



State of Connecticut

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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March 10, 2025

Preliminary Status Report Regarding the Use of Deadly Force by the Hartford Police Department on March 6, 2025 Resulting in the Death of William Bowen

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 Hartford Police Department on March 6, 2025. The Office of Inspector General is investigating an officer-involved shooting that resulted in the death of William Bowen, an African-American male, age 21.

According to initial police reports, on March 6, 2025, during the afternoon hours, the Hartford Police Department Command Center, monitoring Instagram Live, observed a subject, later identified as William Bowen, walking around Hartford displaying what appeared to be a firearm. The Command Center was able to track Bowen to the vicinity of Homestead Avenue. The Greater Hartford Police Department Auto Theft Task Force was alerted and proceeded to the area. At approximately 2:30 p.m., using unmarked cars, Task Force officers converged on Bowen near 70-72 Homestead Avenue. Bowen displayed a handgun and Officer Robert Bohm and Detective Benjamin Lee fired multiple rounds from their weapons. Bowen fled running along the western side of 70-72 Homestead Avenue through the backyard and into the backyard of 9-11 Magnolia Street.

Police reports further indicate that, while the initial encounter with Bowen was unfolding on Homestead Avenue, Detective Joseph Walsh drove to Magnolia Street. He proceeded on foot to the sidewalk in front of 9-11 Magnolia Street. At that time, Bowen emerged from a narrow alley on the north side of the residence running directly at Detective Walsh. Detective Walsh fired multiple rounds that struck Bowen, fatally wounding him. A nearby doorbell camera recorded Detective Walsh yelling, "Drop the gun. Drop the gun," moments before he fired. Hartford Police personnel provided medical aid to Bowen on scene. He was later pronounced deceased at Saint Francis Hospital.

During the processing of the scene, State Police Major Crime Squad detectives seized two firearms. A Glock with a large capacity magazine was located on the ground on the western side of 70-72 Homestead Avenue along Bowen's path of flight. A second firearm, also a Glock,

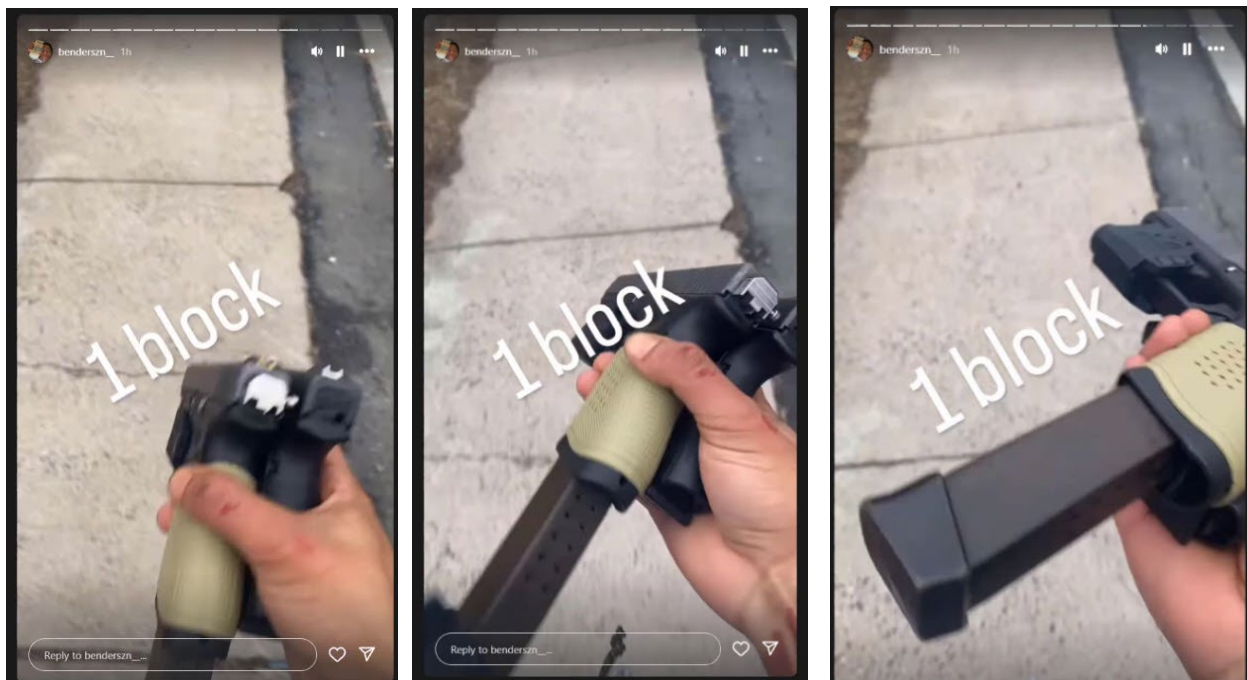
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was recovered from a backpack discarded by Bowen as he ran through the backyard of 70-72 Homestead Avenue. The weapons seized appeared to match those appearing in the Instagram Live video.

Initial investigation has developed several relevant items of digital evidence:

Screenshots from the Instagram Live video show Bowen holding two objects that appear to be firearms:



The dashboard camera recording from one of the Task Force vehicles shows the encounter with Bowen on Homestead Avenue. To view the relevant portion of this recording, click [here](#).

A video recording of the rear yard of 70-72 Homestead Avenue shows Bowen running through the rear yard and dropping a backpack. To view this portion of the recording, click [here](#).

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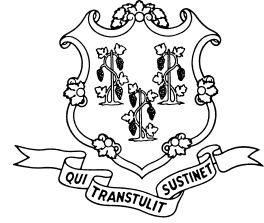
Detective Walsh's body worn camera shows his encounter with Bowen. To view the relevant portion of this recording, click [here](#).¹

On March 7, 2025, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner performed an autopsy of William Bowen. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be "GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF TORSO AND RIGHT UPPER AND LOWER EXTREMITIES" and the manner of death to be "Homicide." A copy of the Medical Examiner's Notification to Police is [attached](#). As of the date of this report, neither the death certificate nor toxicology results are available.

The Office of Inspector General, Hartford Police Department, Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad, and Hartford Judicial District State's Attorney's Office are conducting the investigation.

¹ Hartford Police Department body worn cameras delay the recording of sound during the first 60 seconds of the recording. Accordingly, there is no sound recorded on Detective Walsh's body worn camera recording of the shooting.

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



03/10/2025

RE: NOTIFICATION TO POLICE

OCME CASE # 25-05233

PD CASE #

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

Name of the Deceased William Elliott Bowen	Found Dead On: 03/06/2025	Autopsy Performed: Yes, 03/07/2025
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The cause of death has been certified as:
GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF TORSO AND RIGHT UPPER AND LOWER EXTREMITIES

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.

