. He stated that he didn’t remember when Nicholas arrived and left that day. He stated that numerous employees were in and out of the shop all day, and that Nicholas may have worked that day with his uncle.

“He stated that on the evening of 10/12/2022, he received a phone call from the Bristol Police Department. He stated that the police advised him of an incident involving Nicholas and his brother Nathan being stopped while in the work vehicle. He stated that in the past, Nicholas has had multiple vehicle accidents while in the work vehicle, and that it became an

issue. He stated that after being called by the police, he canceled his work meeting the next morning and planned on sitting Nicholas down for a discussion about his behavior. He stated that he was going to tell Nicholas that he needed to get into a treatment program, and that Nicholas would get his job back when he finished. He stated that when he woke up on 10/13/2022, he learned of the shooting incident, and their discussion never took place.”

Finances

Although employed, Nicholas Brutcher was not in good shape financially. According to his Experian credit report, he had two debts that were at least 180 days delinquent and a third debt in the amount of \$2,116 that was in collection.

Use of Alcohol / Antidepressants

Multiple persons told inspectors and detectives that Nicholas Brutcher had a serious drinking problem in the months leading up to the shooting. The toxicology report from the autopsy reflected an ethanol level of 0.234 (approximately three times the legal limit to drive a vehicle). Nicholas Brutcher appeared intoxicated to persons at Bleachers the evening of October 12, 2022.

His work truck contained multiple empty “nips” vodka bottles:



In addition, Nicholas Brutcher was prescribed Paxil, an antidepressant medicine. At the time of that prescription in December 2021, the medical note states:

“Patient complains of anxiety for the past several years which has been getting worse. Patient has been getting support from a psych “app” and he was given a prescription for hydroxyzine which did not help but made him really sleepy. Patient used to have panic attacks in the past. He thinks that his work has increased his stress level, and he has gone through a

divorce. Patient travels a lot for his job (travel around New England). No history of suicidal ideation.”

FBI BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS UNIT (BAU): NICHOLAS BRUTCHER⁹

As part of this investigation, the OIG consulted with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI has a Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU). The BAU studies mass shootings to identify factors that may lead to targeted attacks. According to the BAU, certain characteristics are present in many such shootings:

CHARACTERISTICS

Mass Shooting Offenders Don’t Snap – They Decide

Clinical and forensic data on mass murder reveals that virtually all such acts are premeditated rather than impulsive violence.

Pathway to Violence

Persons intending to engage in targeted violence generally move along an identifiable pathway. Such a pathway starts with a grievance and moves to an ideation that violence is an acceptable (or only) means of redress. It then proceeds to planning, preparation, and ultimately the attack. This process can take weeks, months, or even years.

Suicide

Homicide and suicide are more closely related than many think. Prior suicide attempts or suicidal ideation is present in many cases of targeted violence. A study of school shootings showed that 78% of the attackers had a history of suicide attempts or thoughts at some point prior to the attack.

Brittle Persons

Personal grievance is a common starting point for targeted violence. The BAU describes persons who resort to violence to address grievance as “brittle.” They are unable to withstand slights, rejections, humiliations, or offenses both minor and otherwise.

⁹ The Office of Inspector General is grateful to the BAU for their assistance in this investigation.

Firearms

Possession of, access to, or familiarity with firearms is a risk factor because they improve the actor's ability to carry out the act. The BAU sees an unusual fascination with firearms or military paraphernalia as warning behavior on the pathway to violence.

Leakage

Leakage is communication to a third party of an intent to do harm to a target through an attack. Leakage can reveal clues to a person's thoughts, planning, or intentions. Such statements should not be dismissed as fantasy or mere venting because they may be an indication of something serious.

Triggers

In the pathway to violence paradigm, the presence of triggers does not imply that a person reacted emotionally to the trigger and "snapped." Rather, triggers refer to multiple precipitating events that can build up over a period until the person is susceptible of having a "last-straw event." A brittle person's reaction to loss, and whether desperation and despair follow, are key points of assessment.

