



# Town of Lexington

## Police Department

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The following is an administrative summary of Lexington Police case #22-1692 (Officer involved shooting - 2/12/2022), which was documented by Captain John Mazerall.

### **Summary:**

On February 12, 2022 at 12:36:15 hours the Lexington Combined Dispatch Safety Center received an emergency 911 call from a jogger that was running by 98 Hancock Street in Lexington. The 911 caller witnessed an Asian male yelling out from the second floor window of that residence, "please call the police someone is trying to kill me." The 413 and 415 cruisers were initially dispatched to the scene to investigate and assist the victim. In due course all marked police units responded to the scene. On shift that day for the Lexington Police Department were Commanding Officer Sgt. C. Demambro, Dispatcher D. Felix, Dispatcher M. Bruno, Officer S. Sullivan (411), Officer A. McAleer (412), Officer S. Papia (413), Officer J. Carruthers (414) and Officer J. Frissore (415).

This 911 call eventually led to the shooting of armed attacker Brendan Reilly of 98 Hancock Street by Lexington Police Officer Joseph Carruthers in defense of another, Officer Steve Papia, who was in imminent threat of death or serious injury by stabbing by Reilly. After numerous attempts of de-escalation tactics, no reasonable alternative existed except for the use of deadly force upon Reilly.

### **Neighborhood Illustration:**

98 Hancock Street is owned by the Eliot Community Human Services Inc. and has been a group home since 1973. This residence does not have full time staff on site. It is located directly on the southeast side of the "Diamond Middle School Roundabout," in a residential neighborhood. Five Roadways flow into the roundabout in a counter clockwise direction; Hancock Street, the Diamond Middle School driveway, Burlington Street, North Hancock Street and Hamilton Road. The Chabad Center of Lexington is also located at 9 Burlington Street. This campus includes a synagogue, which had in person Temple services that day and a pre-school; it is located on the north-west side of the roundabout, opposite 98 Hancock Street. The Diamond Middle school was also having three events that day, German language school, Youth Basketball and the Diamond Drama Club, which was setting up and having play rehearsals. These events increased both vehicular and pedestrian traffic to the area. There also appeared to be an increase in pedestrians due to the unusually warm weather for late winter that day. This was confirmed by the large number of joggers, walkers and bikers identified by officers on the scene and by me (Captain John Mazerall) personally after I arrived on scene shortly after the fatal encounter.

### **Weather Conditions in Lexington on February 12, 2022**

The National Weather Service report for the temperature in Lexington, MA on February 12, 2022 at noon was 61 degrees, partly cloudy, humidity 37% with a WSW wind of 16MPH.

### **E-911 Call**

On Saturday February 12, 2022, The Lexington Police and Fire Dispatch Center received a 911 call at 12:36:15 hours. The E-911 caller appeared to be calm and spoke clearly. He stated, "I am running outside of a house and someone is yelling out the window please call the police someone is trying to kill me." The caller further stated he didn't know anyone at the house,

there is just someone at the window. The caller identified the address as 98 Hancock Street. He was able to retrieve the exact address information from the subject in the window when on the phone with the 911 dispatcher. He described the subject yelling for help as "Chinese, dark hair down to shoulder, 20-27 years old." The caller also provided his own name (Scott Mattoon) and phone number when asked by Dispatch. He also clarified that the subject was calling for help from the second floor window. When asked if he saw a weapon by the Dispatcher, Mattoon stated that he has not seen anyone else (other than the subject in the window.) By all accounts the caller appeared to be credible and reliable.

### ***Radio Transmissions (time intervals included)***

At 12:39:17 hours (*call time taken from the radio call clock*) Dispatch sent Officer Papia (413) and Officer Frissore (415) to 98 Hancock Street in response to an E911 call that there was an Asian male yelling out the window from 98 Hancock Street, a group home, indicating someone is actively trying to kill him. Dispatch specified that there were no other parties observed and there was no mention of a weapon. (1:01) Dispatch indicates there is only one call received about this. (1:12) Officer Frissore (415) indicates he is on Hancock Street passing Adams en route to the call. Officer Papia acknowledges and informs Frissore that he is parked over by the Diamond Middle school entrance, which is on the opposite side of the rotary from 98 Hancock Street. (1:43) Officer Frissore arrives. (1:56) Officer Papia notifies Dispatch that the subject is Brendan and we have transported him before. Dispatcher Felix acknowledges and indicates that Dispatch is familiar with him. (2:20) Officer Papia gives the full name as Brendan Reilly. (2:46) Officer Papia asks that the 414 cruiser come to the scene. He indicates that one of the tenant's states that he (Reilly) has a knife and he (Papia) is going to get the less lethal. (3:13) Fire Engine One and Medic One are dispatched to 98 Hancock Street. Dispatch request where Fire personnel should go. (3:31) Officer Papia has them stage nearby for the moment. (3:44) Officer Papia indicated they will keep talking to him (Reilly). (3:58) Engine one and Medic one are on the air and Dispatch has them stage around the corner until further notice. (5:10) Medic one is staged at Victory Gardens. (5:28) Engine one arrives and stages. (5:36) Dispatch is asked to send the Medics to Hancock at North Hancock. (5:46) Dispatch sends Medic One and Engine One to Scene. (6:10) Officer Papia indicated that he is at Burlington Street by Blake Street and to notify Detectives. (6:51) Officer Frissore asks for a camera. (7:20) Fire personal advises Dispatch that they are going to take all crew members with Medic One to go to Lahey. (7:56) Dispatch indicates that they have an Arlington Officer coming to shut down Hancock at Revere and Bedford PD is sending an officer to assist (with road closures.) (8:20) E1 indicates that all crew members are on board Medic One and are on their way to Lahey Clinic. (10:42) Medic One arrives at Lahey Clinic. (10:55) Officer Frissore requests that someone in charge of the facility comes to the scene. (13:04) Medic Two Arrives on scene per my request to transport Officer Carruthers to the hospital. Eventually all officers involved in the incident are sent to Lahey Clinic.

### ***De-escalation Techniques***

When Officers initially arrived at 98 Hancock Street and as the scene quickly expanded to the area of Burlington Street near the roundabout Officers used constant restraint and were actively performing de-escalation techniques consistent with their training and experience. These de-escalation techniques included proactive actions and approaches used by officers to stabilize this highly dangerous situation to both them and the neighboring public, so that more time, options and resources could become available to gain voluntary compliance of Brendan Reilly and to reduce or eliminate the need to use force.

Immediately upon arrival Officer Papia, through Dispatch, requested that Lexington Fire Department paramedic's stage near the scene and requested that Eliot Community Staff come to the scene in an attempt to have a mental health professional readily available. The Lexington Fire Department Ambulance often times assists in the transport of persons issued a section 12

when requested by police. This has been helpful in ensuring quick and safe transport to the hospital in lieu of waiting for a private ambulance company. This was the reasoning behind Officer Papia having the fire department stage nearby.

Additional efforts included verbal persuasion and continuous verbal warnings. Officers were familiar with Brendan Reilly. Officers Papia, Frissore, Sullivan and Carruthers had dealt with him in the past. When Officers spoke with him, they called him by his first name in attempts to reason with him. Reilly was given repeated orders throughout the entire encounter, which included, "drop the knife, put the knife down, let's go to the hospital, and stay on the ground." These on-going commands were issued by Officers at 98 Hancock Street and to the expanded scene near the Diamond Middle School roundabout. These orders were issued in both compassionate and loud tones. These continuous verbal persuasion efforts were evident on Wednesday 2/16/2022, when officer Papia was speaking with the MSP and his voice was still hoarse from the incident.

When Officer Papia arrived on scene he initially thought Reilly was still in the house and possibly in a bedroom to the rear of the dwelling and the victim was barricaded in the front bedroom. Officer Papia was optimistic that this scenario would allow for a slowing down of the pace of the incident and allow them to wait out Reilly, since the immediate threat appeared to be less than reported due to this possibility of both parties being separated. This opportunity changed quickly once Reilly was discovered outside, to the rear of the home, with a knife. Once the knife was observed by the neighbor at 100 Hancock Street and visually confirmed by Frissore and Papia the immediate threat level increased because of the unpredictability of Reilly and the number of people in the immediate area. Officers still attempted to create distance, speak with him and isolate the encounter to the area of the back yard until Reilly ran off into the public way creating an immediate threat to the public.

After Reilly ran off into the public way still holding the knife, safe scene containment and de-escalation techniques became more challenging. The location where Reilly ended up is approximately 225 feet from the front door of 98 Hancock Street. With the complexities of a larger scene and the onset of pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, Officers continued to perform de-escalation tactics. Officer Sullivan shut down Burlington Street at Blake Road with his cruiser in an attempt to keep onlookers from being exposed to danger because Reilly refused to drop the knife while in and near the roadway. Reilly's actions were unpredictable; shutting the roadway down helped limit Reilly's exposure to the public, potentially slowing the escalated need for force. Officers attempted to keep a reasonable distance from the threat and continued to speak with him in an attempt to create dialogue and compliance. Officer Carruthers also specifically reminded officers to give Reilly room, get back and give him space in an attempt to not provoke an attack.

Officers were cognizant of distance due the fact that he was wielding a knife. Once Papia fell to the ground this distance gap was narrowed by Reilly who quickly advanced on Papia with the knife in an attempt to stab him. This was evident by Reilly's action of quickly moving towards Papia while he was on the ground, changing the direction of the knife in his hand from facing upward to facing downward in an ice pick type motion and raising the knife near his head in a motion that was clearly interpreted as a subject intending to stab Papia.

Even though these de-escalation attempts were initiated, they were unsuccessful in preventing Brendan Reilly from carrying out his assaultive and unjustified actions, which eventually led to Officer Carruthers having to shoot him in order to prevent the likely stabbing death or serious injury of Officer Papia.

***Brendan Reilly and Police Related Involvement:***

Brendan Reilly is 6' tall, approximately 180 lbs. and a resident of 98 Hancock Street, which is an Eliot Community Group Home. He was familiar to four of the five officers on the scene and had numerous encounters with police. Listed are his Board of Probation Record and documented involvements with the Lexington Police (21). He also had 42 documented involvements with the Bedford Police from 2007 to 2020. These involvements include Felony B&E, Mental Health, and Domestic calls, among others. Bedford Police also informed me that the Reilly's parents had fortified their bedroom door with a full core door and a deadbolt due to fear of their son while they were sleeping. Reilly also has 29 documented involvements with the Arlington Police ranging from Lewdness arrest to suspicious activity, among others.

On February 9, 2022, two days prior, Lexington Police Officers dealt with Mr. Reilly. He was calm during while interacting with police. Officers assisted while the case nurse from the Eliot Community Home attempted to get a section 12 committal, but this request was denied. In contrast to February 9<sup>th</sup>, Reilly's actions on February 12, 2022 with Officers and his fellow roommate at 98 Hancock Street were extremely volatile. During that day Brendan Reilly Committed the following acts:

- 209A/6 - Domestic assault
- 269/10b – Disturbing the Peace While Armed
- 269/10 - Possession of a Dangerous Weapon
- 265/13A - Assault by means of a Dangerous weapon (knife)
- 265/15 - Assault with intent to Murder or Maim

***Board of Probation Record:***

- Expired Restraining order 12/10/2014
- 8/22/2016 Larceny-Dismissed
- 5/18/2016 Larceny from a Building - Dismissed
  - Property Violation – Dismissed
- 3/28/2016 Shoplifting - Dismissed
- 11/9/2015 Assault & Battery - Dismissed
  - A&B Dangerous Weapon - Dismissed
- 11/26/2013 Open & Gross – Dismissed
- 9/20/2013 Shoplifting - CWO
- 2/1/2012 B&E DT W/Intent to Commit a Felony (person in fear)-NP
- 1/10/2012 A&B Dangerous Weapon – Dismissed
- 7/18/2007 Possession Class D – CWO
- 8/7/2006 Possession Class C – