

State of Connecticut  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Report Concerning  
Use of Deadly Force by the Bridgeport Police Department  
Against Huntley Jackson on October 5, 2024

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Inspector General

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### *Acknowledgements*

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*Bridgeport Police Department*

*Bridgeport Judicial District State's Attorney's Office*

*Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad*

*Connecticut Division of Scientific Services, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Firearms Unit*

## INTRODUCTION

On October 5, 2024, Bridgeport Police Officer Jesse Jimenez<sup>1</sup> shot and wounded Huntley Jackson,<sup>2</sup> who had attacked Officer Marie Cetti with a knife. As required by statute,<sup>3</sup> the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated this officer-involved shooting. The results of the investigation are contained in this report.

The investigation reveals that at approximately 1:00 a.m. on October 5, 2024, Bridgeport Police Officers Marie Cetti, Jesse Jimenez, Maria Canhassi, and Jah'maine Mercer were dispatched to 147 Terry Place in Bridgeport for a report of an emotionally disturbed person at that location. Upon arrival, the officers encountered Huntley Jackson at the front doorway of the residence. He was aggressive and belligerent with the officers. Officer Cetti attempted to engage in a dialogue with Jackson; however, it was not possible to have a rational conversation with him. The officers remained on the porch while Jackson shouted at them, often unintelligibly. Jackson's hands were in the pockets of his jacket. At one point, Officer Canhassi closed the storm door to create a physical barrier between Jackson and the officers. Jackson then locked the door from the inside and physically tried to prevent his father from unlocking it.

When it appeared, however, that Jackson might get into a physical altercation with his father, who was trying to exit through the door, Officer Cetti attempted to open the door with a knife. Suddenly, Jackson removed a folding knife from his pocket, unfolded it, opened the door and rushed out holding the knife in his right hand. Jackson yelled, "I am going to kill one of you." He then raised the knife over his head and stabbed Cetti twice in the back of the neck. Officer Jimenez fired his duty weapon twice, striking Jackson in the abdomen. After Jackson was shot rolled over, attempted to sit up and continued to hold the knife in his right hand with its blade exposed. Eventually, the officers were able to disarm him.

Jackson survived his gunshot wounds. Cetti received medical treatment for her injuries and was discharged from the hospital later that day.

Based on our investigation, I conclude that, under the totality of the circumstances, Officer Jimenez reasonably believed that Jackson posed an immediate threat of serious injury or death to Officer Cetti. I find that Officer Jimenez's use of deadly physical force was objectively reasonable and therefore legally justified under the applicable legal standards.

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<sup>1</sup> Officer Jesse Jimenez is a Hispanic male who, on the date of the incident, was 35 years of age and had been a Bridgeport police officer for approximately 8 years and 11 months. His disciplinary history consists of a counseling received in 2023 for failing to activate his body-worn camera during a call in violation of department policy.

<sup>2</sup> Jackson is a black male who, on the date of the incident, was 45 years of age.

<sup>3</sup> As relevant here, General Statutes §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."

## INVESTIGATION

### Scene

The scene was secured by the Bridgeport Police Department, the Office of Inspector General, and was subsequently processed by the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad (WDMCS). The scene was primarily limited to the front porch of 147 Terry Place.

Terry Place is a two-lane asphalt roadway approximately eight hundred feet in length that travels in an approximate northeast/southwest direction between Main Street and Wayne Street and falls within a residential area of Bridgeport. The road has concrete sidewalks on both sides of Terry Place that run the full length of the roadway.



[Front porch at 147 Terry Place]





[Front porch, location of shooting]

Various items of evidence on and near the area of the porch, including two shell casings and one bullet fragment were photographed and collected.



[Spent shell casing]



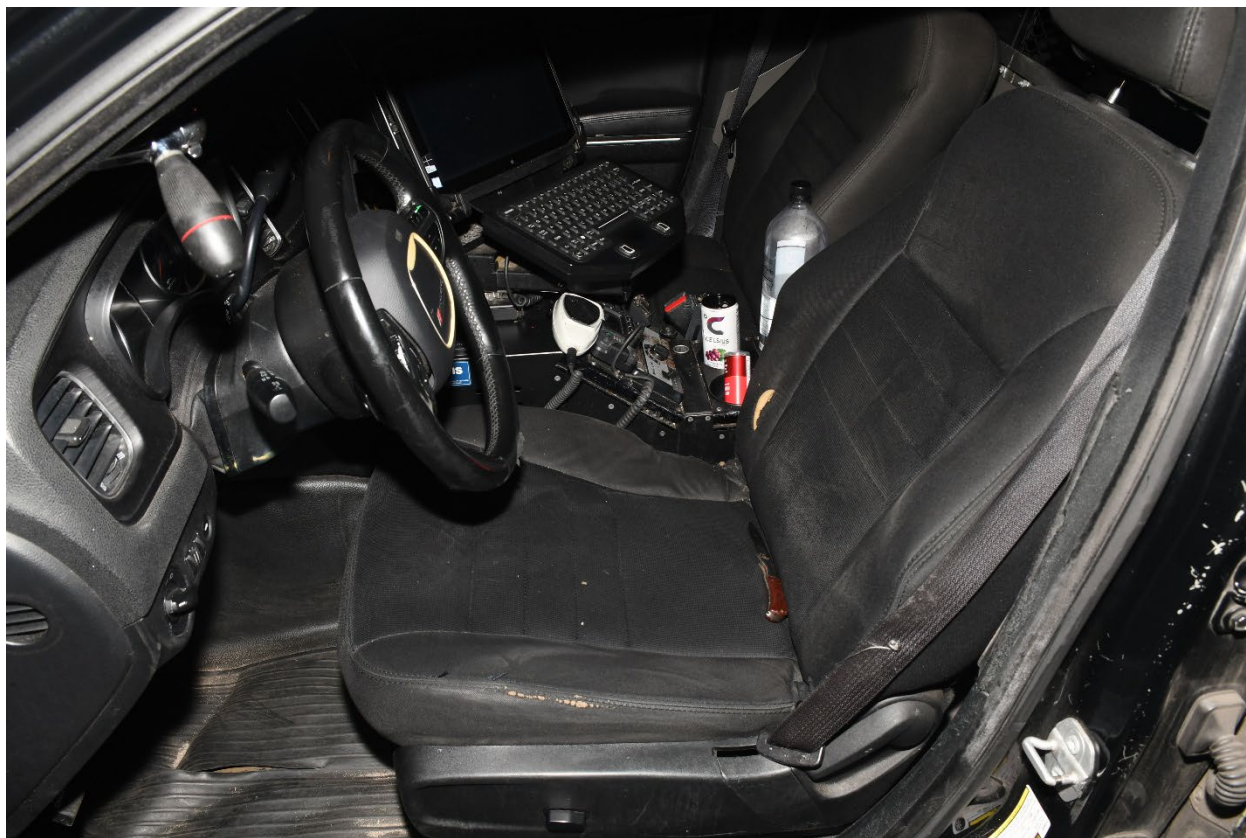


[Bullet fragment]



[Spent shell casing]

WDMCS detectives were told by Bridgeport officers that the knife Jackson used to stab Officer Cetti was on the front passenger seat of one of the police cruisers. An Irwin brand folding knife with wood handle and 8 cm blade was seized, photographed and collected from the front left seat of Bridgeport Police patrol car #120.



[Knife seized from patrol car]

Detectives also observed and collected various items of bloody clothing and medical equipment used to provide emergency medical intervention for Jackson.

### Statements<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The police reports prepared by the officers involved in this incident were filed more than eight months after it occurred. Such a lengthy delay in filing a report is problematic and deeply concerning, particularly in a case in which the officers failing to timely file a report are witnesses to another officer's use of deadly force. Although I have determined that the use of deadly force by Officer Jimenez was legally justified, it still is of utmost importance for officers to make a record of these events as contemporaneously as possible to the incident, when memories are the freshest.

Indeed, the failure of the officers to file timely report appears to violate written policies of the Bridgeport Police Department. General Order Number 5.15 (Report Writing) III, C provides in relevant part: "1. All initial reports will be completed and submitted to the appropriate supervisor prior to the end of shift, unless they are specifically



### **Officer Maria Canhassi**

On July 11, 2025, Officer Maria Canhassi wrote a police report regarding the incident eight months and fourteen days after it occurred. It provides in relevant part: “I, Officer Canhassi, responded to assist . . . with a report involving a psychiatric patient. Upon arrival at the residence, officers could hear a male subject yelling from inside the home. Officers knocked on the door, which consisted of an exterior glass storm door and an inner main door. A male individual opened the main door. Officer Cetti opened the storm door, and I held it open for her while she engaged the individual, who was later identified as Huntley Lloyd Jackson . . . , the subject experiencing the psychiatric episode.

“Mr. Jackson stood in the doorway with his hands in his pockets, yelling at officers and refusing to allow entry into the residence. He began making concerning statements, claiming that officers were violating his rights and repeatedly shouting phrases such as, ‘Run your gun,’ and ‘I don’t want minions, I want the top.’ He also stated, ‘One of you is going to get hurt tonight. There’s going to be a fight. Combat! You got your guns.’ Due to Mr. Jackson’s erratic behavior, the threatening nature of his statements, and the fact that his hands remained concealed in his pockets, I became concerned for officer safety and closed the glass door. At that point, Mr. Jackson locked the door from the inside.

“Officers remained on scene until the arrival of AMR. Once AMR was on site, Officer Cetti and I knocked on the glass door in an attempt to get one of the other individuals inside the home to unlock it. Mr. Jackson was observed arguing with the individual and instructing them not to open the door.

“I advised other officers that I would attempt to access the home through an alternate entrance and proceeded down the driveway. While doing so, I heard two gunshots and immediately ran back to the front of the residence. I drew my Taser and approached the porch, where officers were ordering Mr. Jackson to drop a knife.

“Mr. Jackson was conscious but appeared unable to move. I holstered my Taser and ran to the ambulance to check on Officer Cetti’s condition. After ensuring that Officer Cetti was being treated inside the ambulance, I returned to the porch, drew my firearm, and pointed it at Mr. Jackson for scene security.

“Officers approached and stepped on Mr. Jackson’s wrist to secure the knife. I requested an additional AMR unit. I then retrieved the knife, secured it, and placed it in my cruiser for evidence.”

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authorized to be placed ‘on hold’ by a supervisor; 2. In any case, when an initial report is not completed by the end of shift, supervisory approval shall be obtained, if same-day submission is not feasible, the complete initial report *shall be submitted within three (3) business days of when the investigation originated.*” (emphasis added). The Bridgeport Police Department should take steps to ensure that such reports are filed and reviewed by superior officers on a timely basis and in accordance with department policy.

### **Officer Jah'maine Mercer**

On July 10, 2025, Officer Jah'maine Mercer wrote a police report about the incident eight months and fifteen days after it occurred. It provides: "On Saturday 10/5/24, I, Officer Jah'maine Mercer responded, as an assisting unit, to 147 Terry Place on the report of an emotionally disturbed person at that location.

"Upon arrival I observed a black male, later identified as Huntley Jackson standing at the open front door of the house speaking to Officer Marie Cetti, who was the Primary Officer. Officer Cetti tried to calmly talk to Jackson, but he was irrational, very aggressive and disrespectful. His tone was belligerent, and he was continually yelling. I could hear him before I approached said residence.

"Jackson mentioned something about someone trying to inject him and put him to sleep. Officer Cetti responded stating she wasn't going to do that, then Jackson, in an aggressive tone stated, 'So what the fuck are you going to do! calm down then! run it, run your fucking gun!'

"Several times Jackson made references about Officer's guns, fighting and hurting people and other comments of a violent nature. Officer Cetti asked dispatched to send the medics, then Jackson stated, 'and one of them is going to get hurt tonight, there's going to be a fight, Combat! You got your guns!'

"While Jackson was still standing in the doorway, Officer Maria Canhassi closed the outer glass door Jackson then locked the outer glass door prohibiting officers from opening the door. Jackson continued to stand at the door making irrational comments. He turned his back to us and begin arguing with a man who appeared to be trying to unlock the door.

"While Officer Cetti attempted to unlock the door from the outside, the man inside reached around Jackson and unlocked the door. Almost immediately Jackson quickly came out on the porch brandishing a knife and stated, 'Imma fucking kill one of y'all'. He raised the knife and stabbed Officer Cetti.

"I immediately grabbed Jackson from behind, pulling him away from Officer Cetti, then simultaneously I heard shots fired and fell on the porch. Only a few seconds elapsed from when Jackson charged out the door until the shots were fired.

"While Jackson was down on the porch he was moving around. I saw Officer Jesse Jimenez with his firearm drawn so I immediately got up drew my firearm and pointed it at Jackson while giving him commands to drop the knife, which he was still holding in his right hand. I continued to give Jackson commands to drop the knife. Jackson did not comply with the commands from me or Officer Jimenez. An officer stepped on Jackson's right wrist and disarmed him securing the knife and placing him in handcuffs.

"Officers called for additional medics and started rendering aid to Jackson. Medics arrived on scene, treated and transported Jackson to St. Vincent's hospital."

### **Officer Marie Cetti**

Bridgeport police records indicate Officer Marie Cetti was the lead officer on the call on October 5, 2024. On July 30, 2025, nine months and twenty-five days after the incident, Officer Cetti offered her version of the events that morning in the form of a signed police report. That report provides: "On October 5th, 2024, I, Officer Cetti, responded to 147 Terry Place for a complainant reporting her 45-year-old son, later identified as Huntley Jackson, was having a mental breakdown. I was advised by channel one Jackson could be heard yelling in the background. When I arrived on scene and exited my marked patrol unit[,] I could hear Jackson yelling from within the house as I approached. I rang the doorbell and knocked on the glass storm door. The wooden storm door was opened by an older black male as the yelling got louder. I advised channel one to roll the medics in, as the[y] were staging around the corner prior to my arrival.

"I attempted to make entry into the dwelling while saying 'hello' when Jackson aggressively approached the threshold of the door meeting me with verbal confrontation yelling 'no hello's.' At this point I put my hand up to his sternum as he continued to walk toward me to create distance. He continued to say I violated his rights by touching him and every time I spoke he became more agitated and belligerent. He shouted[:] 'I'm gonna fight and there is gonna be a struggle. You better tase me because he's drawing for the gun again.' Jackson continued for some time shouting in his agitated state. At this point I asked channel one for an ETA on the medics. Jackson then said 'one of you is gonna get hurt tonight, there's gonna be a fight, Combat! You got your guns?' I then requested another patrol unit to my location.

"This is when Officer Canhassi, who was holding the glass storm door open, closed the door in Jackson's face causing a tactical disadvantage for officers on scene. Jackson then locked the door continuing with his aggressive dialogue to the male party inside.

"Officer Canhassi and I banged on the glass storm door in an attempt to get another member of the household to unlock the door. An older black male approached the door when Jackson turned his back to me to engage said male party, preventing this male from unlocking the door. He then continued with his disrespectful dialogue to this male party.

"I removed my pocket knife in an attempt to pry the lock to gain entry and detain Jackson. The male party was able to reach around Jackson to unlock the door. I backed away from the door putting my knife away when Jackson lunged through the door yelling, 'I'm gonna fucking kill one of you.' I was able to get both arms up in front of my face to defend myself when shots were fired. Jackson fell at my feet and then attempted to get up. I couldn't feel any pain but knew I was physically injured. I was able to take steps back without taking my eyes off Jackson, get myself over the porch railing and lowered myself into a bush. I walked myself to the ambulance who were already on scene as I had previously called for them when I made contact with Jackson. AMR transported me to St. Vincent's to be treated for my injuries."

### **Officer Jesse Jimenez**

On November 6, 2024, Officer Jesse Jimenez wrote a report about the incident and his use of deadly force. That report was converted to a sworn statement on November 18, 2025. It states:

“On October 5th, 2024, I, Police Officer Jesse Jimenez[,] was assigned to patrol Amber 27 (North end of Bridgeport). At approximately 0103 hours, I responded to a call for service at 147 Terry-place to assist Officer Marie Cetti. The call concerned an emotionally disturbed male party. The complainant, the mother of the male, contacted the emergency operations center to report that her 45-year-old son, later identified as Huntley Jackson, was having a mental breakdown. The emergency operations dispatcher also indicated that Jackson could be heard screaming in the background during the call.

“Upon my arrival at approximately 0113 hours, I observed Officers Marie Cetti, Jah' Maine Mercer and Maria Silva-Canhassi engaged in conversation with Jackson at the front door of 147 Terry place. As I approached the steps leading to the front porch area, Jackson could be heard being verbally confrontational towards Officer Cetti, using derogatory language and shouting throughout the encounter.

“Officer Cetti requested an estimated time of arrival for the American Medical [R]esponse team and an additional assisting unit over the department radio, frequency channel 1. At this point, Jackson stated, ‘And one of them is going to get hurt tonight, there's going to be a fight.’ His tone then escalated as he shouted ‘combat, you got your guns.’

“Based on my training and experience, I recognized that Jackson’s aggressive demeanor and verbal threats indicated a likelihood of imminent physical resistance. Such behavior often escalates to a situation where Officers may be required to use physical force to gain control. Anticipating the potential for a confrontation, I proceeded to put on my protective tactical gloves.

“Officer Canhassi then closed the outer glass door while Jackson stood in the doorway. Jackson subsequently locked the glass door, creating a barrier that prevented Officers from gaining entry into the residence. In response, Officers Cetti and Canhassi began knocking on the glass door in an attempt to get the attention of a male individual standing behind Jackson. Officer Cetti was heard requesting the individual to unlock the door.

As the male approached the door, Jackson turned around and began arguing with him. From my position, their conversation was unintelligible. The man attempted to reach around Jackson to unlock the door, while Jackson tried to block his path. Meanwhile, Officer Cetti attempted to manipulate the lock from the outside using her tactical knife. Eventually, the individual managed to reach around Jackson and unlock the door from the inside. As the door began to open, I observed Jackson suddenly brandish a knife, which he had removed from his right jacket pocket.



“He immediately lunged at [O]fficer Cetti, shouting, ‘I’m going to fucking kill one of you.’ Jackson continued to attack Officer Cetti, raising his right arm in an overhead aggressive stabbing motion in the direction of Officer Cetti’s head and neck area. Fearing the immediate life-threatening actions to inflict serious bodily harm towards Officer Cetti, I drew my department-issued firearm from the holster and fired two shots at Jackson from close range. Jackson fell forward onto the porch, landing on his stomach, then rolled onto his back in an attempt to stand up, still gripping the knife in his right hand.

“With my firearm aimed in Jackson’s direction, I issued loud and clear verbal commands for him to drop the knife. Jackson refused, responding, ‘I’m not dropping shit, finish your rounds.’ Despite several additional commands, he continued to refuse compliance. I then instructed two male individuals now standing in the doorway to close and lock the door to prevent Jackson from re-entering the residence.

“At this point, Jackson appeared to be losing consciousness. Officer Mercer and I approached him, and I stepped on his right wrist to secure the knife and prevent any further attack. Officer Canhassi then removed and secured the knife from Jackson’s hand. Shortly thereafter, Officer Michael Cuneo arrived on scene and assisted in placing handcuffs on Jackson. I lifted Jackson’s shirt to check for wounds and began rendering aid. I instructed Officer Mercer to retrieve medical supplies so we could continue providing aid. At that time, Lieutenant Jonathan Duharte arrived on scene, relieved me and directed me to proceed to St. Vincent’s Hospital.”

### **Witness 1**

OIG inspectors interviewed Jackson’s father, Witness 1. He said Jackson had become belligerent after an argument about a television. When police arrived, he said Jackson began “cursing them out.” Witness #1 stated that, first, the (storm) door was open, then it was closed, then when Witness 1 opened it back up, Jackson attacked the officer with a knife. He stated that another officer then fired a couple of shots and Jackson fell to the ground. Finally, he indicated that other officers told Jackson to drop the knife.

### **Witness 2**

OIG inspectors interviewed Witness 2, who was in the house at the time of the incident and identified himself as Jackson’s brother-in-law. He said he was upstairs earlier in the evening when he recalled hearing a disturbance downstairs between his in-laws and Jackson. He said he heard yelling and raised voices. Witness 2 reported that he came downstairs to try to de-escalate the situation and to calm down Jackson, who he said has some mental health issues. He said he heard a knock on the door and saw that police had arrived. He was not sure who

called them, but he went back upstairs to his wife and daughter. Witness 2 did not witness the violent incident with police.

## **Digital Evidence**

The shooting was captured on the body-worn cameras (BWC) of Officers Cetti, Canhassi, Jimenez, and Mercer. The videos are summarized below.

### Officer Cetti's BWC video

The video from Officer Cetti's BWC is substantially consistent with the report that she wrote. The video shows her proceeding up the front walk of 147 Terry Place. Officer Maria Canhassi has also responded to the call. Canhassi and Cetti walked up the front stairs and Cetti rang the doorbell and knocked on the door. At 1:12 a.m., a male party (Witness 1) opened the solid door and then the glass storm door to the house and leaves the glass door open to let the officers inside. A loud voice can be heard inside. Officer Cetti radioed dispatch to, "roll medics." The male party that opened the front door can be seen in the foyer along with two other males (Witness 2 and Huntley Jackson). Officer Cetti then began to pass the threshold of the door and greeted them with a "hello." Jackson immediately yelled, "No, hello. Get out!" as he walked toward the doorway where Officer Cetti was standing. Officer Cetti backed up onto the porch with her hand extended toward Jackson to maintain distance from him. Jackson then said, "Don't be physical, don't touch me. You are violating my rights." Officer Cetti responded, "No, I didn't violate your rights" and Jackson said, "Yes, you touched me. This is not your house. You touched me, what are you going to do about it?"

As he was talking, both of Jackson's hands remained in his pockets, even raising one of his hands while it was still in his pocket. Officer Cetti said, "I am going to take you to the hospital." Jackson then said, "You already know you didn't, you fucked up already. So, let's begin." Officer Cetti says, "I'm going to wait for the medics to be here and I'm going to take you to the hospital." Jackson responded, "I'm going to fight. There's going to be a struggle. You better tase me, cause he's drawing for the gun again. So they said, while they try to inject me and put me to sleep." Officer Cetti replied, "I'm not going to do that." Jackson said, "What the fuck are you going to do then? Calm down. Run it! Run your fucking gun. Cause it's bad right? Run it! Run it! You're fucking overage and in a fucking cop uniform. You should be fucking retired. The fuck is going on?" Jackson then pointed to one of the officers and made additional disparaging remarks. Jackson also said, "I don't want these minions, I want the top. Now go!" Officers Jimenez and Mercer come into camera view. Officer Cetti radios for an "ET and medics." Jackson then said, "And one of them is going to get hurt tonight. Come back. Got your gun?" Officer Canhassi then closed the glass front door at 1:14 a.m. Officer Cetti radioed

for another officer in addition to the four already present. Jackson then locked the glass front door. Cetti said, “this is probably why we shouldn’t close it, right?” Officer Canhassi said, “I didn’t really think about that. He was spitting all over.” Officer Cetti asked Jackson through the glass front door which hospital he goes to. Officers Cetti and Canhassi knocked on the glass storm door and asked that it be unlocked.

Next, Jackson positioned himself with his back to the front of the glass door preventing Witness 1 from being able to unlock the door. Witness 1 and Jackson can be heard exchanging words. Officer Cetti pulled out a knife and inserted it in between the crack of the door and door frame in an attempt to open the door, saying, “this is why we don’t do this shit, man.” The male party opened the storm door and Jackson immediately pulled a knife out of his right front pocket and said, “I’m gonna fuckin’ kill one of you” as he lunged toward Officer Cetti with his knife being held high. The body-worn camera goes dark. Two gunshots can be heard. In the resulting struggle, the video then is obscured by clothing or some other object. Voices can be heard telling Jackson to drop the knife, which Jackson is clutching in his right hand.

[Click [here](#) to view Officer Cetti’s BWC video.]

#### Officer Mercer’s BWC video

Officer Mercer’s BWC indicates he arrived on scene at about 1:13 a.m. The video captures the same activity as the video from Officer Cetti’s BWC. It also shows the moment Jackson leapt from the doorway and stabbed a startled Cetti. Immediately thereafter, two gunshots can be heard and then Jackson is seen lying on his back on the porch, trying to get up. Officer Mercer had his gun pointed at Jackson and told him to drop the knife. Another officer is seen to Mercer’s right, also holding Jackson at gunpoint. Officer Canhassi had her Taser pointed at Jackson. Mercer moved down from the porch. A voice is heard saying, “drop the knife so we can help you.” At 1:17 a.m., Jackson appeared unconscious and Mercer moved back onto the porch. Two other officers moved the knife away from Jackson and placed handcuffs on him. Various officers treated Jackson for his wounds.

[Click [here](#) to view Officer Mercer’s BWC video.]

#### Officer Canhassi’s BWC video

Officer Canhassi’s BWC video shows her arriving at the same time as Officer Cetti. It also captured the verbal encounter that ended when Canhassi shuts the storm door, which Jackson then locked. As Cetti began to use her knife to re-open the door, Officer’s Canhassi said, “I’ll just go through the back.” She then walked off the porch and around the left side of the house

toward the rear. As she arrived at the rear of the house, two gunshots can be heard. Canhassi quickly turned around and ran back to the front of the house, stating, “what happened?” She took out her Taser and pointed it at Jackson who was lying on his back on the porch. She then rushed over to check on Officer Cetti, who was being tended to by medical personnel. She then returned to the porch where officers were approaching Jackson. She reached down and picked up a knife next to Jackson’s right arm. She then left the house and talked to some other officers before putting the knife on the front seat of a police cruiser.

[Click [here](#) to view Officer Canhassi’s BWC video.]

#### Officer Jimenez’s BWC video

Officer Jimenez’s recording begins just before 1:13 a.m. It shows Officers Cetti, Canhassi, and Mercer standing in front of him on the porch. When he arrived, Jackson was already shouting at the three other officers. The video shows that when Officer Canhassi departed the porch to go around back, Officer Jimenez took her position on the porch to the left of the door. As soon as Witness 1 opened the door, Jackson removed his knife from his jacket pocket, unfolded it, and lunged at Officer Cetti. Officer Mercer grabbed Jackson from behind and pulled him off Cetti. Officer Jimenez fired two shots at Jackson and Jackson fell to the floor. Officer Cetti retreated off the right end of the porch, and Mercer and Jimenez held Jackson at gunpoint and told him to put the knife down.

[Click [here](#) to view Officer Jimenez’s BWC video.]

OIG inspectors observed a camera mounted to the porch at 147 Terry Place, but the homeowner (Witness 1) told Bridgeport police officers that it was not functioning, according to a report.

#### 911 Call/Dispatch recording

In a 911 call placed to police at 12:59 a.m., Jackson’s mother told the operator that her son was having a mental breakdown and that he had been brought to the hospital several times for this issue in the past. During the 911 call, Jackson can be heard screaming and yelling. A dispatcher asked her if he has any weapons on him and his mother said she does not think so. A dispatcher put out a call for Officer Cetti to respond to the call, telling her that the complainant was reporting that his son was having a mental breakdown.

[To hear the dispatch call to Officer Cetti, click [here](#).]



## Physical Evidence

Detectives seized a firearm from Officer Jimenez at St. Vincent's Hospital, a Smith & Wesson M&P 45 caliber pistol (serial number NCP3863) with one chambered round and an inserted magazine with 8 rounds, along with an additional two fully loaded 10-round magazines.

WDMCS detectives photographed the knife Jackson used to stab Officer Cetti. The knife was an Irwin brand folding knife with a wooden handle and an 8 cm blade. Two FC brand 45-caliber shell casings seized from the front porch were also photographed.



[Pistol and ammo taken from Officer Jimenez]



[Knife used by Jackson]



[Spent shell casings]



[Bullet fragment]

## **Medical Records**

### **Huntley Jackson**

A search warrant was obtained for Jackson's medical records. He was taken to St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport on October 5th and was discharged on October 20th into police custody. Medical staff treated Jackson for two bullet wounds to his abdomen with damage to his kidney, liver, ribs, and spine. Toxicology tests indicated the presence of cocaine, synthetic marijuana, and benzodiazepine in his system.<sup>5</sup>

### **Officer Marie Cetti**

Officer Cetti was also taken to St. Vincent's Medical Center to be treated for her injuries. Her medical records show she was treated for two lacerations to her neck, one three centimeters long and the other two centimeters long. The wounds were closed with surgical staples.

## **Forensics**

The firearm taken from Officer Jimenez at the hospital, a Smith & Wesson M&P 45 2.0, was sent to the firearms unit at the Division of Scientific Services for testing, along with the damaged bullet and two shell casings retrieved from the porch. Analysts at the lab microscopically compared markings on the items and concluded that the two shell casings as well as the bullet found on the porch all originated from Officer Jimenez's weapon. This supports a conclusion that Officer Jimenez fired two shots and that no other officers fired their weapons.

## **FINDINGS**

The investigation supports the following findings of material fact:

1. On October 5, 2024, Huntley Jackson, 45, was arguing with family members about a television at his father's house at 147 Terry Place in Bridgeport. At 12:59 a.m., his mother called Bridgeport Police to report that her son was causing a disturbance and was having a mental breakdown. Officer Marie Cetti was dispatched to the call as the lead officer. She arrived just

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<sup>5</sup> Benzodiazepine is a class of sedative drugs.

after 1 a.m., along with Officer Canhassi. Officer Mercer arrived next, followed by Officer Jimenez.

2. Officer Cetti rang the doorbell and knocked on the front door. Witness 1 opened the door while Jackson was yelling inside the home. Cetti called for medics on her radio and began to walk inside and said “hello” but was immediately confronted by Huntley Jackson who walked aggressively towards her. Cetti retreated back toward the porch and touched Jackson with her hand in order to maintain space between them.

3. Jackson ranted and raved at the officers in a generally incoherent manner from just inside the house. During the next minute, the four officers remained on the porch and did not engage directly with Jackson. After about a minute, Officer Canhassi closed the storm door. Officer Cetti also called for a fifth officer to the scene. Jackson then locked the door. She said, “this is probably why we shouldn’t close it, right?” Officer Canhassi said, “I didn’t really think about that. He was spitting all over.”

4. Officers Cetti and Canhassi asked Jackson to open the door. Witness 1 walked toward the door, but Jackson turned around and blocked him. A loud discussion took place between Witness 1 and Jackson. Cetti used a utility knife to try to open the door. Immediately after Witness 1 opened the door, Jackson lunged at Cetti, saying, “I’m gonna fucking kill one of you.” Jackson then stabbed Officer Cetti two times in the neck with a folding knife that had an 8 cm blade. Officer Mercer moved in to separate Jackson from Cetti. Officer Jimenez then fired his .45 caliber Smith and Wesson at Jackson, striking him twice in the abdomen. Jackson fell to the porch, still clutching the knife in his right hand. After a few minutes he began to lose consciousness and officers removed the knife, handcuffed Jackson, and began providing medical care.

5. Jackson was taken to St. Vincent’s Medical Center where he was treated for 15 days for injuries to his liver, kidney, ribs and spine. He survived. Jackson was charged with attempt to commit murder, assault in the first degree, and assault on a public safety officer. His case is pending in the Bridgeport Judicial District.

6. Officer Cetti was also taken to St. Vincent’s Medical Center where she was treated for two stab wounds to her neck, three and two centimeters in length.

### **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 5, 2024, 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; or

(B) He or she (i) has reasonably determined that there are no available reasonable alternatives to the use of deadly physical force, (ii) reasonably believes that the force employed creates no unreasonable risk of injury to a third party, and (iii) reasonably believes such force is necessary to (I) effect an arrest of a person whom he or she reasonably believes has committed or attempted to commit a felony that involved the infliction of serious physical injury, and if, where feasible, he or she has given warning of his or her intent to use deadly 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 unreasonable 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

Under Connecticut law as applicable here, a determination as to whether a police officer's use of deadly force was objectively reasonable requires, in part, consideration of four questions:

1. Did the officer, as a matter of fact, actually – that is honestly and sincerely – believe that he/she or a third person was facing either the actual or imminent use of deadly force when the officer used deadly force?
2. Was that actual belief reasonable in the sense that a reasonable police officer in the officer's circumstances at the time of the officer's actions, viewing those circumstances from the officer's point of view, would have shared that belief?
3. Did the officer, as a matter of fact, actually—that is honestly and sincerely—believe that the use of deadly force was necessary to defend himself/herself or a third person from such threat?
4. Was that actual belief reasonable, in the sense that a reasonable police officer in the officer's circumstances at the time of the officer's actions, viewing those circumstances from the officer's point of view, would share the belief that deadly force was necessary?

Additionally, the reasonableness of the officer's conduct also turns on whether (1) the other person possessed a deadly weapon (or appeared to), (2) the officer attempted reasonable de-escalation measures, and (3) the situation was not precipitated by the officer's own conduct.

In this case, the question is whether Officer Jimenez was justified in using deadly force against Huntley Jackson to prevent Jackson's use of deadly force against a third party, namely Officer Cetti. There can be no question that Jackson moved at Cetti with a deadly weapon, a

knife, with such speed that a quick reaction was imperative to stop Jackson's assault. In fact, the quick actions of both Jimenez and Officer Mercer undoubtedly spared Cetti from greater injury. Jackson's behavior at the doorway indicated he was ready to fight, and, as he announced, ready to kill. No reasonable police officer would have acted differently in defending a fellow officer.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the totality of circumstances, Officer Jimenez was legally justified in firing at Jackson to stop his ongoing attack on Officer Cetti. I and my office will take no further action in this matter.

December 23, 2025



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ELIOT D. PRESCOTT  
INSPECTOR GENERAL



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