

**2023**



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
ANNUAL REPORT**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	4
PERSONNEL .....	4
PEACE OFFICER USE OF DEADLY FORCE .....	5
COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS .....	5
HAGANS.....	5
O’LONE .....	5
OTERO .....	6
DUNGAN .....	7
CLAUDIO.....	7
PENDING INVESTIGATIONS .....	8
BRUTCHER .....	8
GAMBARDELLA .....	8
SHOEMAKER-GONZALEZ .....	8
HARVEY .....	8
TURNER .....	8
DILORETO .....	9
ALEXANDER-GARCIA .....	9
TATE .....	9
KEYS .....	9
LAPRISE .....	9
PASSMORE .....	9
GRANT .....	9
STRENK .....	9
NOLAN .....	10
WASHINGTON .....	10
MALLOY .....	10
MULLER .....	10

<b>IN-CUSTODY DEATHS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
INTRODUCTORY NOTE .....	10
POLICE CUSTODY .....	11
COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS .....	11
CHAMBERS .....	11
TORRICE .....	11
MARZI .....	12
DOHERTY .....	13
PENDING INVESTIGATIONS.....	13
FELIX .....	13
BROWN .....	13
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CUSTODY .....	14
NATURAL CAUSES – NO CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT .....	14
SUSPECTED DRUG OVERDOSE .....	14
SUICIDES .....	14
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>15</b>
COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	15
COMMUNITY GROUPS .....	15
POLICE DEPARTMENTS .....	16
SCHOOLS .....	17
OTHER .....	26
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>27</b>
FIREARM RESTRICTION FOR PERSONS SUBJECT TO CONSERVATORSHIP .....	27
BWC EQUIPMENT .....	27
USE OF NALOXONE.....	28
<i>TARASOFF</i> OBLIGATION .....	28
SUBPOENA POWERS .....	28
<b>EVIDENCE RETENTION AND DISPOSITION POLICY .....</b>	<b>29</b>

**INTRODUCTION**

This is the second report on the work of the Office of Inspector General (OIG). It covers the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. By way of background, the creation of the OIG was part of the Police Accountability Act enacted by the General Assembly in 2020 and amended in 2021. In September 2021, the Criminal Justice Commission appointed retired State of Connecticut Judge Robert J. Devlin, Jr. to serve as Connecticut’s first Inspector General. The OIG’s statutory jurisdiction includes cases of the use of deadly force and in-custody deaths. As detailed herein, the OIG has issued reports in five use of deadly force cases and four in-custody death cases. Sixteen use of deadly force cases are under investigation. In addition, the OIG has investigated the deaths of persons in police custody and the custody of the Department of Correction (DOC).

In an effort to advance the goal of transparency and provide the public with timely and accurate information about its cases, the OIG issued five preliminary reports and eleven press releases.

In its publicly available reports, the OIG has made recommendations aimed at improving outcomes for these difficult and challenging cases. Moreover, the OIG has engaged in outreach efforts with community groups, government groups, schools, and police.

**PERSONNEL**

The OIG presently has eleven positions:

Inspector General – Robert J. Devlin, Jr.

Devlin was sworn in as Inspector General on October 8, 2021. His four-year term will end on June 30, 2025.

Supervisory Assistant State’s Attorney Andrew J. Slitt

Chief Inspector James M. Viadero

Supervisory Inspector David Sydnor

Inspectors

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Steven Hunt   | William Brevard    |
| Mark Sinise   | Juan Gonzalez, Jr. |
| Frank Capozzi | Richard Donaldson  |

Paralegal Specialist Dena M. Bahgat

## PEACE OFFICER USE OF DEADLY FORCE

### Peace Officer Use of Deadly Force - Completed Investigations

During the period covered by this report, the Inspector General (IG) issued five reports regarding police officer use of deadly force. The complete reports are available at the Inspector General tab of the Division of Criminal Justice website, <https://portal.ct.gov/DCJ>. The following is a brief synopsis of each report.

#### **Christopher Hagans**

On January 3, 2023, the OIG issued its report regarding the use of deadly force by the Stratford Police Department on February 5, 2021.

On February 5, 2021, at approximately 7:30 p.m., at the intersection of Main Street and Main Street Putney, Stratford, Connecticut, Stratford Police Department officers blocked in a Dodge Charger driven by Christopher W. Hagans. The Charger had stopped behind a civilian vehicle at a red traffic signal. Stratford officers approached the Charger intending to take Hagans into custody on a felony arrest warrant. Hagans, who was in possession of a loaded handgun, refused to comply with officers' repeated demands that he show his hands. When officers realized that Hagans had a gun, they fired shots into the Charger as it went down a snow-covered embankment. The car became stuck on a guardrail and was disabled in the snow.

Hagans fled the vehicle on foot. He headed toward a civilian vehicle while pointing the gun at Stratford officers. Stratford officers fired additional shots at Hagans, fatally wounding him. At some point during the encounter, Hagans fired his gun one time.

