



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

December 27, 2013

First and foremost, my thoughts and prayers, as well as those of all members of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, continue to be with the families of the victims, the survivors, and the entire Newtown community. On December 14, 2012, your lives were changed forever in a matter of moments. The horror and unspeakable sadness of that day and the lives that were lost will never be forgotten.

In the midst of the darkness of that day, we also saw remarkable heroism and glimpses of grace. We saw Sandy Hook Elementary School faculty and staff doing everything in their power to protect their charges. We saw law enforcement officers from dozens of local, state and federal agencies running as one into harm's way at enormous personal risk. We saw dispatchers calmly and efficiently coordinating resources and directing personnel while at the very same time compassionately reassuring victims. We saw fire and EMS personnel from all over the region offering their services, state and municipal employees and contractors working countless hours in innumerable ways to support the first responders and the community at large, and thousands of volunteers and donors from across the globe reaching out in any way they could. For everything that was done by all of these and more, I am profoundly grateful.

The investigation of this incident is unparalleled in the one hundred and ten year history of the Connecticut State Police. Tens of thousands of hours were spent by investigators from all over the country tracking down leads, processing evidence, and doing everything within their collective ability to provide answers for the questions that remained in the wake of the terror of that morning. The efforts of all of the Connecticut State Police personnel, and especially those of the detectives of the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad, under the command of Lieutenant David Delvecchia and the supervision of Sergeants Joshua Pattberg and Jeffrey Covello, among others, have been remarkable, and demonstrate the determination and dedication of our employees, of which I am very proud.

The following reports document the many stages of the investigation, which administratively consists of three separate case numbers:

1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: (860) 685-8000 / Fax: (860) 685-8354

An Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

CFS 1200704559 is the primary investigation, which has been conducted by the Western District Major Crime Squad (WDMCS) from Troop A in Southbury in conjunction with State's Attorney Stephen Sedensky III of the Judicial District of Danbury. They have been supported by WDMCS detectives from each Troop in the district, as well as by Major Crimes detectives from across the state, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, Newtown Police Department, and numerous other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies too numerous to list.

CFS 1200704597 includes the processing of the scene at Sandy Hook Elementary School, with the Western District Major Crime Squad Van processing the inside of the school, and the Central District Major Crime Squad Van processing the outside of the school and supporting the WDMCS.

CFS 1200705354 consists of the investigation conducted by the Eastern District Major Crime Squad of the homicide at 36 Yogananda St. in Newtown. Each case includes written reports as well as multimedia including photographs, video recordings and/or audio recordings.

Although this investigation has been closed for administrative purposes, we anticipate that additional supplemental reports may continue to be submitted under CFS 1200704559 over the coming months. For example, reports may be submitted documenting return of evidence to its owners or receipt of evidence reports from the FBI Laboratory. We do not expect that they will contain any information that impacts the conclusions of the investigation and they will be released on a rolling basis. In the unlikely event that substantive information is obtained that requires follow-up, the case will be reopened and any new leads will be investigated fully.

While the wide range of information contained in these reports is presumed to be public, there are many statutes and regulations at both the state and federal levels that either prohibit disclosure, or allow withholding, of certain subsets of information. Each redaction throughout the report is marked with a two-digit code which corresponds to the legal basis supporting it as noted on the attached index. While this coding system makes clear the foundation of each redaction, several types of information that have been withheld warrant additional explanation.

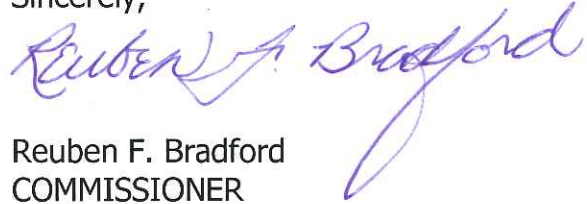
1. Throughout this report, the names and contextually identifying information of involved children have been withheld. This contextual information includes descriptions or images of children, their clothing and their belongings and references to their family members as examples. While the names of the deceased victims are well known, certain facts pertaining to the individual children are not, and the identities of surviving children are not generally known. Consistent with certain permissive exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act and the constitutional rights of crime victims we have chosen to withhold that information.

2. The names and contextually identifying information of most witnesses have been withheld. In the immediate aftermath of the incident and throughout the investigation, many individuals whose identities became public as associated with the incident in various ways have been subject to harassment and/or intimidation. In an effort to protect those whose identities are not otherwise known, we have chosen to exercise the applicable permissive exemption. This has been applied in the written reports, as well as in the multimedia, including audio and video recordings. The exemption is not being applied to those individuals whom we believe to be otherwise generally known or to witnesses whose involvement is professional in nature (ex. first responders).
3. All visual images depicting the deceased have been withheld, as well as written descriptions whose disclosure would be highly offensive to a reasonable person and would violate the constitutional rights of the families.

Balancing the often-competing interests of government transparency and individual privacy has been difficult. I believe that the redacted report that is being released includes as much detail as possible while protecting confidential information and without unduly infringing on the privacy rights of those whose lives have been so profoundly impacted through no fault of their own.

I hope that the release of this report, though painful, will allow those who have been affected by it to continue in their personal process of healing, and will provide helpful information that can be put to use to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Sincerely,



Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER