

State of Connecticut
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Report Concerning
Use of Deadly Force by the Hartford Police Department on October 16, 2023
Resulting in the Death of Jamie Grant

Robert J. Devlin, Jr.
Inspector General

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Acknowledgments

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- *Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad*
- *Firearm and toolmark section of the Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory*
- *Hartford Police Department*
- *Office of the Chief Medical Examiner*
- *Hartford Judicial District State's Attorney's Office*
- *Department of Consumer Protection, Drug Control Division*

INTRODUCTION

On October 16, 2023, at approximately 1:54 p.m., on Westland Street, Hartford, Connecticut, Hartford Police Officer Brian Sulliman¹ fired multiple rounds at Jamie Grant² fatally wounding him. As required by statute³, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated this incident. The results of this investigation are set forth in this report.

The investigation establishes that Hartford Police Officer Brian Sulliman, who was on routine patrol operating a marked Hartford Police cruiser, attempted to stop a motor vehicle on Westland Street. The vehicle matched the description of a vehicle involved in an incident at a car dealership earlier that day. The vehicle, a grey-colored four-door Honda Accord bearing Florida registration 49DJXP, stopped on Westland Street near the intersection with Barbour Street. As soon as the vehicle came to a stop, a person, later identified as Jamie Grant, exited the front passenger door and walked to the rear of the vehicle. Officer Sulliman exited his police vehicle and approached the Honda. The Honda Accord then drove from the scene.

Grant was holding a firearm in his left hand and raised his arm in the direction of Officer Sulliman. In response, Officer Sulliman then discharged his firearm multiple times striking Grant. Grant fell in the middle of the intersection of Westland Street and Barbour Street. Hartford Police Department personnel began life saving measures on Grant until the arrival of Emergency Medical Services. EMS transported Grant to Saint Francis Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 2:26 p.m. A handgun was recovered near the spot where Grant fell.

Based on the facts developed during the investigation, I have determined that Officer Sulliman used deadly force to defend himself from what he reasonably believed to be a threat of serious injury or death. Accordingly, I find such use of force to be objectively reasonable and justified.

¹ On October 16, 2023, Brian Sulliman was a 50-year-old Caucasian male. He had been a Hartford police officer for nearly 19 years. According to the Hartford Police Department he had no substantiated prior use of force complaints.

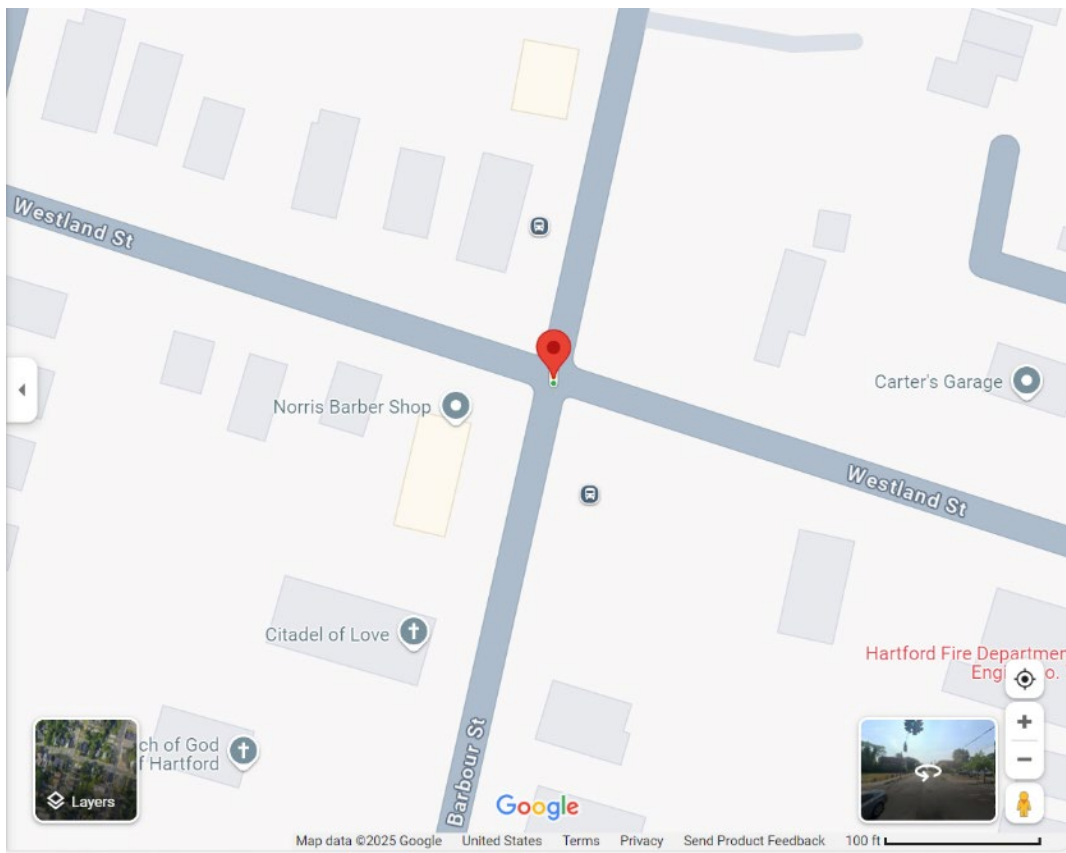
² On October 16, 2023, Jamie Grant was an African-American male, age 44.