The investigation established that, at the time that the Stratford officers fired their weapons, Hagans was resisting their efforts to arrest him on a felony warrant, displaying a loaded gun, and (at some point) discharging that weapon. Hagans' conduct presented an imminent and grave threat of serious physical injury or death to the officers and the civilian driver of the nearby vehicle. Accordingly, the IG concluded that, under the circumstances presented, the Stratford officers justifiably used deadly force.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

#### **Andrew O'Lone**

On October 26, 2021, Norwich Police Officer Scott N. Dupointe was on duty when at about 10:00 p.m., he responded to a 911 call reporting gunshots in the city. He dispatched to

the area the shots were reported and encountered a male later identified as Andrew O’Lone who immediately fired multiple shots at the officer striking his patrol vehicle but missing the officer. Dupointe then fired his service pistol toward O’Lone as O’Lone fled the scene. No one was struck by gunfire.

The investigation established that at the time that Officer Dupointe discharged his firearm, Mr. O’Lone had just fired a semi-automatic rifle at Officer Dupointe and the officer was under the continuous belief that O’Lone was a threat to himself and members of the community. Accordingly, the IG found that Dupointe’s use of deadly force was objectively reasonable and justified.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

### **Raul Otero**

On May 30, 2022, at about 1:40 a.m., Willimantic Police Officer Brandon LaChappelle was on patrol traveling on Spring Street in his marked police vehicle when he recognized a person he thought to be Raul Otero, whom he knew to have an active arrest warrant. Otero turned around and ran onto the porch of 30 Pearl Street, where LaChappelle was able to briefly grab onto him before he broke free of the officer’s grip. Otero then ran to the front door of 39 Pearl Street, opened the door, entered the residence, which was not his, and tried to slam the door shut behind him. A second officer, Kienan Giller, arrived on scene. Giller ran into the door, forcing it open. Otero then ran into the living room, which was dark, and became combative with Officer LaChappelle and Officer Giller as they tried to place him in custody. Otero began swinging his arms around him with closed fists, striking Officer LaChappelle in the chest. A third officer, Corporal Joshua Charron arrived on the scene to assist. The three officers managed to bring Otero to the ground where he continued to physically resist. While all were on the floor, Otero reached for Corporal Charron’s holstered duty pistol several times. Alarmed at the prospect of Otero becoming armed, Giller mounted Otero’s legs by putting Otero’s legs between his legs. In an effort to defend himself and other officers, Charron wrapped his arm around Otero’s neck and squeezed until Otero lost consciousness. Once he lost consciousness and stopped fighting, Charron released his grip. Giller and Charron were able to place Otero’s arms behind his back and handcuff him.

The investigation established that Corporal Joshua Charron used deadly force against Raul Otero to stop Otero from accessing his firearm and possibly shooting him. Accordingly, the IG found that Charron’s use of deadly force was objectively reasonable and justified.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

## **Brian Dungan**

On March 23, 2022, at approximately 4:40 p.m., at 71 Tioga Street, Torrington, CT, Torrington Police Officer Jeffrey Buzzi fired three shots from his department-issued handgun striking and wounding Brian Dungan.

The investigation established that, at the time of the shooting, Brian Dungan was in a depressed and intoxicated state. When Officer Buzzi approached him in the basement of 71 Tioga Street, Dungan sprang up, displayed a knife, and charged at Officer Buzzi. As Buzzi retreated up the basement stairs, Dungan followed and continued to brandish the knife. In the hallway at the top of the stairs, Dungan quickly moved toward Officer Buzzi and Torrington Police Officer David Kisiel. After Officer Kisiel unsuccessfully deployed his Taser at Dungan, Buzzi fired his handgun three times striking Dungan in the arm and chest area. The investigation further established that Dungan's aggressive conduct may have been motivated by a suicidal desire to provoke the police into shooting him. Accordingly, the IG found that Buzzi's use of deadly force was objectively reasonable and justified.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

## **Jose Claudio**

On October 7, 2022, at approximately 1:30 a.m., near the intersection of Chapel Street and Blatchley Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut, New Haven Police Officer Chad Curry fired multiple shots from his department-issued handgun in the direction of Jose Claudio. As required by statute, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated this incident. The results of this investigation are contained in this report.

In summary, the investigation established that on October 7, 2022, at approximately 1:30 a.m., New Haven Police Officer Chad Curry heard the sound of what he believed was a car crash and responded to the area of Chapel Street and Blatchley Avenue. He observed that a car had struck a utility pole in front of 157 Chapel Street. Officer Curry saw a male, later identified as Jose Claudio, wearing an orange sweatshirt, going in and out of the damaged car. He also saw a woman near the vehicle walking away. When Claudio saw Officer Curry, he changed direction and headed west on Chapel Street. Officer Curry turned his patrol vehicle around and followed.

Near the intersection of Chapel Street and Blatchley Avenue. The male displayed a handgun and fired multiple shots toward Officer Curry striking the windshield of his patrol vehicle. Officer Curry exited his patrol vehicle and returned fire. Claudio ran across the intersection and took cover behind a van. He continued firing at Officer Curry who was now in the middle of the intersection. When Officer Curry realized that he was struck by gunfire, he

returned to his patrol vehicle for cover. Claudio then ran north on Blatchley Avenue firing more shots in Officer Curry's direction.

The OIG found Officer Chad Curry's use of deadly force objectively reasonable and justified under Connecticut law as he defended himself from the actual use of deadly force against him when he came under immediate lethal threat when Claudio suddenly and unexpectedly opened fire on him.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

### **Peace Officer Use of Deadly Force - Pending Investigations**

The OIG is currently investigating the following cases:

#### **Nicholas Brutcher**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Bristol Police Department on October 12, 2022, that resulted in the death of Nicholas Brutcher.

#### **Nicholas Gambardella**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the East Haven Police Department on January 5, 2023 on I-95 in Milford.

#### **Jimmie Shoemaker-Gonzalez**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Bristol Police Department on January 12, 2023.

#### **Byron Harvey**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Connecticut State Police on May 9, 2023.

#### **Ira Turner**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Connecticut State Police on May 13, 2023.



**Joseph Diloreto**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Manchester Police Department on July 16, 2023.

**Mike Alexander-Garcia**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the West Hartford Police Department on August 8, 2023, that resulted in the death of Mike Alexander-Garcia.

**Winston Tate**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Middletown Police Department on August 12, 2023.

**Maurice Keys**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Orange Police Department on September 15, 2023.

**Suzanne Laprise**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Bristol Police Department on October 5, 2023.

**Donald Passmore**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Wallingford Police Department on October 16, 2023, that resulted in the death of Donald Passmore.

**Jamie Grant**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Hartford Police Department on October 16, 2023, that resulted in the death of Jamie Grant.

**Michael Strenk**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Prospect Police Department on October 20, 2023, that resulted in the death of Michael Strenk.

### **Christopher Nolan**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the New London Police Department on November 26, 2023.

### **Jovan Washington**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the West Haven Police Department on December 1, 2023, that resulted in the death of Jovan Washington.

### **Vaughn Malloy**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Connecticut State Police on December 21, 2023, that resulted in the death of Vaughn Malloy.

### **Ruben Muller**

This case concerns the use of deadly force by the Connecticut State Police on December 30, 2023.

## **IN-CUSTODY DEATHS**

### **Introductory Note**

Pursuant to §51-277a(a)(2)(A), the OIG is responsible for investigating the deaths of persons who die while in the custody of a law enforcement agency. Where a peace officer used physical force upon the deceased person, the OIG must determine if such use of force was justified. In circumstances where there is no force used, the question becomes whether the death was the result of criminal action.

The OIG also has responsibility to investigate the deaths of persons who die in DOC custody to determine if the person died as a result of criminal action. See General Statutes §51-277a(a)(2)(B). DOC deaths pose issues with respect to the question of custody. Incarcerated persons are in both the legal and physical custody of the DOC. Persons who are on parole, however, are in the DOC's legal custody but not DOC's physical custody. A third category applies to persons in halfway houses. These persons are in the legal custody of the DOC but are not incarcerated. Their liberty is nevertheless restricted since they are not free to leave the halfway house without permission.

The DOC notifies the OIG of the deaths of persons in all three categories. While the OIG records the deaths of persons on parole, it only investigates the deaths of incarcerated persons or persons in a halfway house.

## **Police Custody**

### **Police Custody – Completed Investigations**

#### **Brenton Chambers**

On February 3, 2022, the Norwich office of the Department of Adult Probation (Probation) conducted a search of Brenton Chambers' vehicle, residence and business. Probation found suspected fentanyl at all three locations as well as a firearm at his residence. The Norwich Police Department (NPD) arrested Chambers on narcotics and firearm charges. Unable to post bond, Chambers was held in custody at the NPD. At approximately 3:45 a.m. on February 4, 2022, Chambers suffered a fatal seizure while in his cell. Once notified of the death, the Office of Inspector General requested investigative assistance from the Connecticut State Police, Central District Major Crime Squad (CDMCS). The results of that investigation are set forth in this report.

The investigation established that a lethal dose of fentanyl caused Chambers' death. His death was not due to a peace officer's use of force against him nor from any criminal action by any officer of the Norwich Police Department.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

#### **Joseph Torrice**

On Friday, July 8, 2022, at approximately 1:30 p.m., the Manchester Police Department (Manchester PD) arrested Joseph Torrice, Jr. for interfering with an officer and narcotics offenses. Torrice resisted officers' efforts to place him into custody. Ultimately, officers brought Torrice to the ground and placed handcuffs on him. At the time of his arrest, police learned that Torrice was wanted by the State of New York on an extraditable felony warrant. Torrice told the arresting officers that he had used drugs an hour before his arrest and held a prescription for suboxone.

Unable to post bond, Torrice remained in the custody of the Manchester PD. On Sunday, July 10, 2022, at approximately 5:50 p.m., police found Torrice on the floor of his cell. He was unresponsive. Initially, Manchester PD personnel provided aid; later Manchester Fire Department Emergency Services personnel responded and engaged in efforts to restore his pulse. He was taken to Hartford Hospital. Four days later, on July 14, 2022, doctors there determined that Torrice was "brain dead." The hospital kept him on life support until July 18,

2022, at 11:05 a.m. At that time, he was removed from such life support resulting in circulatory death.

The investigation established that, due to withdrawal from opioids and other drugs, Torrice suffered cardiac arrest that caused his heart to stop beating thereby depriving his brain of oxygen resulting in his death. Torrice's death was not due to a peace officer's use of force against him nor from any other criminal action.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

### **Ryan Marzi**

On August 24, 2022, Connecticut State Police Trooper Desmond Stimson and Trooper Trainee Jessie L. Rainville were dispatched to Westminster Road, Canterbury, for a report of a domestic violence incident. The caller reported that she had been assaulted. Stimson arrived at the residence first at 10:07 p.m. Stimson exited his police vehicle and as he did so, Marzi exited the house and walked towards a detached garage adjacent to the house. Marzi was wearing shoes and shorts but no shirt. Stimson illuminated Marzi with his flashlight and Marzi passed in front of the trooper and proceeded to the driver's door of a pickup truck parked in front of the trooper's cruiser. There appeared to be words exchanged, although at the time the sound was not recording on the BWC. Trooper Stimson appeared to attempt to place Marzi in handcuffs as he is about to get into the vehicle. Almost immediately thereafter the sound comes on and it is evident that a struggle is taking place between Stimson and Marzi. Trooper Stimson appeared to grab Marzi from behind. A yell of pain is heard and both Marzi and Stimson fall to the ground. During this encounter Stimson struggled to get to his feet to no avail. Together, the two troopers (Stimson on one knee), worked to get handcuffs on Marzi.

On August 28, 2022, at 11:04 a.m., state police were called to a report of an unresponsive male at an apartment on Wellswood Road in Hebron. The man was identified as Ryan Marzi and he was pronounced deceased by emergency medical personnel who also responded. Marzi died in a recliner in his bedroom. Responding troopers did not note any signs of foul play or anything suspicious. Drug paraphernalia was in the room and Marzi's father told investigators that his son consumed Percocet pills and cocaine the previous evening.

The investigation established that Trooper Stimson used force against Ryan Marzi and although that force did, unfortunately, set into motion circumstances that resulted in his subsequent death four days later, the minimal amount of force applied was justified under Connecticut law.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

## **Kevin Doherty**

On December 23, 2002, Doherty was arrested by officers of the South Windsor Police Department (SWPD) and charged with several domestic violence crimes as well as resisting arrest. He was transported to the police department, where he was held on bond pending a court date of December 27. After Doherty was booked, he was placed in a cell. Sometime later, he was seen dry heaving over the toilet and his face was red. An officer asked if he wanted medical attention and he replied affirmatively, and an ambulance was called. The ambulance took Doherty to Rockville General Hospital, where an officer accompanied him. Doherty made suicidal remarks to the hospital staff, who told police he would need to be seen by a crisis team.

Doherty was returned to the custody of SWPD and placed back into his cell at about 3:00 p.m. on December 24. About 90 minutes later, he was seen on a monitor shoving toilet paper in his throat. An officer went in and removed the toilet paper. On December 25 at about 9:40 p.m. he was seen again trying to choke himself on toilet paper. On December 26 at 12:22 p.m. officers went to check on Doherty who appeared to be lying under a bench in the cell. Doherty was unresponsive to the officers, who noticed a faint pulse but no breathing. Officers attempted rescue efforts and called for an ambulance, which transported Doherty to Manchester Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. An investigation determined Doherty had stuffed two socks into his throat.

The investigation established that Doherty committed suicide and his death was not due to a peace officer's use of force against him nor from any other criminal action.

To review the complete report, click [here](#).

## **Police Custody – Pending Investigations**

### **Marcell Felix**

Marcell Felix died while in the custody of the New Britain Police Department on August 28, 2023.

### **Robert Scott Brown**

Robert Scott Brown died while in the custody of the Wolcott Police Department on October 31, 2023.

## **DOC Custody**

There were thirty-seven deaths reported to the OIG by the DOC. Twenty-two of those reported deaths were of persons on parole and were not investigated by the OIG. The remaining deaths pertained to incarcerated persons or persons in a halfway house. To date, the OIG investigations into those deaths may be categorized as follows:

**Natural Causes:** When the DOC notifies the OIG of an in-custody death, the OIG contacts the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to obtain a copy of the autopsy report for the deceased. Such report includes the medical examiner's determination of the manner of death. The OCME categorizes the manner of death as: (1) accident (2) suicide, (3) homicide, (4) natural, (5) undetermined, or (6) therapeutic complications. In cases where an autopsy was not performed. The OIG examines the death certificate to determine the manner of death.

Of the reported deaths, nine were from natural causes as reflected in the autopsy report or the person's death certificate. There was no criminal action associated with any of these deaths and the OIG has closed its files on these cases.

**Suspected Drug Overdose:** Four persons in DOC custody died of suspected drug overdose. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled all of these deaths to be accidental. The OIG did not determine the identity of the person(s) who illegally provided the drugs to the inmate.

The four are:

Ismael Rivera – Found unresponsive on February 26, 2023, at the Hartford Correctional Center.

Alexis Rodriguez – Found unresponsive on May 24, 2023, at the Connection Halfway House in Middletown.

James Boucher – Found unresponsive on July 6, 2023, at the Corrigan Correctional Center in Uncasville.

Shateac Knight – Found unresponsive on September 1, 2023 at the Hartford Correctional Center.

**Suicides:** Four persons died of suspected suicides. The manner of death in all four instances was hanging:

Matthew Sprague – Died on January 11, 2023, held at Corrigan Correction Center.

Pema Tamang – Died on May 17, 2023, held at Garner Correctional Institution.

Eric Meagan – Died on July 10, 2023, held at Garner Correctional Institution.

Trevor Watson – Died on September 27, 2023 at Garner Correctional Institution.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Community Outreach

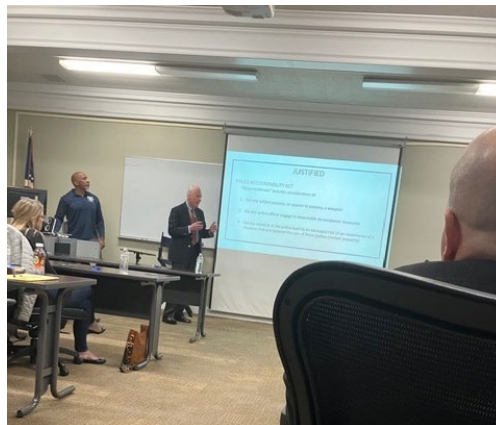
During 2023, the OIG reached out to many persons and organizations interested in the OIG's work. In all these contacts, OIG personnel were welcomed with courtesy and genuine interest. A summary of these efforts is described below.

### Community Groups

March 22, 2023: Spoke at the Waterbury Community Meeting



March 23, 2023: Spoke at the Stratford Community meeting



March 28, 2023: NAACP, New Haven

June 15, 2023: Spoke at the NAACP meeting at the Greater New Haven Branch.



June 27, 2023: Spoke at the Law and Order Panel at Connecticut American Legion Boys' State Leadership Program.

### **Police Departments**

In addition, OIG Inspectors provided training to the command staffs of various law enforcement agencies throughout 2023:

- Bridgeport Police Academy Recruits and Re-Certification
- Connecticut Police Chief's Association Training
- Council 4 of Police Unions Re-Certification
- Fairfield County Police Chiefs Association Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- Fairfield Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- Greenwich Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- Guilford Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- NEOA Conference in Newport, RI Re-Certification and updates
- New Canaan Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- New Haven County Chiefs of Police Re-Certification and updates
- New Haven Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- Newtown Police Department Command Staff Training, Union, and Re-Certification
- North Branford Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- North Haven Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification
- POACT Union Symposium



Trumbull Police Department Command Staff Training  
Wallingford South Central District Training  
West Conn Fairfield County Training Officers Association Re-Certification  
Western Connecticut Chiefs of Police Re-Certification and updates  
West Hartford Region Training  
West Haven South Central Recertification Training  
Westport Police Department Command Staff Training and Re-Certification

### **Schools**

The OIG took the opportunity to address students at several local schools. These meetings were intended to foster a discussion regarding the work of the OIG as well as the interface of young people and the criminal justice system.

January 18, 2023: Bassick High School



January 18, 2023: Warren Harding High School



January 19, 2023: Northend Middle School

January 27, 2023: Wilby High School

January 31, 2023: Enlightenment School



February 16, 2023: West Side Middle School



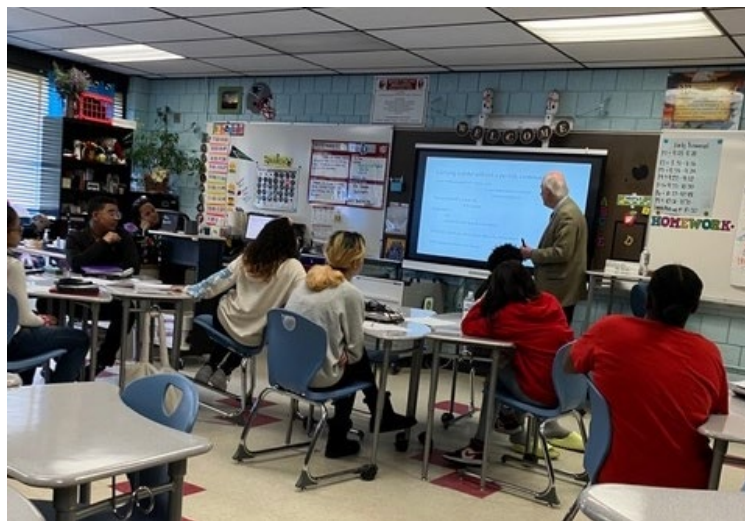
February 23, 2023: Wallace Middle School

March 2, 2023: University of New Haven

March 3, 2023: Wallace Middle School

March 8, 2023: Crosby High School

March 9, 2023: Wallace Middle School



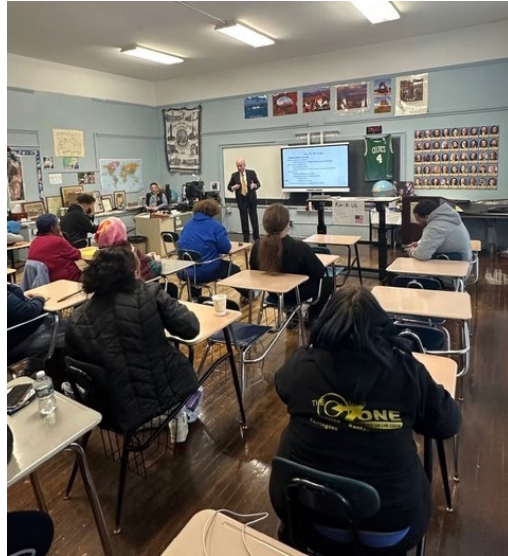
March 10, 2023: Crosby High School

March 13, 2023: Crosby High School

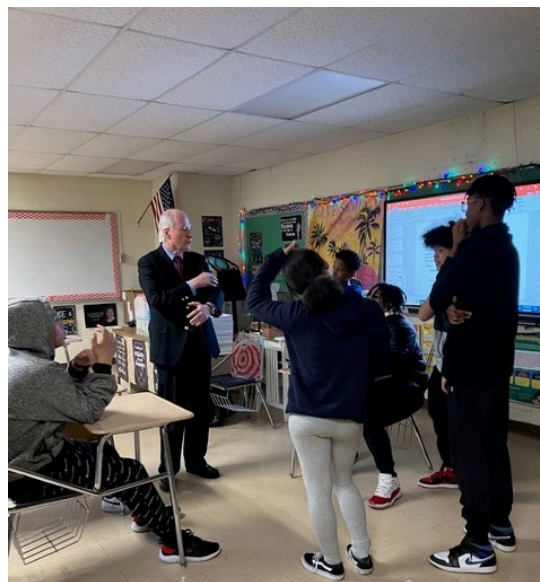
March 21, 2023: Northend Middle School

March 24, 2023: Crosby High School

March 27, 2023: Adult Education



March 28, 2023: Enlightenment Middle School



April 6, 2023: Wallace Middle School

April 13, 2023: Southern Connecticut State University



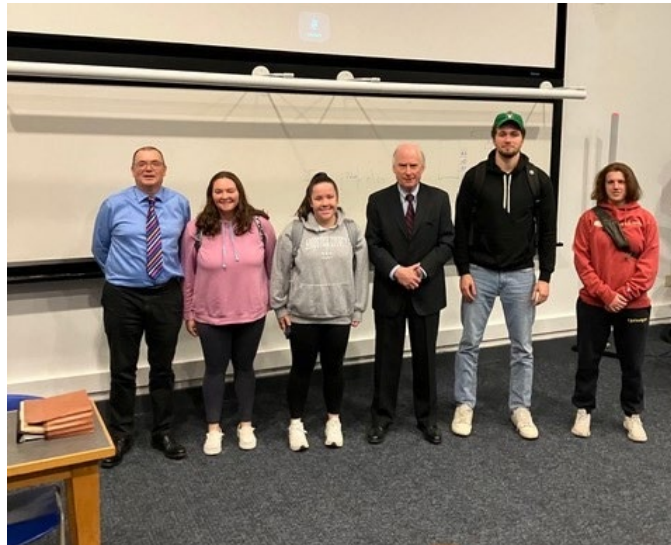
April 14, 2023: Yale Police Department



April 17, 2023: Naugatuck Valley Community College



April 18, 2023: Quinnipiac University



April 18, 2023: Maloney High School

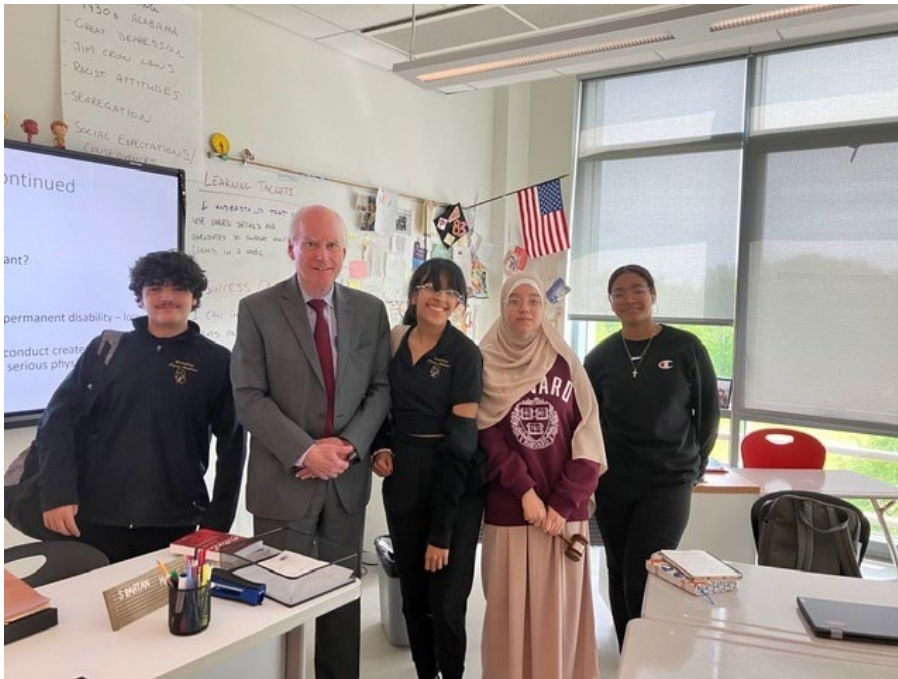
April 21, 2023: Platt High School

April 24, 2023: Post University



May 4, 2023: Central Connecticut State University

May 15, 2023: Career Academy



May 16, 2023: Venture Academy



May 18, 2023: Career Academy

May 23, 2023: Wilby High School

May 25, 2023: Career Academy

June 1, 2023: Career Academy

August 21, 2023: Fairfield University

September 20, 2023: Wallace Middle School

October 17, 2023: University of New Haven

October 24, 2023: Westside Middle School

October 25, 2023: UCONN Waterbury

October 26, 2023: POST University

November 14, 2023: Wallace Middle School



November 15, 2023: Quinnipiac University

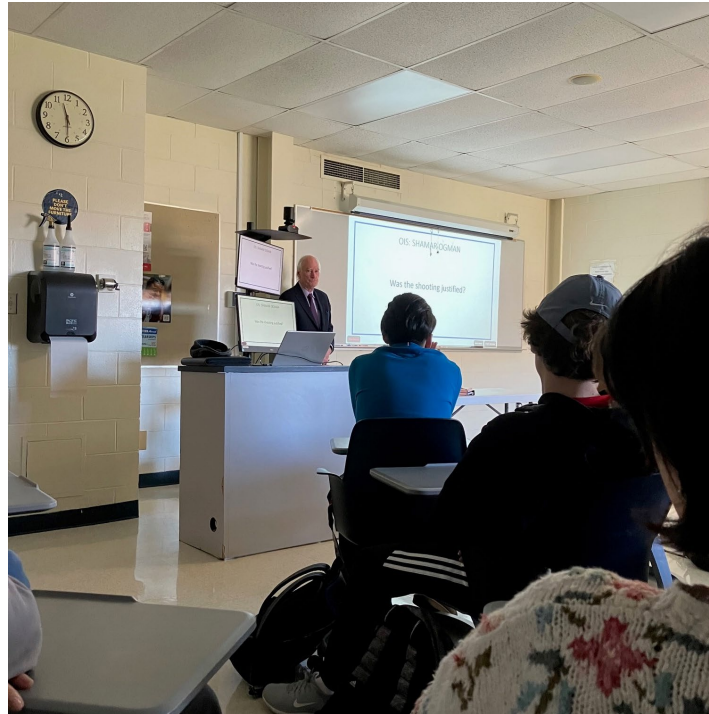


November 20, 2023: Bullard-Havens Technical High School

November 21, 2023: Wallace Middle School, Waterbury



November 27, 2023: Quinnipiac University



November 29, 2023: Sacred Heart University

**Other**

January 27, 2023: Bridgeport Police Department Graduation Ceremony

March 23, 2023: Stratford Police Department, Police Engagement Program

May 17, 2023: Meriden Police Department, Citizen Academy

May 24, 2023: Department of Corrections, Managers Meeting

June 25, 2023: Camp Justice, Division of Criminal Justice

September 8, 2023: Phi Beta Sigma, Scholarship Golf Tournament



September 12, 2023 – November 14, 2023: DCJ Search & Seizure School

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Among the recommendations made in the 2023 OIG reports were the following:

**Firearm Restriction for Persons Subject to Conservatorship**

Conservators appointed by a probate court to oversee the affairs of a person may be appointed on a voluntary or involuntary basis. A “User Guide” published by the state Office of the Probate Court Administrator offers different guidance to a conservator regarding possession of firearms based on the type of appointment. In a voluntary conservatorship, such as with the OIG investigation of Andrew O’Lone, a conservator would not have been ordered to prevent his access to firearms. Because O’Lone gained access to an assault weapon and nearly assassinated a police officer, the Connecticut Probate Courts should consider re-examining whether the firearms restrictions should apply to a person sufficiently incapable of caring for him or herself that the person is subject to a voluntary conservatorship.

**BWC Equipment**

A main purpose of police officers wearing body worn cameras is to capture and record incidents.

One solution to the problem of officers not turning on their BWCs is to make the cameras activate automatically. Present technology can turn on a BWC when an officer activates the emergency lights on a police vehicle or un-holsters the officer’s weapon. These technologies should be implemented where feasible.