PHONE ANALYSIS

The BAU conducted a detailed analysis of Nicholas Brutcher's iPhone (860-406-1463). This phone was unavailable for analysis until investigators successfully identified its passcode in September 2023. The phone's contents reveal turmoil and conflict in Nicholas Brutcher's personal life. The contents also reveal aspects of Nicholas Brutcher's life that he kept secret.

The BAU organized its phone analysis by looking at a timeline of significant events for the period of November 2021 (the date which the phone data started) to the date of the attack. Using this timeline, BAU examined the various stressors in Brutcher's life as well as the specific events of October 12, 2022. From there, drawing from the existing research and knowledge of previously conducted targeted attacks, BAU compiled an overall assessment of the likely motivations for the attack.

I - Timeline

The BAU examined the phone data for a period of approximately one year before the attack on October 12, 2022. They determined that the data on the following dates was relevant:

November 3, 2021 – Nicholas Brutcher first downloaded Grindr. Grindr is a dating app serving the LGBTQ community. Over the next year, Nicholas Brutcher would install and uninstall Grindr over and over. It appears that Nicholas Brutcher sought to keep this aspect of his life secret.

February 25, 2022 – Information on the phone suggests that Nicholas Brutcher got a woman, Woman 2, pregnant. Her due date was around October 2022.

October 5, 2022 – Nicholas Brutcher uninstalls Grindr.

October 8, 2022 to October 10, 2022 – Woman 1 was in town for the weekend. In general, the phone contained many texts and calls from Woman 1. Their relationship appeared volatile, hostile, and toxic. Woman 1 was seeking to move with her two children into Nicholas Brutcher's house in Bristol. Were this to happen, it would likely impact Nicholas Brutcher's ability to continue his bisexual lifestyle.

October 10, 2022 – Text message indicates Nicholas Brutcher was seeking out a gay man for a date.

October 11, 2022 – Nicholas Brutcher downloads photographs of guns.

October 12, 2022

A. Woman 1 – Nicholas Brutcher's long-distance girlfriend

11:06 a.m. – Nicholas Brutcher receives seventeen calls from Woman 1 in addition to numerous text messages over multiple platforms.

1:24 p.m. – Woman 1: I might be pregnant.
You make me feel shitty.
I'm just done.

5:34 p.m. – Woman 1: Everything is great.

7:33 p.m. – Woman 1: You disappeared again.

8:12 p.m. – Woman 1: I tried you like a 100 times.

8:32 p.m. – [Approximate time of fight at Bleachers.]

8:34 p.m. – More texts from Woman 1

8:37 p.m. – Woman 1: You wouldn't be happy if you found out I was pregnant.

8:50 p.m. – Woman 1 text

9:55 p.m. – Woman 1: You can't talk to me.

You got me super worried.

10:00 p.m. – [Approximate time Nicholas Brutcher arrives home.]

In all, between texts and phone calls, Woman 1 contacted Nicholas Brutcher 151 times on October 12, 2022.

B. Traffic Stop

The BAU sees the traffic stop, and particularly Nicholas Brutcher's interaction with Officer Mark McGrane, as one of the pressures that contributed to Nicholas Brutcher's actions that evening. The chronology of events supports this interpretation since, after being picked up by his mother and returning home from the traffic stop, Brutcher immediately began putting on his camouflage, preparing his weapons, and within 30 minutes, placed the call to 911 to lure officers to his home.

As previously discussed, the traffic stop was contentious. The following excerpt is taken from Officer Mark McGrane's body-worn camera recording. The time designation reflects the elapsed time on the recording, not the time of day.

[At scene of traffic stop]

0.09:00 - [White truck is stopped. Officer Pollock is at the driver side door taking information from Nathan Brutcher]

0.12:28 – [Officer Pollock asks Nathan Brutcher to step out of the truck]

0.12:38 – [Nicholas Brutcher gets out of passenger side of truck and walks to the rear]

Officer McGrane: What's this guy doing

Officer Pollock: I don't know what you're doing. Sit back in the truck.

Nicholas Brutcher: I'm going to talk to my brother ... and yourself.

Officer Pollock: You are not listening, and you are making the situation much worse.

Nicholas Brutcher: No, no, I ...

Officer Pollock: You are going to stay over here. If you move, you are going to be placed under arrest for interfering with an investigation. Stay right here.

[Officer Pollock walks to the front of the truck to talk to Nathan Brutcher]

0.12:59 – Nicholas Brutcher: [Speaking to Officer McGrane]

How the fuck can 5 ass 7 motherfuckers be cops. Mr. McKenzie K-9 unit.

Officer McGrane: They let large pieces of ... what do you do?

Nicholas Brutcher: Don't worry about what the fuck I do.

Officer McGrane: Liner filler.

Nicholas Brutcher: I make a fuck ton more money than you do.

Officer McGrane: Oh, yeah, yeah you do. Look at you ... fuckin mess.

Nicholas Brutcher: Yeah, okay.

Officer McGrane: People are proud of you.

Nicholas Brutcher: Yeah.

Officer McGrane: Proud of you.

Nicholas Brutcher: My parents definitely are.

Officer McGrane: Got to get your little baby brother all jammed up ... driving without a license.

Nicholas Brutcher: No, no. Yeah, he is jammed up, what's his problem?

Officer McGrane: No, I said you got him all jammed up, coming to get you.

Nicholas Brutcher: I didn't get him ... Is he jammed up? You're telling me he's jammed up.

Officer McGrane: He's jammed up.

Nicholas Brutcher: Jammed up. Okay, then that's his shit.

Officer McGrane: But you did it to him.

Nicholas Brutcher: Okay, I'll fuckin walk home dude.

Officer McGrane: How does that help him?

Nicholas Brutcher: It's not going to make ... It's not going to make your short ass dick any longer, bro.

Officer McGrane: Why are you talking about my dick?

Nicholas Brutcher: Dude, cause you're ...

Officer McGrane: Why, why.

Nicholas Brutcher: You are nothing, you are nothing.

To review this portion of Officer McGrane's body-worn camera recording, click [here](#).

To review additional portions of Officer McGrane's body-worn camera recordings at the traffic stop, click [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

C. 911 Call¹⁰

At 10:32 p.m., Nicholas Brutcher makes the 911 call. He twice mentions the altercation with the officers. The BAU sees these comments as possible leakage¹¹.

Brutcher: It's, ah, three one zero Redstone Hill Road. Um, your officers, your officers had an altercation with a man earlier tonight and ... I don't know if he's good.

Brutcher: I ... like we, we got into an altercation with, with patrol officers earlier on in the night and he's just carrying on about it so.

¹⁰ A transcript of the 911 call is set forth at pages 11 to 14. A link to the recording is at page 14.

¹¹ As previously noted, "leakage" means communication to a third party of an intent to do harm to a target through an attack.

D. Attack

(1) Overkill: Twenty-four shots landed on Officer Hamzy
Six shots landed on Sergeant DeMonte.

(2) Comment from Nicholas Brutcher during the shooting:

“How proud are you of me. How proud?”

This comment, possibly directed to Nicholas Brutcher’s parents who were nearby, mirrors Officer McGrane’s language at the traffic stop:

Officer McGrane: People are proud of you.

Nicholas Brutcher: Yeah.

Officer McGrane: Proud of you.

BAU Overall Assessment

The BAU summarized its overall assessment as follows:

“The analysis of Nicholas Brutcher’s phone, interviews of family/friends, and a comprehensive review of all collected evidence provided insight into the stressors of Nicholas Brutcher’s life that likely contributed to the ambush attack on officers. An explanation of these stressors is not done to justify Nicholas Brutcher’s actions or place blame on others, but rather is done to understand the potential motivation to engage in a targeted act of violence against these officers.

“To start, it is important to address the items not present in a review of Nicholas Brutcher’s phone. There were no searches, materials, or communications related to suicidal or homicidal ideation. There were no communications to suggest he was concerned about losing his job or other work-related stress. He was not hyper-focused on his ex-wife giving birth, in fact, his interactions with his ex-wife within days of the attack were pleasant and focused on their shared children. Nicholas Brutcher did not possess anti-law enforcement or anti-government material or engage in communication with individuals who held those beliefs. BAU found no evidence in the phone to suggest that Nathan Brutcher was involved or planned the attack with his brother, Nicholas Brutcher.

“However, the phone review did reveal that Nicholas Brutcher was in a toxic, long-distance relationship with “Woman 1” who regularly discussed her desire to move into Nicholas Brutcher’s home with her two children. On the day of the attack, Woman 1 told Brutcher she

thought she might have gotten pregnant the previous weekend. Furthermore, Nicholas Brutcher advised his ex-wife in February 2022 that he got “Woman 2” pregnant, putting her potential due date in October 2022. There was no evidence to suggest Woman 1 was aware of the possibility of Nicholas Brutcher having a baby with Woman 2.

“Financial struggles were another significant stressor in Nicholas Brutcher’s life. Given he already had two daughters with his ex-wife, potentially another baby on the way and Woman 1 advising she thought she may be pregnant, his financial obligations were mounting. There was also evidence of calls from collection companies and significant debt on his phone.

“Another possible contributing stressor was that Nicholas Brutcher appeared to struggle with his sexual identity, keeping his bisexuality secret from everyone close to him. He repeatedly installed, used, and uninstalled the Grindr app and even messaged with a man to set up a date the same day Woman 1 left from a visit on October 10th. To be clear, his sexual identity itself is not directly linked to his actions on October 12th; however, it is probable Nicholas Brutcher knew the ability to seek out relationships with men would end if Woman 1 were to move in with her children.

“In addition, the combination of alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana is another significant factor in understanding Nicholas Brutcher’s actions¹². The levels of these substances in Nicholas Brutcher’s system at autopsy would be high enough, especially when taken in concert, to induce psychosis, lower inhibitions, increase paranoia, delusions, and violent ideation.

“Finally, the traffic stop was [one of the pressures that contributed to the targeted violence]. A combination of the various stressors already building in his life, along with the high levels of alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana, led to a high probability Nicholas Brutcher perceived the interactions with officers earlier in the night as a significant humiliating event. Research shows the anger exhibited by the perception of being severely publicly humiliated can be extreme, to include a person believing they have no other recourse but to utilize violence as a means to seek revenge on the target (Bristol Police Department officers)¹³. “

¹² BAU consulted with a medical expert regarding the possible effects of Nicholas Brutcher’s substance use the night of October 12, 2022.

¹³ [Amman, M., et. al. \(2016\). Making prevention a reality: Identifying, assessing, and managing the threat of targeted attacks. Federal Bureau of Investigation Behavioral Analysis Unit.](#)

Gibson, K.A., et. al. (2020) Possible attackers? A comparison between the behaviors and stressors of persons of concern and active shooters. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 7(1-2), 1-12.

Torres, W. J., & Bergner, R. M. (2010). Humiliation: Its nature and consequences. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online*, 38(2), 195-204.

FINDINGS

The investigation supports the following findings of fact relevant to Officer Alec Iurato's use of deadly force:

1. On October 12, 2022, at approximately 10:32 p.m., Nicholas Brutcher made a 911 call to Bristol Communications. It is highly likely that Nicholas Brutcher was already outfitted in camouflage gear and armed with at least two weapons. The call was a ruse. Nicholas Brutcher falsely stated that his brother Nathan Brutcher was being aggressive and requested police assistance.
2. Immediately following the call, at approximately 10:38 p.m., Bristol Communications dispatched officers to 310 Redstone Hill Road. Officers Alex Hamzy and Alec Iurato, and Sergeant Dustin DeMonte responded.
3. Prior to the arrival of the officers, Nicholas Brutcher likely turned on the garage exterior light, and leaned a shotgun against the side of the garage. He then concealed himself behind bushes in the front of the house next door. Nicholas Brutcher was armed with an AR-style rifle, and at least one handgun. He had multiple magazines of ammunition.
4. Upon their arrival, Officer Hamzy, Officer Iurato and Sergeant DeMonte walked up the driveway to 310 Redstone Hill Road. Officer Hamzy saw the shotgun leaning against the garage. He picked it up and checked it. Sergeant DeMonte and Officer Iurato went to the side door of the house where Nathan Brutcher stood in the doorway. Officer Iurato ordered Nathan Brutcher to show his hands and step out.
5. As Nathan Brutcher stepped out of the doorway, Nicholas Brutcher opened fire using his AR rifle striking all three officers and Nathan Brutcher. Nathan Brutcher retreated into the house. Officer Hamzy immediately fell. Sergeant DeMonte made his way through a breezeway into the rear yard and turned east. There he saw Joseph Brutcher. Sergeant DeMonte ordered Joseph Brutcher to get down. He then went back to the driveway where he collapsed.
6. Nicholas Brutcher moved from his initial position to the driveway where Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte had fallen. He stood over each and shot them again multiple times. When his AR rifle malfunctioned, he switched to his Glock handgun.
7. After being shot, Officer Iurato also went through the breezeway into the backyard of 310 Redstone Hill Road. He turned west and moved behind the house, into the neighboring yard, and ultimately back to Redstone Hill Road. Officer Iurato took a position near Officer Hamzy's

police vehicle. Nicholas Brutcher was still standing in the driveway in front of the garage. Bracing himself against the police vehicle, Officer Iurato fired one shot, striking and killing Nicholas Brutcher.

8. Central District Major Crime Squad detectives made a meticulous examination of the scene that, inter alia, revealed the following:

During the attack, Nicholas Brutcher discharged his AR-15 Stag Arms assault rifle fifty-nine times and fired his Glock 9mm handgun twenty-four times for a total of eighty-three rounds. But for the fact that Nicholas Brutcher inserted the magazine into the AR-15 upside down, more shots likely would have been fired.

LEGAL STANDARD

The use of force by a police officer is governed by General Statutes §53a-22. The version of that statute in effect on October 12, 2022, in relevant part, provides:

(b) [A] peace officer ... is justified in using physical force upon another person when and to the extent that he or she reasonably believes such use to be necessary to: (1) Effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom he or she reasonably believes to have committed an offense, unless he or she knows that the arrest or custody is unauthorized; or (2) defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of physical force while effecting or attempting to effect an arrest or while preventing or attempting to prevent an escape.

(c) (1) ... a peace officer ... is justified in using *deadly physical force* upon another person for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of this section only when his or her actions are objectively reasonable under the circumstances, and:

(A) He or she reasonably believes such to be necessary to defend himself or herself or a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force ..." (Emphasis added).

The statute further provides:

"For the purpose of evaluating whether the actions of a peace officer ... are reasonable under subdivision (1) of this subsection, factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, whether (A) the person upon whom deadly force was used possessed or appeared to possess a deadly weapon, (B) the peace officer ... engaged in reasonable de-escalation measures prior to using deadly physical force, and (C) any conduct of the peace officer ... led to an increased risk of an occurrence of the situation that precipitated the use of force," §53a-22 (c)(2).

Accordingly, a police officer is justified in using deadly physical force upon another person when the officer reasonably believes such force to be necessary to defend the officer or a third person from the use or imminent use of deadly physical force. “Deadly physical force” means “physical force that can be reasonably expected to cause death or serious physical injury.” General Statutes § 53a-3(5). “Serious physical injury” means “physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health or serious loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.” General Statutes §53a-3(4).

The reasonableness of a police officer’s belief under § 53a-22 is evaluated pursuant to a subjective-objective formulation. *State v. Smith*, 73 Conn. App. 173, 185, 807 A.2d 500, cert. denied 262 Conn. 923, 812 A.2d 865 (2002). Under this test, the first question is whether, on the basis of all of the evidence, the police officer in fact honestly believed that deadly force was necessary to defend himself/herself or a third person. *Id.* If it is determined that the police officer honestly believed that deadly force was necessary, the second part of the test asks whether the police officer’s honest belief was reasonable from the perspective of a reasonable police officer in the officer’s circumstances. *Id.* at 198.

The United States Supreme Court has explained this test as follows: “The ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on scene rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. ... [T]he calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance of the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.” *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396-97, 109 S. Ct. 1865, 104 L. Ed. 2d 443 (1989).