³ 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 Survey

Detectives from the Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad (CDMCS) arrived and processed the scene. The shooting took place at the intersection of Westland and Barbour Streets in the Northeast section of Hartford. Westland Street runs east-west and Barbour Street runs north-south. The intersection is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood. The roads are bounded by sidewalks on either side. The temperature was 60 degrees with overcast skies. A Capital City Command Center camera is located on a utility pole on the southwest corner of the intersection. The camera did capture video of the incident. Officer Sulliman's marked police cruiser, a 2016 Chevrolet Caprice, registration 559-HPD, was parked facing west in the westbound lane of Westland Street about 50 feet east of the stop line at the intersection of Barbour Street. No other police vehicles or officers were present at the time of the shooting.



[Google street map]



[Intersection of Westland Street and Barbour Street]



Detectives observed multiple items of evidence at the intersection and near the police cruiser, including intact bullet cartridges, cartridge casings, a backpack, clothes, eyeglasses, a cellphone, a BIC lighter, and a 9mm pistol.



CDMCS detectives located a total of four .40 caliber Smith & Wesson (S&W) shell casings near the police cruiser that Officer Sulliman had been driving. One casing was located on the roof of the cruiser, and three were found in the westbound lane of Westland Street. Detectives found two intact .40 caliber S&W bullet cartridges. A backpack was found leaning on the curb on Westland Street. The backpack had a red, yellow, and green lion printed on it.



[Expended shell casing]



[Expended shell casings]



[Expended shell casings]



[Two live rounds]

A second group of items were located on Barbour Street just north of the intersection with Westland Street. These items included two poolings of a blood-like substance south of the stop line. A pair of gold framed eyeglasses and a BIC lighter were located nearby, as well as Samsung cell phone, a cream-colored sandal, and a pair of jeans. A Taurus Millennium G2 9mm pistol was located in the southbound lane of Barbour Street, north of the stop line. The pistol was photographed and removed for further inspection at the crime scene processing van where it was determined to be covered with a blood-like substance in multiple locations.



[Items in street]



[Grant's gun]

New Country Mercedes Incident

During the course of the investigation, it was determined that Jamie Grant and another man, Dalton Thompson, were involved in a threatening incident at the New Country Mercedes-Benz dealership on Weston Street in Hartford just prior to the encounter with Officer Sulliman. At 1:46 p.m. and 1:48 p.m., two separate 911 calls were placed from the dealership complaining that two men entered, and one threatened to shoot an employee when he was told he could not smoke inside the building. The men then exited the showroom and entered a silver Honda Accord bearing Florida registration 49DLXP. One of the employees took a picture of the vehicle before the men departed.

To listen to the 911 calls, click [here](#) and [here](#).

The investigation established that Grant and Thompson left the dealership in the Honda and were pulled over by Officer Sulliman about 1.5 miles away.

Statements from Mercedes Employees

Hartford Police interviewed four employees of New Country Mercedes at 1 Weston Street, Hartford on October 16th. Their statements are summarized below.

Employee 1

The first employee said he was outside the dealership doing an appraisal when he saw two males arrive. He walked behind them as they entered the building. He noticed one male had a backpack and was smoking a marijuana blunt. He continued to smoke inside the building and walked up to the front desk. A salesperson approached him and told him he couldn't smoke inside. The man said, "I don't see that written anywhere." The employee saw the situation escalate after the man was confronted again by another employee. The man then got angry at the other employee and said, "back up or I'll shoot you right here."

At this point the other male grabbed his friend and pulled him outside. The employee locked the doors. The employee saw the male walking around outside holding a gun. He described the male with the gun as a 5'8" black male in his 40s, 180 pounds with shoulder-length dread hair. The other male was a younger black male 5'6" and 150-160 pounds.

Employee 2

Employee 2 saw a man dressed in all grey with dread hair and a marijuana joint hanging from his lips walk into the showroom. He politely greeted him and told him there is a no smoking policy he could not smoke inside the building. The man stood there without saying anything for a few moments. Another employee came over and told him he could not smoke. The individual became hostile and started to threaten the other employee's life by saying, "I will fucking kill you." The individual then pulled out a small Bible and began quoting from it. Employees kept telling the man to leave and he finally walked out taking the backpack he was wearing. The man and another man who was quietly standing in the background the whole time walked over to a silver Honda in our parking lot. As they were walking the employee saw the man holding a backpack in his right hand and a small black handgun in his left hand. The man looked around quickly and entered the front passenger seat of the silver Honda. The employee took out his phone and took a picture of the vehicle and its license plate. The man with the gun was a black male 30-38 years old with a Jamaican accent. He was 5'7" or 5'8" tall with dread hair and was wearing a grey hoodie and sweatpants.

