

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS

NEWTON DISTRICT COURT
DOCKET NO. 2112IN0001

IN RE: INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF MICHAEL CONLON
IN NEWTON, MA, ON JANUARY 5, 2021

SUMMARY OF EXPECTED WITNESS TESTIMONY III

1. Sarah Eknaian, MCJ, MSW

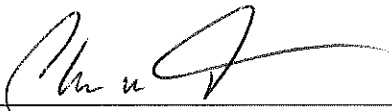
Sarah Eknaian has been the Jail Diversion Clinician for the Newton Police Department for approximately 3 years. She works Monday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM responding to calls with police to conduct mental health evaluation on individuals in crisis. When responding to a scene, home, or business, the police enter first while Ms. Eknaian waits outside or in a police vehicle. Once safe, Ms. Eknaian will enter the scene, offer her services, and follow up as necessary with the individual.

On October 10, 2019, Ms. Eknaian received a call from Advocates, a 24-hour crisis support center, reporting that Michael Conlon may be in possession of a firearm. Advocates also sought Ms. Eknaian's advice relative to dealing with this matter. Newton police responded, met with Mr. Conlon, and determined he did not possess a firearm. Ms. Eknaian did not respond to this call.

On the afternoon of January 5, 2021, Ms. Eknaian responded with Officer Andrew Umina relative to a student suffering a mental health crisis. Officer Zachary Raymond had also responded to that call. After clearing that call, Ms. Eknaian was travelling back to the Newton police station with Officer Umina when they heard a radio call reporting a potential kidnapping at "Indulge" on Lincoln Street. At that time, they had just past "Indulge" so Officer Umina turned the cruiser around and headed back to Lincoln Street. Upon arrival, approximately 2 minutes later, Officer Umina parked across the street from "Indulge," exited the vehicle, and asked Ms. Eknaian to remain in the car. Ms. Eknaian then observed Officer Umina, and several other officers, enter 18 Lincoln Street, but could not see into the building. While sitting in the patrol car, Ms. Eknaian monitored the police radio and heard a broadcast identifying the individual as "10-1," suffering from a mental health crisis, and a request for a negotiator. Knowing the individual was still armed; Ms. Eknaian did not enter the building and would not have entered the building until police declared the scene safe. After approximately 20 minutes, Ms. Eknaian heard between seven and nine gunshots in quick succession. Ms. Eknaian exited the car when she observed Sgt. Glenn Chisholm exit the building and recognized him to be in a very emotional state.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH,

MARIAN T. RYAN
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By 

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Dated: November 12, 2021