## **Use of Naloxone**

It is foreseeable that local police department lockups will hold arrestees experiencing opioid withdrawal. It would be prudent for police agencies to capture information about an arrestee's use of prescribed opioid substitution medications (methadone, suboxone, etc.) and, where reasonable, make efforts to allow the arrestee to continue with such therapy while held in police custody.

As is well known by now, naloxone is effective in combating the effects of opioids in overdose situations. Indeed, on March 29, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration approved the over-the-counter sale of Narcan (naloxone) without a prescription. A *Wall Street Journal* article about the announcement noted a five-year study led by the University of Washington regarding the use of naloxone. The study found that opioid users administered 94% of naloxone-based opioid reversals. It further found that less than 1% of the 8711 overdoses recorded during the study were reversed with the help of EMTs or the police. In Connecticut, the vast majority of police departments make Narcan available to officers for use in overdose situations. I do not have data as to the frequency with which officers actually use it in the field.

In preparing the Joseph Torrice report, the OIG consulted with experts from Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). They saw the Torrice case as atypical. The DMHAS experts did, however, strongly endorse the use of naloxone to combat opioid overdose – particularly by police officers. This may be an area warranting more focus and training.

## ***Tarasoff* Obligation**

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? The OIG believes that this is a question worth examining.

## **Subpoena Powers**

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 the OIG is grateful to the General Assembly for providing this authority to the Office of Inspector General. It would be useful if such subpoena power were expanded to include all persons and entities that have information relevant to an investigation.

## EVIDENCE RETENTION AND DISPOSITION POLICY

The OIG implemented a policy regarding the retention and disposition of evidence as a tool for all CSP Major Crime Squads in connection with evidence relating to OIG investigation. The policy is as follows:

In cases where no arrest has been made and none is contemplated, evidence seized by a law enforcement agency in connection with an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation may be disposed of upon the expiration of **one year** from either the date of seizure or the issuance of a final report from this office as follows:

a. Evidence seized pursuant to a criminal arrest or search warrant shall be disposed of in accordance with General Statutes §54-36a(c). Upon request from the police agency, prosecutors with the OIG shall file appropriate motions with the court to obtain orders for disposition of the property.

b. Evidence seized without a warrant, where no arrest has been made, shall be disposed of as outlined below. In such cases, the police agency should also request prosecutors with the OIG file appropriate motions with the court.

(1) Firearms and ammunition that are contraband shall be turned over to the Connecticut State Police. See General Statutes §54-36e.

(2) All other contraband property shall be destroyed. See General Statutes §54-36a(e).

(3) All other property shall be returned to its rightful owner. If the owner does not claim the property within six months, such property shall be disposed of in accordance with General Statutes §54-36a(d): (a) money shall be remitted to the state; (b) other property of value shall be turned over to the examiner of seized property for disposition (see General Statutes §54-36b and §54-36c); and (c) all other property shall be destroyed.

This policy does not supersede any court order relating to seized property. Further, if an agency is aware that a request has been made for preservation of such evidence or that such evidence is relevant to an administrative proceeding, the agency should retain the evidence.

Police agencies intending to dispose of evidence in accordance with this policy shall consult with the Inspector General or the local State’s Attorney where the incident occurred prior to disposing of such evidence.

### *Commentary*

The Office of Inspector General has statutory jurisdiction to investigate officer-involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and the failure of a police officer to intervene to stop the use of excessive force by another officer. General Statutes §51-277a. In many situations, the OIG works in conjunction the Connecticut State Police Major Crime Squads and other police agencies who seize and secure evidence relevant to these investigations. Such evidence may be seized with or without a search warrant. Historically, the vast majority of these investigations do not result in an arrest.

In Connecticut, the disposition of property seized by a police agency is statutory. See General Statutes §54-36a et seq. The statutory scheme, by its terms, applies to situations where there is an arrest and resulting criminal case. In such matters, the seized property is listed on inventories filed with the clerk and subject to disposition by the court. The statutes do not directly address situations where the police seize property without a warrant and no arrest is made. In addition, there is no case law that provides direction in this area.

Faced with this gap in the law, the policy seeks to apply, by analogy, the legal rules applicable to property seized in connection with criminal cases to investigations that do not result in an arrest. Consultation with the OIG is encouraged to coordinate the disposition of seized evidence in individual cases.

## **CONCLUSION**

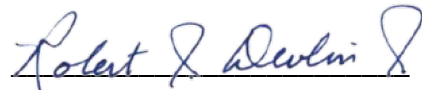
This report covers the second year of operation of the OIG. During 2023, there were fifteen officer-involved shooting cases referred to the office for investigation. Six of those cases involved fatalities. There were fewer DOC in-custody deaths in 2023 than in 2022, while the number of police agency deaths remained the same.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Forty-one cases that were referred to the office were deemed to be outside the OIG’s jurisdiction.

I am grateful for the work of our dedicated and talented staff in handling these challenging and often controversial cases.

Submitted this 1st day of April 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Devlin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.  
INSPECTOR GENERAL