Employee 3

Employee 3 is the general manager of New Country Motor Cars. On Monday, October 16, 2023, he was sitting inside his office just outside the showroom when one of his sales

managers (Employee 1) told him that someone just walked into the showroom smoking marijuana. Things seemed to escalate quickly when he heard an altercation between one of his employees and the man who was smoking. He stepped into the showroom and saw the suspect walking toward the front door. He was a short black male with a dread style hair, a marijuana “blunt” in his mouth, and wearing a beanie style hat. He heard numerous employees say “gun” and he then called 911. He heard Employee 1 say that the man had threatened to shoot him. He saw Employee 1 lock the front door and saw through the window the man holding a gun in his left hand and a backpack in his right hand while walking to a silver Honda Accord that was parked near the front door. The man with the gun entered the passenger seat and the car drove away. His sales consultant showed him a picture of the car’s license plate and he provided that number to the 911 operator.

Employee 4

When working at New Country Mercedes-Benz, Employee 4 was on his way to grab a registration plate to do a test drive with a customer when he saw a man inside the building holding a Bible. The man was quoting passages from the Bible out loud. He also saw that the man was smoking marijuana inside the building. The whole showroom floor was beginning to smell like marijuana. Employee 4 approached the man and politely told him that the building was a non-smoking building. The man replied, “you can’t tell God what to do!” and “I will shoot you right now!” The man then began screaming and yelling. The statement shook Employee 4 to the core. The man’s friend encouraged the man to exit the building. The manager told everyone to lock the doors. Employee 4 saw the screaming man outside the glass door turn and face the inside of the store. When he did, the employee saw him holding a gun. The gun looked like a black semi-automatic handgun. The general manager called 911. The employee went back to his customer and told the client that someone had just threatened to kill him. He described the man as a black male with short, dreaded hair with blond tips and about 5’8” tall.

Police Reports

Report of Detective Abhilash Pillai

Hartford Detective Pillai was working on October 16th in plain clothes when the incident occurred. His report notes that members of the HPD Capital City Command Center and major crime division sent out a description of the suspect vehicle that was involved in the officer involved shooting. The vehicle was identified as a newer model grey Honda Accord with Florida registration 49D JXP. Several photographs were put out over the HPD department wide Slack channel.⁴ At 3:35 p.m. Detective Larson located the same Honda parked alongside the east curb

⁴ The Slack channel refers to a smartphone messaging app that is used as an informal method by some police officers to communicate information in real time on their cell phones.

of Enfield Street, just south of Westland Street. Because the vehicle's windows were tinted, Det. Larson was unable to see whether it was occupied. Investigators decided to box the car in to prevent it from leaving. Det. Pillai arrived and positioned his car behind the Honda. He exited and approached the Honda along with other officers. They determined the Honda was unoccupied. Officers used a K-9 to attempt to track the occupants, but the track ended inside Keney Park.

Report of Officer Bryan McMahon

Officer McMahon completed a private detail assignment at 1:52 p.m. on October 16 at 285 Barbour Street. He had just locked his duty equipment, including his firearm, body worn camera, and radio in the trunk of his personal vehicle. He was off duty as he traveled south on Barbour Street behind a black BMW, which stopped abruptly in the roadway about 180 feet before the intersection with Westland Street. McMahon was able to see a black male about 200 feet away pointing what appeared to be a firearm, facing east on Westland Street. He was unaware of the prior incident at the Mercedes dealership or that Officer Sulliman was nearby. Both Officer McMahon and the BMW backed up. He saw the man with the gun collapse in the middle of the intersection. He had not heard any gunshots because the windows were closed and the radio was on. Seconds later he saw Officer Sulliman, carrying his firearm in his left hand, run towards the male lying in the roadway. McMahon made a U-turn, parked his car, and called the Hartford Police Department's routine dispatch line. He told the dispatcher that an officer was in trouble and that he should send everyone to Barbour Street.

Officer McMahon states in his report that he then had a medical episode and did not remain at the scene to assist. He later provided investigators videos from the Tesla that he was driving that captured a portion of the incident. To see this video, click [here](#).

Statement of Dalton Thompson

Inspector Frank Capozzi and Chief Inspector James Viadero from this office interviewed Dalton Thompson, 49, at his attorney's office in Hartford on October 19, 2023. The relevant portion of his statement is summarized as follows:

Thompson was in Hartford visiting family from Florida when Grant called him. He had known Grant for seven years. Thompson agreed to give Grant a ride in his 2016 Honda Accord to a Mercedes dealership in Hartford so that he could get his car. He walked into the dealership with a marijuana cigarette. While Grant was speaking to the employees at the dealership he got into an argument with the customer service people. Thompson walked out of the dealership because he was embarrassed by Grant's behavior. About 15-20 minutes later, he was pulled over by police. Grant got out of the passenger side of the car with his book bag. He heard the officer tell Grant to get back into the car twice before shots were fired. Thompson said he got

scared when he heard the gunshots and took off. Thompson stated that he did not see Grant with a gun and did not see what happened between Grant and the police officer. He said he thought Grant was acting erratically that day.