ANALYSIS

This investigation’s principal focus was to determine whether Officer Alec Iurato’s use of deadly force was justified. The events of October 12, 2022, however, raise at least two other questions: (1) Was Nathan Brutcher criminally involved with his brother, and (2) What motivated Nicholas Brutcher to commit such a barbaric crime?

Officer Alec Iurato

It is evident that Officer Iurato was thrust into a situation of extreme danger. Nicholas Brutcher ambushed three officers, murdering two of them. He had fired eighty-three rounds and showed no signs of stopping. He posed a grave threat to Officer Iurato and any responding

officers. It was of paramount importance to stop that threat. Under these circumstances, Iurato's use of deadly force was justified.¹⁴

Nathan Brutcher

Nathan Brutcher was not truthful during his two interviews with OIG inspectors. He did not, as he claimed, sleep through this incident. His assertion that he did is contradicted by the BWC recordings of Officer Hamzy, Officer Iurato, and Sergeant DeMonte. His further denial of speaking to his mother about Nicholas Brutcher gearing up is contradicted by her credible statement. As to all of this, he claimed a lack of recollection.¹⁵

Nathan Brutcher's hands tested positive for some elements of gunshot residue. The laboratory classified the results as "consistent with primer gunshot residue." The laboratory report notes that this result does not prove whether Nathan Brutcher fired a firearm nor whether a firearm was fired near him. The report further states that gunshot residue particles can be transferred by casual contact. There was no video or evidence recovered from the scene that indicated Nathan Brutcher fired a gun during this incident.

The decision whether to bring charges against Nathan Brutcher lies exclusively within the discretion of New Britain Judicial District State's Attorney Christian M. Watson. State's Attorney Watson has been involved in this investigation from the beginning and worked closely with the investigating detectives. In addition, I have consulted with State's Attorney Watson regarding this report and the evidence developed concerning Nathan Brutcher.

It is the view of State's Attorney Watson, with which I fully agree, that at the present time there is insufficient evidence to charge Nathan Brutcher with criminal involvement in the murders of Officer Hamzy and Sergeant DeMonte or the assault of Officer Iurato. This is not to say categorically that Nathan Brutcher is innocent, but rather that there is not sufficient probable cause to bring a criminal charge against him.

Nicholas Brutcher

The BAU analysis of Nicholas Brutcher's phone data presents a plausible rationale for his attack on the officers. As the BAU readily acknowledges, however, there is a concept known as "hindsight bias" which is the inclination to see an event as more predictable than previously

¹⁴ I would be remiss if I did not note the extraordinary bravery and marksmanship of Officer Alec Iurato. It was dark, he was seriously wounded, and he was seventy-eight feet from Nicholas Brutcher.

¹⁵ Nathan Brutcher claimed that this lack of recollection might be due to his ingestion of a large amount of Xanax. A documented side effect of taking Xanax is memory loss. The claimed memory loss might also be due to the stress of the event, his high level of intoxication, or his guilt over not acting to stop the attack. Of course, it could also be that his claim of no recollection is an effort to distance himself from his brother's conduct.

thought. Fundamentally, their views represent informed expert opinions. That said, the numerous stressors in Nicholas Brutcher's life, coupled with his heavy substance use, and perceived grievance from the traffic stop, are probable motivations for his subsequent targeted act of violence against the Bristol officers. In this regard, it must be emphasized that Nicholas Brutcher is the murderer here. It would be wrong to place any blame for the attack on the traffic stop officers or others in Nicholas Brutcher's life.

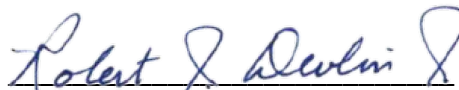
It is also plausible that the precipitating event was not the actions of the officers at the traffic stop, but rather Nicholas Brutcher's mother's comments publicly scolding him for being disrespectful to the officers and embarrassing the family. His comment to his parents during the attack, "How proud are you of me. How proud", could well relate to the humiliation he felt from his mother's public criticism.

Finally, it is also possible that reasons unknown to investigators may have motivated Nicholas Brutcher's decision to attack the officers that day. Fyodor Dostoevsky's observation in his 1866 novel, *Crime and Punishment*, may be apt, "Nothing is easier than to denounce the evildoer; nothing is more difficult than to understand him." Nicholas Brutcher's evil deeds simply may be beyond our ability to comprehend.

CONCLUSION

The investigation establishes that Officer Alec Iurato used deadly force against Nicholas Brutcher to defend himself and others from Nicholas Brutcher's murderous rampage. I therefore conclude that Officer Iurato's use of deadly force was justified under Connecticut law. The Office of Inspector General will take no further action on this matter.

Submitted this 26th day of June 2024.



ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

ADDENDUM

Recommendations

1. In *Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California*, 17 Cal. 3d 425, 551 P2d 334, 131 Cal Rptr 14 (1976), the California Supreme Court held that mental health professionals have a duty to protect individuals who are being threatened with bodily harm by a patient. Today, many states have legislation imposing such a duty, and the American Psychological Association endorses such a duty to warn on therapists when a client threatens to harm someone.

Query: Should a *Tarasoff* - type obligation to warn arise when a private citizen receives specific information that places police officers in imminent danger of serious injury? I believe that this is a question worth examining.

2. As part of the Police Accountability Act (P.A. 20-1), the Inspector General was given limited authority to issue investigative subpoenas. The Act provides: “The Inspector General may issue subpoenas to municipalities, law enforcement units ... the Department of Correction and any employee or former employee of the municipality, unit or department ...” See General Statutes §51-277e(d). This is an important tool, and I am grateful to the General Assembly for providing this authority to the Office of Inspector General. As this investigation demonstrates, however, it would be useful if such subpoena power were expanded to include all persons and entities that have information relevant to an investigation.

APPENDIX

Statement of Officer Alec Iurato



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE



Victim/Witness Statement

Date: 4-20-23	Time Started: 10:38 AM	Time Ended: 10:45 AM	CFS #: IG 2022-080
Location: BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT		Statement taken by: INSP. STEVEN HUNT	

I, ALEC IURATO Date of Birth: 09/30/1996
of 131 N. MAIN STREET Town/City: BRISTOL State: CT

I 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-157b and is punishable by law.

On 10/12/2022 at approximately 2234 hours, OFC Hamzy and I were detailed to 310 Redstone Hill RD on a report of a routine domestic. The complainant, Nicholas Brutcher stated that his brother Nathan was being aggressive towards him and pushing him. Nicholas stated that no weapons were involved.

Prior to police arrival, Bristol Communications informed officers that Nicholas Brutcher had 17 registered firearms.

Upon arrival, I parked my patrol vehicle on the north side of the street, facing the west. I walked to the driveway of 310 Redstone Hill RD, I observed OFC Hamzy and SGT DeMonte approaching the driveway from their patrol vehicles, which were parked on the south side of the street facing the east. OFC Hamzy approached the side door to the residence as I followed with SGT DeMonte. The residence at 310 Redstone Hill RD was a cape-style home with an open-air breezeway between the main structure and the garage. There are residences directly east and directly west of the incident address. There is also a large apartment complex directly north of the incident address.

As we approached the residence, I observed a shotgun leaning up against the garage, which was just outside of the side door on the east side of the residence. OFC Hamzy attended to the shotgun, as I turned my attention towards the window on the east side of the residence. I

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 & belief.

Victim/Witness Name: <u>Alec Iurato</u>	Victim/Witness Signature:	Date: <u>4/20/23</u>
Parent/Guardian Name: <u>Rosario V. Pugliese Jr</u>	Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date: <u>4/20/23</u>

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:

Oath Taken By: James Virodo Signature: Date Signed: 4-20-23



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE**



observed an individual walk by the window and approach the door on the east side of the residence, which was located in the breezeway. At that time, the door swung open and I observed a male, later identified as Nathan Brutcher, standing in the doorway. I told Nathan to stop and to show me his hands. Nathan raised his hands just below his shoulders. Due to the fact that there was what I knew to be a shotgun in the immediate area, I told Nathan to step out to me in order to conduct an investigation. I also believed it was necessary for Nathan to exit the residence for my safety and the safety of the other officers on scene, because Bristol Communications had already advised us that there may be weapons inside the residence. I told Nathan once more to step out to me, in which he mentioned his cell-phone and exited the residence.

