



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE**



**Victim/Witness Statement of: Keith Edele**

Date: 03-25-19	Time Started: 1310	Time Ended: 1330	CFS #: 1900085803
Location: Willimantic Police Department			Statement taken by: Det. Kevin Duggan #1115

I, Keith Edele Date of Birth: [REDACTED]  
of 22 Meadow Street Town/City: Willimantic State: CT

I make the following statement, without fear, threat or promise. I have been advised that any statement(s) made herein which I do not believe to be true, and which statement is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance of his / her official function, is a crime under C.G.S. section 53a-157b and is punishable by law.

12 I have been employed by the Willimantic Police Department since April 14, 2010. I currently hold the rank of Corporal and am assigned to the Patrol Division. I am a member of the Willimantic Police SWAT Team and have received advanced firearms and law enforcement related tactical training as well as training in emergency medical treatment for my role as the SWAT Team medic. I am also one of the Department's Field Training Officers.

On February 20, 2019 I was working my regularly scheduled 0700 hours to 1500 hours shift. I was wearing my standard issued patrol uniform with the blue Willimantic Police patch on both sleeves. In addition, my gold badge was embroidered on my outer ballistic vest carrier on the left side. My pants were department issued and included a French blue stripe on both legs. My name tag was embroidered on my outer ballistic vest carrier on the right side. In addition to my handgun, my duty belt was equipped with handcuffs, a baton, a flashlight, a police radio, magazines and a taser. The handgun I was carrying was a department issued Glock model 17 with seventeen 9 mm rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber. I was also carrying two additional magazines, each holding seventeen 9 mm rounds. Additionally, I was carrying my departmental issued SWAT rifle which is a Colt, M-4, .223 caliber having a 30 round magazine with no round in the chamber.

At approximately 1100 hours I went to the Willimantic Bike Path between Milk Street and Ash Street to assist other officers on a report of a civilian slipping and falling and possibly receiving a head injury. I was operating a department issued and clearly marked Ford Explorer patrol vehicle labeled "Car 14". The vehicle is equipped with emergency police lights located on the vehicle's roof, front grill, side view mirrors and rear window. The vehicle is also equipped with a police siren.

While on the call, I heard Dispatch put out a radio broadcast advising officers that there was a police pursuit heading towards Willimantic on Route 32. I recall Dispatch reporting that the individual being pursued had shot at Norwich police officers. They further advised that the vehicle was traveling at a speed reported to be 130 m.p.h. I don't recall if Dispatch provided a description of the vehicle.

After I heard the Dispatch, I returned to my cruiser and I advised Dispatch that I would be heading to the area of the IGA Food Store located on Route 32. I activated my police vehicle's overhead lights and electronic siren as I headed to the area. I traveled from the bicycle path to Ash Street and then turned right onto Main Street. From Main Street I took a left onto the Frog Bridge and then turned left onto Route 32. 12



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Travelled approximately a mile and a half on Route 32 before stopping in the area of the intersection of Route 32 and the access road leading to Old Plains Road.

When I arrived, I parked my patrol vehicle on an angle facing East in the Eastbound lane. I saw that Trooper DeCarli's patrol vehicle was parked in the Eastbound Lane of Route 32 in front of me and that he had put his stop sticks across Route 32 in the westbound lane. I also saw Officer Lisee standing outside of his patrol vehicle which was parked in the parking lot of the IGA across from Trooper DeCarli's vehicle.

I exited my patrol vehicle and unlocked my SWAT rifle from its locking mechanism and removed it from the vehicle. I put a round into the chamber of the rifle and stood next to the rear of my vehicle. Within seconds I saw a white colored SUV traveling on Route 32 at a high rate of speed towards me. I do not recall seeing any police vehicles in pursuit of the white SUV.

As the white SUV approached my location, I saw it swerve and attempt to avoid the stop sticks. Trooper DeCarli, however, was able to move the stop sticks so that the SUV's tires made contact with them. I began to move away from my position behind my vehicle and off to the side of the road so that I could avoid being struck by the oncoming SUV. My back was turned from the road as I made my way off the travel portion of the roadway but I did hear the sound of what I believed were the SUV's tires popping from the stop sticks; the sound of what I believed to be the SUV skidding and then the sound of what I believed to be the SUV crashing. When I turned around, I saw that the SUV had made contact with a tree located in a grassy area off Route 32 near the access road to Old Plains Road. I saw that the vehicle had sustained heavy front end damage and that the engine compartment was smoking. I also saw that the vehicles side curtain airbags had deployed. I did not see any occupants inside of the vehicle at this time.

I began to walk, with my SWAT rifle pointed towards the vehicle, to a position on Route 32 directly behind the SUV. As I approached the car, I saw a second State Trooper whom was later identified to me as Trooper Robert Maurice. Trooper Maurice begin to walk past me towards the vehicle. I yelled to Trooper Maurice to stop and said "Felony Stop" indicating that we should proceed with caution and conduct a felony stop on the vehicle as I was trained to do. I then yelled to Officer Lisee "Felony Stop" and we all paused. At this time I was standing directly behind the vehicle, Trooper Maurice was to my right and Officer Lisee was to Trooper Maurice's right.

Almost immediately after pausing, the right rear passenger door suddenly opened. I saw a black male exit the vehicle. The male was dressed in all black colored clothing and I could see that he had an injury to his head as there was a heavy amount of a red blood-like substance on his forehead. I saw the male take several steps away from the SUV. At this time, the male was in a bladed position to me and I could not see if he was holding anything in his hand. Simultaneously, Officer Lisee, Trooper Maurice and I started shouting commands for the male to get on the ground. The male ignored our commands and as we continued to yell commands I saw the male turn sideways and lift his right arm up and begin to run away from us. I heard officers begin to yell "DROP THE GUN!" multiple times. The man then fully turned to



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Kun and it was at this time I saw that he was pointing a handgun at us as he began to run away. At this same time I heard the sound of gunfire but I do not know who specifically was firing.

I then saw Trooper Maurice and Officer Lisee begin to chase after the male on foot and I saw the male fire his handgun at them. I do not recall how many times the male fired his weapon at the officers. I was fearful that other officers, the civilians on the roadway behind us and I were at imminent risk of serious physical injury or death. I raised my rifle and fired what I believe to be 2 rounds at the male as he was running. I am not certain if my rounds struck the male. I remained with the SUV because I was concerned that there may be other occupants in the vehicle who might exit the SUV and get behind us. I saw the male running along the left side of a private residence and continued to hear gunfire. I raised my weapon and fired one addition round at the male. I do not know if my round struck the male.

At this time Det. Michael Suplicki arrived and exited his vehicle. I yelled to Det. Suplicki that I needed help clearing the SUV and he came to assist. After finding no other occupants in the SUV, Det. Suplicki and I ran to the rear of the private residence. When I arrived, I saw the male lying face down on the ground with his arms beneath him. All officers began yelling commands for the male to show us his hands. Although the male was still moving he was not complying. Sgt. Mercado arrived and yelled for only one officer to give commands. Sgt. Mercado then began shouting commands for the male to show us his hands. Officers then slowly approached the male while Sgt. Mercado continued to yell commands. The male failed to comply and so one officer whom I don't recall approached the male and took control of the male's right arm and another officer took control of the male's left arm and the two placed the male in handcuffs and proceeded to roll him over. I could see a red blood like liquid on the snow but because the male was dressed in all black I could not determine how specifically he was injured.

I am the SWAT team's medic so after seeing the red blood like substance, I ran back to my patrol vehicle and retrieved my medic bag. I returned to the rear of the residence and began to administer first aid. I could see that the male had injuries to his back consisting of what appeared to be four gunshot wounds. I began to apply chest seals to the male's back. I recall applying 3 chest seals before running out and then rolled the male over to check for additional injuries. When I did so, I saw another injury on the males left torso which appeared to be a gunshot wound. I felt for a pulse and found none. I then began performing CPR chest compressions before I was directed by Sgt. Mercado to stop because another officer was going to take over. I don't recall which officer began to perform CPR after me.

I was then approached by LT Hussey who asked if I was ok and if I got hit. I replied that I was and that I was not hit. He then asked if I fired my weapon and I told him that I had. Lt. Hussey told me to return to Route 32 and wait for him by his vehicle and not to speak to anyone about the incident.

Officer Lisee and I were then transported by Lt Hussey to Windham Memorial Hospital. After being released from the hospital I returned to police headquarters and thereafter turned my duty weapon, magazines, duty belt, uniform pants, shirt and outer ballistic carrier over to the State Police. K



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By affixing my signature to this statement, I acknowledge that I have read it and/or have had it read to me and it is true to the best of my knowledge & belief.

Victim/Witness Name: <u>KEITH EDELE</u>	Victim/Witness Signature: 	Date: <u>3/25/19</u>
Parent/Guardian Name:	Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:

Personally appeared the signer of the foregoing statement and made oath before me to the truth of the matters contained therein.  
If notarized, endorse here:

Oath Taken By:  KEITH EDELE 3/25/19  
Name Signature Date Signed

Witness Name: <u>Det. Kevin Duggan #1115</u>	Witness Signature: <u>Det.  #962</u>	Date: <u>03-25-19</u>
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