Report of Officer Brian Sulliman

Officer Sulliman provided a sworn statement to inspectors at the Office of Inspector General on December 21, 2023. Notably, Sulliman indicated that he did not review his BWC or any other video before he wrote his statement. In sum, he states he saw the call about the incident at the dealership along with the registration plate of the vehicle involved. He located the vehicle, stopped it, and was confronted by a man with a gun who had exited the car. The relevant portions of that statement are reproduced below:

On 10/16/2023, at approximately 1346 hours, I, Officer Brian Sulliman, was working as a patrol officer in the North Meadows area of Hartford Connecticut. I was operating a fully identifiable police cruiser outfitted with emergency lights and siren. I was dressed in a full Hartford police uniform and could be easily identified by my name tag, police badge and police patches. I was operating the police cruiser north bound on Main Street after completing an alarm call in the area.

At approximately 1348 hours, while traveling north bound on Main Street, I observed a call appear on my mobile data terminal in my police cruiser. The notes read that there was a gun involved incident at the Mercedes' dealership. In the notes it read that the complainant ... from the Mercedes dealership called the Hartford Police Dispatch Center and stated that a black male entered the dealership and threatened staff with a firearm. The information I read stated that the suspect fled in a silver Honda Accord with a Florida registration of 49DJXP. The suspect allegedly fled in the above vehicle towards Weston Street and Jennings Road towards the area of the McDonalds.

Shortly thereafter, I was traveling in the area of Windsor Street and Boce Barlow Way. I observed a silver Honda Accord that matched the description of the suspect vehicle. The silver Honda Accord traveled north bound on Windsor and as I passed it going south bound, I was able to observe it had a Florida registration. I began to conduct a U-turn on Windsor Street approximately 50 feet from the intersection of Windsor Street and Boce Barlow Way.

As I completed my U-turn and got behind the silver Honda Accord, I confirmed that it had a rear Florida marker plate of 49DJXP. I followed the suspect vehicle as it approached

Main Street and turned south bound. I continued to follow the suspect vehicle as it continued to travel south bound on Main Street towards Westland Street.

I called the Hartford Police Dispatch Center and informed them of the above information and to start some assistance my way. I continued to follow the suspect vehicle as it turned westbound on Westland Street towards Barbour Street. I activated my emergency lights, siren, and body worn camera. I initiated a motor vehicle stop in the area of Westland Street and Barbour Street.

The silver Honda Accord pulled over in the area of Westland Street and Barbour Street towards the northeast corner of Westland Street.

I called the Hartford Police Dispatch Center with my portable radio to update my location and began to exit my police cruiser. I immediately observed a black male exit the passenger side door of the silver Honda Accord and face me. The black male suspect held what appeared to be a book bag against his chest concealing the front of his torso. I could not see both of the suspect's hands at this time. Due to the information available and the fact that I could not see if the suspect had a firearm, I drew my police issued firearm while attempting to complete my radio transmission to Dispatch.

I then immediately started to issue verbal commands to the suspect to show me his hands. Based on my training and experience I believed that there was a strong likelihood that the suspect could be armed with a firearm.

The suspect then dropped the "bookbag" and I observed that he was holding a firearm in his right hand.⁵ I ordered the suspect to drop the firearm as he raised his firearm towards me. Believing the suspect was going to shoot me, I secured my radio with my right hand while firing one shot with my left hand only at the suspect in an attempt to neutralize the lethal threat. I immediately observed my source, (magazine), for my firearm had dropped to the ground after I fired my first gun shot. I dropped to a knee to gain some concealment from the suspect as it was my perception that he had fired one gun shot in my direction. It was unclear to me at this time if I was struck by gunfire. I secured my source, (magazine), for my firearm from the ground and slammed it into the mag well of my firearm. I stood up and observed the suspect to still be in the possession of his firearm and an active threat to

⁵ Review of Officer Sulliman's BWC shows Jamie Grant was actually holding the pistol in his left hand.

myself and the community. I pointed my firearm towards the suspect's torso and attempted to fire an additional shot. I heard a click with my police issued firearm which indicated to me that I had a malfunction and conducted a tap/rack stage one malfunction drill to clear it. I then fired my second shot towards the suspect's center mass, (torso), which appeared to cause him to stumble. It was unclear to me at this time if I or the suspect was struck by gunfire however the suspect continued to hold the firearm and point it in my direction. I observed the suspect run from me with the firearm still in his hand and gain distance from me. Due to the continuation of the lethal threat the suspect posed to the public and myself, I knew I had to continue to employ possible deadly physical force against him. The suspect continued to run towards the intersection of Westland and Barbour Street with the firearm still located in his hand. I fired one addition [sic] gunshot towards his center mass. The suspect fell to the ground as I indexed my firearm and moved towards him. I reached down to grab my portable radio to report to Dispatch what occurred. My portable radio was not on my gun belt, and I observed it next to my police cruiser.

I then walked backwards towards my police cruiser while observing the suspect who did not appear to be moving. I secured my portable radio and then ran towards the suspect while calling in an officer involved shooting and a 10-0, (all units respond).

As I approached the suspect, I observed that he still had the firearm in his hand with his finger on the trigger. At that point I quickly looked around and observed that civilians had started to gather. Not knowing if the suspect was neutralized or not, I recognized that I had to remove the gun from his hand. People in the area were now screaming at me to not shoot the suspect. I ordered everyone back because the suspect had the firearm in his hand and his finger was still on the trigger.

I next positioned myself alongside the suspect. Seeking to prevent an accidental discharge of the suspect's firearm, I placed my foot on the firearm and moved it away from his immediate reach. I was contacted over my portable radio and was asked if I was ok. I continually asked for police and emergency assistance as the groups of civilians continued to form around me in the immediate area. Once again, I ordered everyone to get back and I then observed additional police assistance arrive.

I was then taken from the scene and transported to St. Francis Hospital for evaluation. I relinquished all my police gear which included my gun belt and firearm to

supervisors and rangemasters who were at St. Francis Hospital.

In writing this report I wish to note that it is based on my recollection and perception of events as they unfolded in real time. I did not review by body worn camera or any other video preparation for writing this report.

Honda Accord

Hartford Police located the 2016 Honda Accord, Florida registration 49DJXP, that Grant exited on Enfield Street, a short distance away from the scene of the shooting. Officers had the vehicle towed to the HPD's vehicle processing garage while inspectors from this office obtained a search warrant. CDMCS detectives searched the vehicle on October 18th and seized several items including a wallet containing a driver's license for Dalton Thompson, DOB 4/23/1974, with an address on White Street in Hartford. A Florida registration in the car showed it to be registered to Thompson with an address in Union City, Georgia.



[Honda Accord located on Enfield Street]

Digital Evidence

In addition to the Tesla video, the incident was recorded on Officer Sulliman's BWC as well as a city of Hartford traffic camera that was mounted on a telephone pole at the intersection.

Officer Sulliman's BWC

Officer's Sulliman's BWC activates when he is still driving his police cruiser. He exits the vehicle at 1:53 p.m., carrying his portable police radio in his right hand. A grey Honda is visible in front of his car and to the right. A black male is behind the Honda facing Sulliman. The man is standing just behind the right rear bumper, dressed in a grey hoodie and holding a colored

backpack in front of him. Officer Sulliman takes a few steps towards the man. There is no audio at this point. The man drops the backpack to his side with his right hand and appears to be holding a gun in his left hand. He quickly raises the gun and points it at Officer Sulliman, who is holding his duty pistol in his left hand. The Honda slowly pulls away. The magazine falls from Officer Sulliman's pistol and he takes a step back. The camera shows the man in the hoodie is still pointing his gun at Officer Sulliman, who bent down, retrieved the magazine, and reinserted it into his firearm. When the camera view comes up, the Honda is gone. The man drops the backpack and turns and runs toward the intersection, his body suddenly falling onto the crosswalk. (Investigators determined Grant ran 78 feet before he collapsed.) Officer Sulliman runs over to the man, then immediately runs back towards his cruiser to grab his portable radio, which was on the ground next to his vehicle door. On the way, he reaches to turn on the sound to his BWC.⁶

Officer Sulliman grabs his radio and says "ten zero Westland and Barbour. Start me some cars." Sulliman runs back up to the man, who is face down on the street. "Drop the gun, drop the gun, he's got a gun! Stop reaching!" he says. Other voices can be heard from bystanders. Sulliman uses his foot to slide a gun away from the man, who was not moving and appeared to be bleeding. A voice is heard on the police radio saying they see him on the street camera and to send him some cars. A dispatcher is heard asking Officer Sulliman if he's OK, to which he replies that he is OK, has not been hit, and that the "party is down." At 1:54:40 on the time stamp another officer is on the scene to assist and treat Grant. As the two officers wait for other officers and supervisors to arrive, many cars enter the intersection, and many bystanders begin to gather.

To review the officer's BWC, click [here](#).

City Traffic Camera

The traffic camera shows a grey sedan stopping for a police cruiser that had its lights flashing at Westland Street just prior to its intersection with Barbour Street. Before the officer gets out of his vehicle, a man in a grey hoodie exits the passenger seat of the sedan and walks to the back of the sedan by the rear bumper along the side of the street. The officer gets out of his cruiser and walks forward. The man raises an object in his left hand and points it at the officer, who immediately raises an object in his left and points it at the man. The sedan departs the scene and a backpack is visible in the man's hand. He drops it and backs up. The officer backs up, bends down, comes back up, and appears to fire a gun at the man, who briefly reacts to being struck and then runs toward the intersection out of view. The officer fires as the man runs away from him.

