

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

Case Number: 2000002994  
Date: 2/27/20  
Time Started: 1230  
Time Ended: 1236

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Wojciech Podgorski

I, Wojciech Podgorski date of birth, [REDACTED]  
of 2 Elm Street town/city of Ansonia

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-157.

I, Wojciech Podgorski, have been a police officer in Ansonia since 2017.

On 1/2/2020 I was working C shift (1500-2300) and assigned to the Hilltop sector which encompasses every street East of Platt Street and Hill Street in Ansonia. The Hilltop sector does not include Myrtle Avenue as one of the streets within its sector. C shift is my regular patrol shift and on this day I was wearing my Patrol Uniform clearly identifying me as an Ansonia Police Officer by the patches on my uniform. At approximately 19:36 hours, Officer Smith was dispatched to the police department to respond to a walk-in complaint regarding a Domestic Dispute that occurred at 81 Myrtle Avenue. As Officer Smith was responding to the police department, Officer Nelson and I were dispatched to 81 Myrtle Avenue to attempt to make contact with the other half of the dispute.

Dispatcher Awalt informed Officer Nelson and me over the radio that the female was at the police department and stated that the male, who she identified as Michael Gregory (DOB 07/31/1989) was at the residence. Dispatcher Awalt stated that per the female complainant Gregory was intoxicated and was stating that he was going to destroy her items. The female complainant informed Dispatcher Awalt that there was a Full No Contact Protective Order in place showing the female as the protected party and Gregory as the respondent. Dispatcher Awalt was also informed by the female complainant that the rear entrance to the residence was unlocked. Dispatcher Awalt confirmed the Full No Contact Protective Order in the NCIC system at this time.

Officer Nelson and I arrived on scene and as we began to walk towards the residence Sgt. Flynn arrived on scene. Officer Nelson and I continued to walk to the rear of the residence, where the female complainant stated that the door was unlocked. I began to knock on the rear door in an attempt to make contact with Gregory. We received no answer at this time. I then knocked on the door again and received no answer. I was able to see someone approach the rear door wearing dark clothing through the blinds. Sgt. Flynn and I stated amongst ourselves and Officer Nelson that we saw someone approach the door and then walk away from the door. I again knocked on the rear door receiving no answer. Sgt. Flynn went to the front of the residence at this time to

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

Witness: [Signature] Signature: [Signature] #66

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I notarized, endorse here: [Signature] #1431

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ensure no one was leaving out of the front door. I knocked on the rear door a final time again receiving no answer. Sgt. Flynn radioed to Officer Smith asking him if he had arrived at the department. Officer Smith stated that he was and that if we made contact with Gregory that we should take him into custody. Officer Nelson knocked on the rear window next to the rear door in an attempt to again make contact with Gregory, but no answer was received. I then approached the front of the residence where Sgt. Flynn was located and informed him that we were still receiving no answer and asked him if he would like us to check if the rear door was open and then to announce ourselves. Sgt. Flynn stated he saw movement in the residence and asked if the door was in fact unlocked and then stated to knock, open the door and inform Gregory that it was the police and that we needed to speak to him.

I began to walk back up the driveway and informed Officer Nelson that Sgt. Flynn stated to knock and announce. Officer Nelson approached the door knocked again and slightly opened the door and stated "Hello, Ansonia Police." Officer Nelson then saw Gregory and stated "Come on out bud" to Gregory. After Officer Nelson made these comments, Gregory walked around the kitchen table and approached the kitchen counter top and with his left hand grabbed a large silver knife from what appeared to be a knife block. Gregory then stated "Y'all are going to have to shoot me" Officer Nelson replied, "We're going to have to shoot you?" then again requested Gregory to come out of the residence. Officer Nelson then pushed the door open. Officer Nelson and I were still standing outside of the residence by the back door entry. Officer Nelson and I asked Gregory to come outside of the residence in order to speak to us. Gregory stated "You are gonna have to shoot me" approximately four more times and then again stated, "You are gonna have to fucking shoot me". I asked Gregory to come outside so we can have a conversation. Gregory responded stating "Oh, come outside and have a conversation so you can arrest me, suck my dick". Officer Nelson and I asked Gregory to put the knife down again which he refused. At this time, I radioed to Sgt. Flynn requesting him to come to the back door where Officer Nelson and I were attempting to speak to Gregory. Officer Nelson then stated to Gregory twice to put the knife down. Sgt. Flynn then stated for Officer Nelson or myself to draw our TASER and at this time I drew my TASER and pointed it at the ground and Officer Nelson drew his TASER as well. Gregory then began to approach the door and Sgt. Flynn, Officer Nelson and I took a step back and Gregory slammed the door shut and locked it.