At that time, a long volley of gunfire erupted from behind me. I then felt immense pain in my right leg as I fell to the ground, just outside of the breezeway. As I fell to the ground, I drew my department issued Glock 45 handgun and crawled through the breezeway. Upon crossing through the breezeway, I observed the residence of 300 Redstone Hill RD to the southwest. I decided to move towards this residence to utilize it as cover and to gain a tactical advantage over the suspect who was actively firing bullets from an unknown direction. I continued westbound to the front yard of 300 Redstone Hill RD, as another long volley of gunfire erupted. I then sent a transmission over the radio, stating that officers were down and that officers were shot. At that time, I utilized a tree in the front yard of 300 Redstone Hill RD as cover as I assessed my injuries. I observed blood along my right pant leg and down towards my boot. At that time, a single gunshot was heard near the driveway to 310 Redstone Hill RD. Due to the fact that the gunfire was not stopping, I began moving towards the BPD patrol vehicles on the south side of the street for a better vantage point. Upon approaching the vehicles, another long volley of gunfire began.

I walked to BPD patrol vehicle #6 and gained cover in an attempt to observe where the gunfire was coming from. As I was behind the patrol vehicle, I heard a sound from the driveway of 310 Redstone Hill RD. I heard a clicking sound from what I believed to be metal on metal contact. Based on my training and experience with firearms, I believed that the sound I was hearing was a firearm attempting to be cycled in order to be fired. As this sound continued, I saw an individual wearing camouflage clothing in the driveway of 310 Redstone Hill RD and separating us were bushes, which were located in the front of the property. The individual was looking down in front of

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 & belief.

Victim/Witness Name: <u>Alec Iurato</u>	Victim/Witness Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>4/20/23</u>
Parent/Guardian Name: <u>170910 v. Pugliese jr</u>	Parent/Guardian Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>4/20/23</u>

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:

Oath Taken By: Jane Vindas [Signature] 4-20-23
 Name Signature Date Signed



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
 DIVISION OF STATE POLICE



himself and I continued to hear the sound of a firearm attempting to be loaded in order to be fired. The individual was later identified as Nicholas Brucher.

At this time, I took a firing position from behind patrol vehicle #6 and pointed my department issued firearm at Nicholas who was actively attempting to utilize a firearm. Due to the nature of the incident, I was unable to order Nicholas to stop; this would have alerted Nicholas of my position behind cover and could have given Nicholas the opportunity to escape and or continue his active assault. At this time, I had already been struck by gunfire and it was unclear what the status of my fellow officers was. I felt that if I gave verbal commands that it would have placed me at a tactical disadvantage and Nicholas could have begun firing on me, other officers, or innocent bystanders in the neighborhood. Nicholas then raised his head, which gave me the most body mass that was visually available to take a clear shot. I then fired my department issued Glock 45 handgun one time, which resulted in Nicholas falling to the ground.

I then left my position of cover and approached the driveway to 310 Redstone Hill RD. I observed Nicholas laying on the ground in the driveway along with SGT DeMonte and OFC Hamzy. I was able to see from my position that SGT DeMonte sustained a gunshot wound to his head and OFC Hamzy sustained injuries to his body, both of which were in need of immediate medical attention.

As this occurred, OFC Pollock arrived on scene and took control of the scene. OFC Monahan and OFC Martin arrived shortly after and tended to my injuries. At that time, officers on scene got me in the care of Bristol EMS and I was later transported to St. Francis Hospital for further medical care.

No further action was taken.

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 & belief.

Victim/Witness Name: <i>Alec Iurato</i>	Victim/Witness Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>4/20/23</i>
Parent/Guardian Name: <i>Ronald J. Pegrese jr</i>	Parent/Guardian Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>4/19/23</i>

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:

Oath Taken By: *James Virden* *[Signature]* *4-2023*
 Name Signature Date Signed