⁶ The downloaded data from the BWC confirms that Officer Sulliman manually activated the sound on his BWC at about the one minute mark.



[City traffic camera mounted on telephone pole.]

To review the traffic camera video, click [here](#).

Statement of Anna Martinez

On the day of the incident, inspectors from this office conducted a canvass of the area in an attempt to interview anyone who might have witnessed the shooting. Most didn't report seeing any actual gunfire. Inspectors Richard Donaldson and Frank Capozzi spoke to Anna Alexis Martinez who lived on a second-floor apartment at 120 Westland Street. She claimed that she heard gunshots and looked out her window and saw a cop running after a person. She said she saw a boy on the ground and that he was not moving. She saw the police officer kick something away from him. She said she learned later it was a gun. She said after the cop kicked the gun away from the boy on the ground, the officer shot two or three more rounds at him. (This account is refuted by a volume of other evidence, described *infra*.)

Interview of Jaqlyn Pinney

On October 26, 2023, members of the Office of Inspector General met with Jaqlyn Pinney. Pinney is the mother of one of Grant's daughters and had expressed concern in an e-mail to this office about rumors she had heard concerning the circumstances of Grant's death. Those concerns were allayed once she reviewed the video from the incident. She referred to him throughout the meeting as "Frank White" which was a nickname derived from a movie. Pinney said that Grant had not been acting normally for the past several months. She said he would randomly contact her saying things like he is ready for anything, and that he is going to have to what he has to do, and for her to be steadfast. Pinney stated that Grant was not specific in what he was going to do, but in retrospect, she thought Grant may have been preparing himself for death. She said he was well read in the Bible but had a dark side to him. Other

family members and associates of Grant’s whom OIG investigators talked with spoke similarly about changes in his demeanor during the previous year.

ShotSpotter

The city of Hartford uses “ShotSpotter” technology to inform authorities when gunfire takes place in the city. According to the reports, a total of four gunshots were detected at 1:53 p.m. in the area of 128 Westland Street.

Medical Records

Grant was taken to Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford. Records indicate he arrived by ambulance at 2:23 p.m. on October 16 for treatment for a gunshot wound to the chest. The diagnosis was multiple gunshot wounds to the chest, right arm, shoulder, and back. When he arrived in the Emergency Department he was not breathing and had no heartbeat. Trauma surgeon Dr. Ronald Gross pronounced him dead at 2:26 p.m.

Criminal history of Grant

Jamie Grant, who also went by the name Gavin Estrada Spence, had three prior criminal convictions. In 2006, he served 30 months in prison for sale of a controlled substance in violation of C.G.S. 21a-277(b) and possession of a sawed-off shotgun or silencer in violation of C.G.S. 53a-211 following separate arrests by Hartford police. In 2015, he was convicted again of sale of a controlled substance. In 2023 he was charged with a similar crime in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Autopsy

On October 17, 2023, an autopsy on Jamie Grant⁷ was performed at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner by Associate Medical Examiner Michael A. Hays, M.D. The autopsy report states Grant sustained three gunshot wounds. This is consistent with an examination of clothing seized from Grant’s body by state police.

The autopsy report states:

FINAL DIAGNOSIS

- I. Gunshot Wound of Torso, Penetrating
 - A. Fractures of Ribs and Sternum

⁷ The medical examiner identified Grant as “Gavin Estrado Spence, a.k.a. Jamie Grant.”

- B. Hemothoraces, approximately 900 mL
- C. Injuries of Lungs, Pericardium, Aorta, and Heart
- D. Projectile Recovered

II. Gunshot Wound of Torso, Perforating

- A. Fractures of Ribs
- B. Left Hemothorax, approximately 100 mL
- C. Injuries of Left Lung and Left Subclavian Artery
- D. Projectile Fragments Recovered

III. Gunshot Wound of Right Upper Extremity, Perforating

- A. No Vital Injuries

IV. Blunt Force Trauma of Head

- A. Abrasions
- B. Laceration of Lower Labial Frenulum

V. Blunt Force Trauma of Right Upper Extremity

- A. Abrasions

VI. Pulmonary Anthracosis

CAUSE OF DEATH: GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF TORSO AND RIGHT UPPER EXTREMITY

MANNER OF DEATH: HOMICIDE (SHOT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT)

Toxicology

The medical examiner sent samples of Grant's blood to NMS Labs in Horsham, Pennsylvania for toxicological analysis.

The results were positive for Delta-9 Carboxy THC (inactive metabolite of marijuana) and Delta-9 THC (the principle psychoactive active ingredient of marijuana). The level of Delta-9 THC was greater than 50 ng/ml, which suggests Grant was a chronic user of marijuana, according to an expert from the Drug Control Division of the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection who reviewed the results for the Office of Inspector General. The level of intoxication at the time of his death cannot be determined, the expert said.

Evidence recovered

A single intact bullet was removed from Grant's torso and several bullet fragments were recovered by the medical examiner from Grant's left shoulder.

Firearms Evidence

CDMCS detectives examined Officer Sulliman's firearm, the Taurus 9mm pistol found in the street, and several intact bullets and shell casings found at the scene. They also examined the multi-colored backpack that Grant was carrying and then dropped. Inside the backpack they found a plastic bag that contained seven WMA .22 rounds and three Blazer 9mm luger rounds of ammunition. The backpack also contained cash: three \$100 bills and one \$20 bill.



[Grant's backpack with contents]

State police located four Winchester .40 caliber Smith & Wesson cartridge casings on scene, indicating Officer Sulliman fired four times, striking Grant three times. This leaves one bullet unaccounted for. CDMCS detectives searched the scene and the immediate area for additional bullet strikes or projectiles but found none.

Officer Sulliman's Firearm

Detectives seized Officer Sulliman's duty firearm and additional magazines from him at Saint Francis Hospital. His firearm was a Glock .40 caliber handgun, serial number BKKY790, which had one chambered round and nine WIN 40 S&W rounds in the magazine. They also seized two additional 15-round magazines Officer Sulliman was carrying that were fully loaded. Detectives submitted the firearm and the expended shell casings that were collected to the Division of Scientific Services for further examination. The Firearms Unit concluded that the ejected shell casings originated from the Glock pistol carried by Officer Sulliman.



[Officer Sulliman's firearm]

Grant's Firearm

Detectives also examined the 9mm handgun located next to Grant's body. It was a Taurus PT111 Millennium G2, serial number TKN93073. It was found with one round in the chamber and a loaded magazine containing 10 additional rounds. As indicated earlier, a bloodlike substance was on the gun. Detectives removed the chambered bullet cartridge and observed a concave dimple on the primer of the cartridge, leading them to conclude this was a light primer strike from the firing pin. Detectives surmised that the firearm had attempted to be fired, however a malfunction caused the light primer strike preventing the primer from igniting and firing the bullet. This gun was also sent to the Division of Scientific Services for further examination. The Firearms Unit confirmed the partial primer strike and tested the gun for operability using stock ammunition. Their testing revealed that the gun did fire, but the slide

would malfunction after each shot and needed to be manually reset before it could be fired again. In a follow-up conversation, the examiner explained to me that the bloodlike substance may have interfered with the slide moving properly or there could have been another issue with the gun preventing the slide from locking in place as designed enabling a round to be discharged. The DNA Unit at the forensics laboratory also examined the Taurus. The lab confirmed blood from two locations on the gun: the rear sight and the grip. Those blood samples as well as a swab from the frame of the gun were also tested for DNA. The DNA Unit confirmed Grant's DNA to be present in all three locations.



[Grant's gun and magazine]



[Light firing pin impression from chambered cartridge]

FINDINGS

The investigation supports the following findings of material fact:

1. On October 16, 2023, Jamie Grant, a 44-year-old African-American man, asked Dalton Thompson for a ride to the New Country Mercedes-Benz dealership on Weston Street in Hartford. Thompson took Grant there in his 2016 grey Honda Accord with Florida registration 49DJXP. They arrived at approximately 1:46 p.m.
2. Both men entered the dealership and were immediately confronted by store employees who objected to Grant smoking a marijuana cigarette inside the showroom. The interaction escalated quickly and Grant, who was carrying a gun, threatened to shoot one of the employees. Thompson and Grant left the dealership and got into a grey Honda Accord and drove off. One of the dealership employees took a photo of the car before it drove off, capturing its license plate. Two employees called 911 and a report went out to Hartford police officers about the incident.
3. At 1:48 p.m. Hartford Police Officer Brian Sulliman was working a patrol shift, traveling in his police cruiser on Main Street when he saw a report on his mobile data terminal about an incident involving a gun at the Mercedes dealership. The report stated the suspects fled in a silver Honda Accord with Florida registration 49DJXP. Shortly thereafter, he saw a silver Honda that matched the description of the suspect vehicle as the vehicle passed opposite him on Windsor Street. He made a U-turn and got behind the Honda, confirming the license plate. He radioed police dispatch that he was behind the suspect vehicle and asked for assistance. Officer Sulliman followed the vehicle as it turned westbound on Westland Street toward Barbour Street. He activated his emergency lights, siren, and body worn camera.
4. The Honda pulled over on Westland Street just before the intersection with Barbour Street. Officer Sulliman exited his police cruiser and Jamie Grant immediately exited the passenger door of the Honda. Grant was holding a colored backpack against his torso obscuring his hands. Officer Sulliman was attempting to communicate with dispatch on his police radio but drew his firearm when Grant approached with his hands hidden. He instructed Grant to show him his hands. Grant then dropped the backpack to his right hand, revealing him to be carrying a handgun in his left hand. Officer Sulliman ordered him to drop the gun but instead Grant raised the gun and pointed it at him. Officer Sulliman discharged his weapon at this time, firing one shot at Grant. The magazine in Sulliman's gun dropped to the ground. Sulliman dropped to his knee to get out of the line of fire from Grant, who Sulliman believed had fired a shot at him. In all probability, Grant had attempted to shoot Officer Sulliman by pulling the trigger to the gun, which malfunctioned. Officer Sulliman, unaware if he had been struck, grabbed the magazine and slammed it back into his Glock. He stood up and attempted to fire another shot at Grant, who was still holding the Taurus 9mm. Officer Sulliman heard a click

indicating his gun had a malfunction. He cleared the weapon, resulting in two full cartridges being ejected and falling onto the ground. Officer Sulliman then fired a second shot at Grant. Grant turned and ran toward the intersection, still holding his gun but dropping the backpack. Officer Sulliman fired two more shots. He then took his finger off the trigger while still holding his firearm and followed Grant to the intersection. He did not fire again. This is inconsistent with the statement of Anna Martinez, who claimed Officer Sulliman fired on Grant while he was motionless on the street. However, her account is obviously incorrect as it is inconsistent with the video from the traffic camera, the BWC, the location of the physical evidence, the ShotSpotter data, and the autopsy findings.

5. Grant collapsed at the crosswalk at Barbour Street, having been struck three times. As Officer Sulliman approached Grant, he reached for his police radio, but it was not on his belt. He turned and noticed it was on the ground next to his police cruiser, and he ran back to retrieve it while keeping his eye on Grant who appeared motionless. At this time, he reached to activate the sound recording on his BWC. When he reached his police radio, Officer Sulliman reported a “ten zero” at his location and asked for additional officers. When he returned to the intersection he saw that Grant, while motionless, was still holding the gun. He used his foot to slide the gun away from Grant, who was mortally wounded. Grant never fired his gun. He may have attempted to fire it at Officer Sulliman resulting in a partial primer strike, but no live round was discharged from the weapon during the encounter.

6. Grant died of gunshot wounds. Two of the bullets struck his heart and lungs. The toxicology results strongly suggest he was a chronic user of marijuana.

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 16, 2023, in relevant part, provides:

“(a)(1) For purposes of this section, a reasonable belief that a person has committed an offense means a reasonable belief in facts or circumstances which if true would in law constitute an offense. If the believed facts or circumstances would not in law constitute an offense, an erroneous though not unreasonable belief that the law is otherwise does not render justifiable the use of force to make an arrest or prevent an escape from custody.

(2) A peace officer ... who is effecting an arrest pursuant to a warrant or preventing an escape from custody is justified in using the physical force prescribed in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section unless such warrant is invalid and known by such officer to be invalid.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (a) ... of this section, 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 ..." (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 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 (2002). Under this test, the first question is whether, based on 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 in a civil rights case: "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, Officer Sulliman had just conducted a motor vehicle stop having been alerted that the suspect may be carrying a gun. Before he could get out of his police car, Jamie Grant had already exited the Honda and walked to the rear of that car. Grant was holding a backpack that covered his hands. He quickly moved the backpack to his right hand revealing a pistol in his left hand, which he promptly raised toward Officer Sulliman showing an unmistakable intent to use lethal force against him. Officer Sulliman at this point had already drawn his duty weapon on Grant because he had refused to show his hands. According to his

statement, Officer Sulliman saw Grant raise his hand with the gun pointed at him and believed Grant was going to shoot him when Sulliman fired the first shot. There is no reason to dispute this conclusion, which certainly would be made by another reasonable police officer in the same situation. In fact, the evidence is strongly suggestive that Grant did indeed attempt to fire at the officer and would have almost certainly struck him at such close distance had his gun not malfunctioned. There was no time for further de-escalation given the immediate grave threat and the officer's conduct in no way precipitated Grant's actions. Once Officer Sulliman recovered from his dropped magazine, he fired three additional rounds at Grant who was running towards the intersection. Although he was running away from the officer, Grant was still armed, had demonstrated the intent to kill a police officer, and was a continuing threat to the officer and the community, as was clear from the many bystanders that were nearby as well as vehicles and homes and businesses at a busy intersection in the city of Hartford in the early afternoon of a Monday in October.

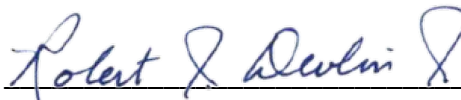
CONCLUSION

The investigation establishes that Officer Sulliman's use of deadly force was reasonable to defend himself. I therefore conclude that his use of force was justified under Connecticut law. The Office of Inspector General will take no further action on this matter.

Submitted, this 21st day of March 2025.



ANDREW J. SLITT
SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY



ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.
INSPECTOR GENERAL