I then thought that Gregory was either going to harm himself or anyone else in the apartment that may have been inside. Sgt. Flynn then stated to open the door. I checked the door and was able to determine that it was locked. I reholstered my TASER and Sgt. Flynn stated to kick the door. I began to kick the left side of the door

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where the handle and deadbolt were located. I kicked the door approximately four to five times before it swung open. I saw Gregory standing in the kitchen and entered the residence and pointed my TASER at Gregory and stated "Mike drop the knife man" and he replied stating "Nope, you're gonna have to shoot me." Gregory then entered the second room which appeared to be a bedroom on the left side of the residence and closed the door. I again was unsure whether anyone was in the room that may have been subject to harm with Gregory inside. We approached the door and Sgt. Flynn stated to kick this door as well. Sgt. Flynn did a quick scan of the surrounding rooms to ensure no one else was in the residence. Both Officer Nelson and Sgt. Flynn were on the left side of me. Gregory from behind the door stated "I'm live" two times, which I believed that he was streaming the incident on his cellphone. I stated to Gregory "Mike come on out man this is your last chance." Gregory did not come out and then again stated that he was live. At this time Gregory stated "I'm taking one of y'all with me". I informed Officer Nelson that I would kick the door and was reholstering my TASER. Officer Nelson had his firearm drawn and reholstered his firearm to draw his TASER. I then kicked the right side of the door where the handle was located. Gregory was located behind the door as the door opened and I noticed that Gregory had his left hand sticking out from behind the door while holding the same large silver knife that he previously took from the kitchen. Gregory said, "Oh, that worked" and then closed the door again. Gregory then stated "Do it again, I'm gonna stab one of y'all". Sgt. Flynn then asked if we were ready and Gregory stated "Are you ready? I'm ready" and then Sgt. Flynn kicked the door.

As Gregory exited the bedroom, Officer Nelson deployed the TASER at Gregory which had no effect and announced "TASER deployed, TASER deployed." The TASER was not effective due to the thick coat and hooded sweatshirt that Gregory was wearing. Gregory began to approach me with the large silver knife and I was in fear for my life as I began to retreat around the kitchen table. I attempted to gain distance between myself and Gregory by circling the kitchen table. As I came around the third corner of the kitchen table I was facing the side of the house from which we entered. Officer Nelson then drew his firearm as Gregory continued to approach us and Gregory again stated "Shoot me". Officer Nelson then fired three shots at Gregory. Gregory fell forward onto the ground and Officer Nelson radioed that shots have been fired. Sgt. Flynn and I approached Gregory and told Gregory to drop the knife, Gregory was lying on his back and I turned Gregory over onto his stomach and applied handcuffs to both of Gregory's wrists behind his back and then double locked the handcuffs. Sgt. Flynn then went to the police cruiser to obtain a medical bag in order to render aid to Gregory. I then searched Gregory's pockets and person to remove any items as Sgt. Flynn radioed to dispatch requesting Ansonia Rescue Medical Service to arrive on scene. In Gregory's right coat pocket I located a small can of pepper spray and a black cellphone. In Gregory's right pants pocket I located a small amount of change. In

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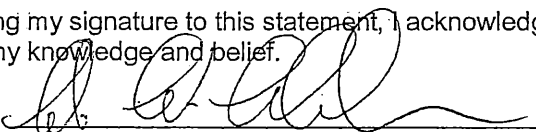
Case Number: 200002994

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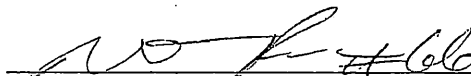
Gregory's left lower coat pocket I located an inhaler and finally in Gregory's upper left coat pocket I located a candy cane and a pack of gum. Sgt. Flynn came back into the residence and both Sgt. Flynn and I began to apply gauze and pressure to Gregory's wounds. I observed wounds to Gregory including one on the left side of his cheek and the other on the left side of his chest. Ansonia Rescue Medical Service arrived on scene a few moments after Sgt. Flynn and I began to tend to Gregory's wounds. I removed the handcuffs in order to allow Ansonia Rescue to treat Gregory and noticed the final wound to be to Gregory's left upper arm. We then removed Gregory's coat and hooded sweatshirt and then Ansonia Rescue cut open Gregory's shirt from the rear. Ansonia Rescue began to render aid at this time. Gregory was transported to Griffin Hospital shortly after Ansonia Rescue began to treat Gregory's injuries. Sgt. Flynn, Officer Nelson and myself secured the scene. Officer Smith and Office Fowler arrived on scene to assist in securing the scene and at this time I transported Officer Nelson to Griffin Hospital due to Sgt. Flynn's request. I was relieved from the hospital by another Officer and reported to the police department in order to cooperate with Connecticut State Police.

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