



State of Connecticut

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

P.O. BOX 460
CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410
ROBERT.DEVLIN@CT.GOV
Telephone: (203) 806-1595

October 24, 2023

Preliminary Status Report Regarding the Use of Deadly Force by the Prospect Police Department on October 20, 2023 Resulting in the Death of Michael Strenk

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 Prospect Police Department on October 20, 2023. The Office of Inspector General is investigating an officer-involved shooting that resulted in the death of Michael Strenk, a Caucasian male, age 48.

On October 20, 2023, at approximately 4:55 p.m., Prospect Police Officers David Terni and Jonathan Slavin were dispatched to 20 Merriman Lane, Prospect on a report of a possible disturbance. Upon arrival, they spoke to a neighbor who stated that he heard suspicious noises coming from within 20 Merriman Lane and believed that there was some sort of disturbance occurring inside.

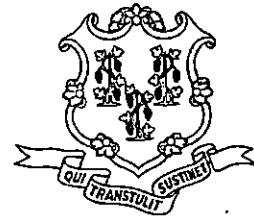
Officer Slavin approached the rear of the house while Officer Terni approached the front. One of the front windows had been dislodged allowing an opening into the house. When asked what happened to the window, the woman inside said, "Mike did it." At that time, a subject, identified as Michael Strenk, opened a kitchen drawer and removed a knife. Officer Terni ordered Strenk to drop the knife. Strenk threw the knife in the direction of Officer Terni. It passed through the open window missing the officer. At this point, Strenk charged at Officer Terni with another knife in his right hand. Officer Terni fired two shots striking and fatally wounding Strenk. Emergency Medical Services pronounced Strenk dead at the scene.

To view the relevant portion of Officer Terni's body-worn camera, click [here](#).

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the cause of Michael Strenk's death to be: "GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE HEAD." A copy of the Medical Examiner's Notification 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, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad, and the Waterbury 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



10/21/2023

Office of Inspector General
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

RE: NOTIFICATION TO POLICE

OCME CASE # 23-20266

PD CASE # IG2023-64

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

Name of the Deceased	Found Dead On:	Autopsy Performed:
Michael Strenk	10/20/2023	Yes, 10/21/2023

The cause of death has been certified as:
GUNSHOT WOUND OF HEAD

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.

