

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN MANCHESTER, NH ON JUNE 3, 2013**

**June 4, 2014**

On June 26, 2013, the Attorney General issued a report concluding that the three Manchester police officers who fired their weapons at a green Jeep being operated by 37 year-old Christopher Varagianis were justified in their use of deadly force. At the time that report was issued, criminal charges were pending against Mr. Varagianis. Therefore, the June 26 report did not contain all the information it could have at the time. Since then, the charges against Mr. Varagianis have been resolved and all the investigative reports have been completed and reviewed, allowing more information to be released. This supplemental report summarizes the additional information that is now available regarding this incident.

Several civilian bystanders and fire department personnel who witnessed the incident corroborated the officers' belief that they were confronted with deadly force by Varagianis when they fired their weapons. Several witnesses observed that Varagianis ignored the officers repeated commands to stop the Jeep and show his hands, and that he drove the Jeep directly at the officers.

Fire, EMS, and civilian witnesses who observed the beginning of the incident at the 7 Days Market corroborated dispatch reports that Varagianis was combative there, refused to allow EMS personnel to examine him, and came close to hitting people and/or cars as he drove away from that location. In addition, two civilian witnesses were interviewed who stated that they each had to get out of the way to avoid being hit by Varagianis' Jeep as he was attempting to elude police. These witnesses and others corroborated the pursuing police officers' reports that Varagianis was driving in a way that endangered the public.

Finally, police officers who arrived at the scene after the shots were fired stated that Varagianis was still revving the engine of the Jeep and attempting to get away, and that he had to be pulled from the Jeep by several officers while he continued to resist them. The Jeep was found to be in drive after Varagianis was pulled from it.

The scene of the shooting, on Merrimack Street near the intersection of Pine Street was fully documented and searched for relevant evidence, as was the Jeep that was operated by Varagianis. In addition, the service weapons of all involved officers were examined. A total of nine shots were fired during the incident by the three officers. Evidence recovered from the scene and from the Jeep was consistent with this finding. Forensic lab analysis revealed that crack cocaine and heroin were identified in a pipe and a spoon found within the Jeep Varagianis was driving.

After the incident, Varagianis was treated for two gunshot wounds to the leg. He has since pled guilty in the Hillsborough County Superior Court to several charges arising from this incident. Those cases were handled by the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office.

Based upon the above, and upon the facts set forth in the Attorney General's previous report, this investigation is now being closed with a final determination that the three Manchester police officers who fired their weapons during this incident were justified in their use of deadly force pursuant to RSA 627:5, II(a).