



# State of Connecticut

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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February 9, 2024

### **Preliminary Status Report Regarding the Use of Deadly Force by the Bridgeport Police Department on February 4, 2024 Resulting in the Death of Jonathan Mark Lewis Bell**

In accordance with General Statutes §51-277a(a)(5), Inspector General Robert J. Devlin, Jr. submits this preliminary status report regarding the use of deadly force by the Bridgeport Police Department on February 4, 2024. The Office of Inspector General is investigating an officer-involved shooting incident that resulted in the death of Jonathan Mark Lewis Bell, a white male, age 41.

On February 4, 2024, at approximately 5:15 p.m., the Bridgeport Police Department Tactical Narcotics Team received information that an individual later identified as Jonathan Mark Lewis Bell was in possession of weapons and narcotics and was driving around the Bridgeport area. The police had further information that Bell was using different vehicles in Bridgeport, one being a Mercedes-Benz SUV. While conducting surveillance in the area of Oak Street in Bridgeport, officers observed Bell operating a Mercedes-Benz SUV with a female party in the passenger seat. As officers attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop of the Mercedes SUV (with visible Connecticut registration plate BF-74468) Bell engaged police in pursuit in an attempt to elude arrest. Bell drove through Bridgeport and onto Route 8 northbound refusing to stop for the police. The pursuit ended when Bell drove off Route 8 into the town of Ansonia crashing into a residence at 265 Division Street, Ansonia, Connecticut.

Bridgeport Police Officer Matthew Hoffman, Officer Wilberto Rivera-Colon, and Sergeant Chris Robinson approached the Mercedes and directed Bell to show his hands. The female party was removed from the vehicle's front passenger seat. Officers reported that Bell was reaching for an object and refusing to show his hands, at which point the three officers fired their handguns. Bridgeport Police removed Bell from the vehicle and administered medical aid. Bell was transported by ambulance to Griffin Hospital in Derby. A hospital physician pronounced Bell dead at 6:44 p.m.

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To access relevant portions of the dash camera recording from Officer Hoffman's police cruiser, click [here](#). To access the relevant portions of Officer Rivera-Colon's body-worn camera, click [here](#). To review the relevant portions of Officer Hoffman's body-worn camera, click [here](#). To review the relevant portions of Sergeant Robinson's body-worn camera, click [here](#).

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determine the cause of death to be GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF HEAD AND TORSO. A copy of the medical examiner's Notice to Police is attached. As of the date of this report, neither the death certificate nor the toxicological report is available.

The Office of Inspector General, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad, Ansonia Police Department, Bridgeport Police Department, and the Milford Judicial District State's Attorney's Office are conducting the investigation.

State of Connecticut  
**Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**  
11 Shuttle Road, Farmington, CT 06032  
Telephone: (860) 679-3980



02/05/2024

**RE: NOTIFICATION TO POLICE**

**OCME CASE #** 24-02720

**PD CASE #** IG24-2

**This is to inform you that the cause of death of the following person is as stated below.**

Name of the Deceased <b>Jonathan M. Bell</b>	Found Dead On: <b>02/04/2024</b>	Autopsy Performed: <b>Yes, 02/05/2024</b>
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The cause of death has been certified as:  
**GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF HEAD AND TORSO**

The manner of death has been certified as: **Homicide**

Sincerely,

*James R. Gill, M.D.*  
Chief Medical Examiner

**COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1- Complete as required.
- 2- Make one copy for case file.
- 3- Original to Police Department.



24-02720NOPO