

Report Type: Initial Report: Prosecutors Report					port:	□ Su	pplement:	⊠ F	Re-open:	☐ Assist	: 🗆 Closing: 🗆		
Attachme	nts: Statements:	⊠ Te	letype:	☐ Pho	otos:	☐ Sk	etchmap:	□ Ev	/idence:	☐ Other:			
CFS NO 1200704559	INCIDENT DATE 12/14/2012	TIME 09:41	12/14	770	TIME		RY OFFICER S, DANIEL E.			BADGE NO 0034	INVESTIGATING OFFICER COMBES, JEREMY		BADGE NO 1085
INCIDENT AD 00012 Dickin	DDRESS ason Dr Dr/ Newtown 06482						APARTMENT	NO	TOWN CD	TYPE OF EXI	CEPTIONAL CLEARANCE e	CASE STATUS Active	-1
7 7 90 707 1 1 1 1	E C=COMPLAINANT V=				VENILE		00		A STATE AND ADDRESS OF	O=OFFENDER	D=DRIVER S=SUSPE	CT P=POLICE OF	FICER T=TOT
	AME				PHONE					OP STATE & NO.			
WP Va	anghele, Christopher	N N	/ W	03	Bus	(2	03) 426 - 5841	3 Main	St Newtown	CT		СТ	

Date and Time:

12/18/12 beginning at 0830 hours and concluding at 1143 hours.

Place of Interview:

Newtown Police Department

LT's office

3 Main Street

Newtown, CT

Action Taken:

Newtown LT, Vanghele provided a typed statement.

"On 12/14/12 at approximately 9:35 a.m. I was at my desk at the Newtown Police Department completing paperwork. I heard over the radio system that officers were being dispatched to what appeared to be gunshots at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I immediately put on a bulletproof vest over my uniform and left the building to respond. I responded by myself in the Lieutenant's Ford Explorer. While en route I heard dispatch say that "they" are still hearing what appears to be gunfire and that the front window of the school broke and the caller did not know why. I also heard a radio

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/TRP JEREMY COMBES/

1085

01/03/2013 10:21 am 03197

/SGT MARK DAVISON/

transmission from dispatch stating that a caller saw "two shadows running by the door" and that individuals were fleeing from the school.

As I pulled into the driveway of Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dickenson Drive I heard a radio dispatch from Off. McGowan. He had apparently caught a suspect on the south side of the school near the playground. He had the suspect in custody. It was not apparent to me at this point that anyone was actually shot.

I drove my car up the driveway and right to the front of the school. I exited my car and ran around the front of it to find cover behind the engine compartment. I did not hear gunfire as I pulled up to the school nor did I hear gunfire as I was out of my car. I looked to my right and saw a black car also parked near the front entrance to the school. Off to my right were two large garbage dumpsters. I saw a woman crouched in between the dumpsters with a cellular phone in her hand. I also saw an officer crouching with her. I asked this officer, who I initially believed was Officer Penna but who later turned out to be Officer Hull, "What do we know?" He stated that there was shooting within the school. Officer Penna appeared near me and stated that he had found a long gun in the black car and had shut it in the trunk of the car. Officer Penna, Sergeant Bahamonde, who had just arrived, and I went around the right side (North) of the building. The first or second door Sgt. Bahamonde tried to open was opened. It led into a boiler/utility room for the school. We entered the school in a triangle formation with Off. Penna in lead. The utility room led to the kitchen which then led to the cafeteria. We heard nothing as we went through these rooms. We exited the cafeteria and had a vantage point to see down the main front hallway of the school and the north hallway.

Sgt. Bahamonde stated that there were "bodies" in the hallway near the front door. I could see the bodies of two women lying in the hallway about fifteen feet from the door to the main office. I saw that a large pool of blood was spread from one of the woman. They did not move at all. Sgt. Bahamonde then began to yell at someone who was in the North side hallway. I looked around the corner and saw a dark-skinned man in his 40's, wearing a blue jump suit. He was crouching in a doorway about half-way down the hall. I asked him who he was and he said he was the custodian. I asked him how many people were shooting and he said he didn't know and that he didn't see anyone. I then asked him how long ago he had heard the last shot. He stated it was "a while ago".

It was very quiet and there was no sound. This led me to believe that Sgt. Bahamonde, Officer Penna and I were the first officers in the building. I could smell the gun powder in the air and saw long gun, spent shells on the floor of the hallway near the front door. At this point we didn't know if the shooter or shooters were still in a classroom or were hiding to ambush us. Since there was no active shooting we held our position of cover for several minutes to await extra officers. I noticed a little girl walk out of a classroom about sixty feet down the hallway. I yelled at her to go back into

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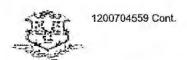
REPORT DATE:

01/03/2013 10:21 am 03198

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her classroom. She immediately went back into the classroom. She reappeared in the hallway about thirty seconds later and I told her again to get back into her room. She said, "I want to go home". I told her she would be able to go home soon but right now she needed to get back into her room.

A group of State Troopers then started to walk into the school from the front door. I believe they walked in through the broken front window. They each had their guns drawn and were asking what was going on. I told them what I knew and stated that we needed to send two teams down each of the hallways to check the rooms for the shooter. Up to this point there was still no more shot fired. A group started to go down the front hallway of the school. I then went with two State Troopers to search the cafeteria and the stage area. We cleared the cafeteria as best we could and then we went up the stairs to the stage to search behind the curtain that was drawn. As we were approaching the stairs to the stage I heard a sound which sounded like whimpering children. It appeared to be coming from above my head and I realized that the sound was coming from an intercom system.

When the door to the stage stairs shut we were cast in total darkness. I went to prop the door open at the bottom of the stage so that we would have had enough light to see by. I noticed one of the Troopers take out a small flashlight by his belt and go up the stage stairs. Within a few seconds they stated that the stage was "clear" and then it seemed they exited out to the main hallway from a different door then we went in. I went back through the cafeteria to the main hallway and took two other State Troopers with me to search the main office and all of the rooms off of it. Just prior to doing this I noticed two or three State Troopers with assault rifles walking down the North hallway from the back part of the school. They began to yell directions at the custodian. I tried to tell them that it was only the custodian but they ignored me (as they should). They had the custodian lay on his belly I do not think that these were the same Troopers that cleared the stage area as one of them had a shotgun. The Trooper with the shotgun joined me and another Trooper as we cleared the main office of the school. I remember finding at least two doors which were closed and locked. I knocked on the doors and asked if anyone was "in there". I got no response, but we were moving quickly and it was fairly loud at this point. We did not find anyone in the main office.

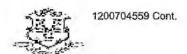
I then noticed Officer Chapman running toward me with a little girl in his arms. (This may have occurred prior to me searching the cafeteria and the main office. My memory is unclear as to the order). I opened the front door of the school for Officer Chapman and ran with him through the parking lot of the school. I heard him saying "Come on sweetie, come on sweetie". I at first thought the child had fainted and then noticed all of the blood on her. 03, 12 We were running towards the ambulance that was near the back lot of the Sandy Hook Fire House. There were adults, that I believed to be parents, that were in the parking lot of the school yelling at

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/TRP JEREMY COMBES/

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01/03/2013 10:21 am 03199 /SGT MARK DAVISON/



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/TRP JEREMY COMBES/

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1085

REPORT DATE:

01/03/2013 10:21 am 03200

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-INVESTIGATION REPORT (DPS-302-E) (REVISED 2/3/06)

us. I yelled that it was an "unsecure scene" and that they needed to find safety and get back in their cars. Officer Chapman brought the girl into an ambulance and I got a ride back to the front of Sandy Hook School by a Sandy Hook Fire Company golf cart.

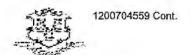
As I was nearing the school I notice a State Police Sergeant, later identified as William Carrio, carry the body of a young boy out of the school and place the body on the ground. He was asking where the ambulances were. The boy
took the boy away. I am not sure who. I drove back to the school with Sgt. Carrio.
I reentered the school from the front door, with Sgt. Carrio, and we walked down the front corridor of the school checking the front classrooms. In one classroom I noticed a young male laying on his right side in a fetal position. His body was about three feet in from the door to the left. Someone yelled out that he was the suspected shooter. It appeared that he had his hands cuffed behind his back. I noticed a large pool of blood spreading from the right side of the suspect's head. I asked who had shot him (as I did not remember hearing any shots since my initial arrival at the school). Someone behind me stated that he had shot himself. The suspect had long, blondish, wispy hair and a very straight and pronounced jaw line. The left side of his face did not appear to have any injuries. He appeared to be about nineteen years of age but he seemed very small. He appeared to have the body size of a twelve-year old. To the best of my recollection the male was wearing a t-shirt and a green tactical vest. I believe he had green or black pants on. He was wearing a plastic, thigh holster on his left leg. The holster appeared to have an automatic handgun in it. I noticed a black, Glock automatic pistol about one foot away from the suspect's head. It was my belief at the time that he had shot himself with this weapon.
Inside the same room as the suspect, approximately ten feet away from him was an assault weapon lying on the ground. It did not appear to have a magazine in it. To the best of my recollection there were only four bodies in the room with the suspect. The O1 02 03 12
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STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-INVESTIGATION REPORT (DPS-302-E) (REVISED 2/3/06)

saw another child and adult combination further into the room but did not investigate further.

I then walked into a room with Sgt. Carrio. At first glance it did not appear that there were any casualties. To the left of the room as you walk in there was a bathroom in the corner. There was a massive pile up of bodies in this room. At the time I did not know that it was a bathroom and wondered how the suspect had the time to kill that many people and stack them in the corner of the room. There appeared to be about 15 bodies in the small room and several bodies, including, two adults near the entrance to the room. There was one adult and I believe one child that were laying prone, on their backs approximately several feet from the entrance to the bathroom. All the other bodies were inside the bathroom or in the entrance to the bathroom. An adult victim was lying across the mass of bodies inside of the bathroom. Sgt. Carrio stated that he was an EMT (or maybe a paramedic) and that he had to check to see if anyone in the pile may have survived. I agreed as the bodies were stacked two or three high and that some of the children at the bottom, who were able to cram in first, may have escaped bullets.

Sgt. Carrio began to lift bodies off of the top of the pile and bring them to an open floor area. He began to look for life signs, wounds, and to attempt to find a pulse. The victims on the top of the pile 33, 12 and many of the bodies had injuries that were obviously fatal. As Sgt. Carrio began to empty out the bathroom it became apparent what had occurred due to how efficiently packed in the bathroom the children were. It appeared as if the teachers in the room immediately upon hearing gun shots began to pack children into the bathroom. The children that were sitting on the floor of the bathroom were packed in like sardines. One little girl was sitting, crouched in between the toilet seat and the back corner of the room. I thought that she might have the best chance for survival. As the pile got higher it appeared that there was a mad scramble to get into the bathroom, with people stepping on one another and climbing on top of each other. The teachers would not have been able to get into the room even if they wanted to. The teachers appeared to have been shepherding the children into the room and were then probably going to shut the door. They did not close and lock the door to the classroom for some reason and were interrupted by the shooter as they attempted to fill the bathroom with children. The shooter then opened fire on the mass of children and adults. As Sgt. Carrio got to the last bodies it was clear that no one had survived.

As I was leaving that room to check other rooms I saw the Chief of Police. I showed him into the room with the mass of bodies and told him that no one was left alive. I then went into another classroom which was north of the room with all the bodies in it. This room did not appear to have any bodies in it even though it was closer to the front of the school. Sgt. Carrio and I noticed some movement and sound from a closed door near the back of the room. I asked him "Did you see that?" He answered, "Yes" and we moved what appeared to be a cabinet away from the front of the door. We heard a female voice yell, "Who is out there?" We all said "Police" at the same time. One of the State Troopers identified himself. The

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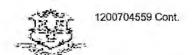
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woman in the closet stated, "I don't believe you". I then introduced myself. The woman asked me to put my badge under the door. I immediately took off my badge and put it under the door. We asked her if she got the badge and to open the door. She did not answer any of our questions and would not communicate with us for approximately one minute. This led us to believe that another suspect might be in the closet with the woman. We asked her directly if someone else was in there with her but she did not answer us. Suddenly the door opened a crack and an officer made sure that it could not be closed on us. I saw a group of children looking at us from the closet. I was handed a little boy that I picked up. The other children were told to hold hands and to follow me and another Trooper who led the way. We told the children to close their eyes. The armed Trooper led us out the south entrance of the front hallway. I was in the lead with the young boy in my arms. I looked back and saw a young, blonde woman who was holding hands with two children and running with us. She was a first grade teacher who was the woman in the locked room. She was very hysterical and I asked her what her name was twice. She told me her name but I forgot it. I told her she had saved the childrens' lives, Once we arrived with the group of children at the side entrance of the Sandy Hook Firehouse I left them in the care of the other civilians there and I ran back to the school.

While walking through the parking lot I noticed that a man was handcuffed and sitting on the ground by a vehicle. He was flanked by two police officers (I do not remember what department these officers were from). I asked why this man was under arrest. An officer told me that the man could not explain what he was doing in the area. I asked the man his name and he only told me his first name. I then asked his last name. I do not remember the name but it was something like "104 1111". I asked him why he was in the area. He stated that he used to live in Newtown and just "happened to be in the area". I asked him if he had a vehicle and he stated that it was parked at the Sandy Hook Firehouse. I told him that two officers would be walking him to his vehicle and that he was going to let them search it. I then assigned two Brookfield officers to complete this task. I do not know the outcome of this although I believe that this individual was held in custody and that it was later discovered that he had an "App" on his phone which allowed him to be apprised of the shooting and that he came to the area out of curiosity.

I then assisted Officer Hull in wrapping crime scene tape around the suspect's vehicle. Someone had given me the keys to the suspect's car and I had placed them in the roof of the vehicle. I did not notice anything within the vehicle, but saw two black fleece jackets or sweatshirts on the ground outside of the vehicle on the passenger side. I then had an officer run the plate on the vehicle to get the owner's name. I then attempted to locate SRO Jason Flynn and have him report to my location. I wanted SRO Flynn to look at the suspect's face to see if he might be able to make a positive identification. My belief was that the suspect might have attended Newtown High School where SRO Flynn had been assigned for the last five years. When SRO Flynn arrived on scene I led him inside the school and to the body of the suspect. Officer Flynn looked closely at the suspect but could not identify him. I then led Officer Flynn outside the building. The last name of the owner of the vehicle came back as "Lanza" of 36

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01/03/2013 10:21 am 03202

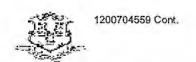
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/TRP JEREMY COMBES/



Yogananda Lane. I gave this name to Officer Flynn but he did not know the name. Officer Flynn stated that he would attempt to access the Newtown High School student database in an attempt to identify the individual and any possible associates.

Once I learned the possible address of the suspect I approached a State Police Officer who appeared to be in charge of a State Police S.W.A.T. team. I told him that I wanted two or three of his heavily armed officers to join two of my officers and go to the house on Yogananda, I stated that they should see who was home there and to secure the house for a possible search warrant. I assigned Officer McGowan and Off, McCluskey to this task. A full S.W.A.T. team was sent to the house approximately forty minutes later.

The rest of the time that I spent on scene was coordinating with the State Police and acting as an information resource to the other agencies, including my own. I assigned Det. Frank, Det. McAnaspie and Det. Joudy to assist with the crime scene investigation being led by State Police Major Crimes. I spoke briefly with the commander of Major Crimes regarding my detectives being assigned to them. Heft the scene at approximately 4:30 p.m. after I was relieved by Lt. Richard Robinson of the Newtown Police Department. This ended my involvement at the scene."

The typed statement was signed by LT Vanghele, witnessed by Detective Lukienchuk #573 and I notarized the statement.

Attachment:

Seven page typed statement

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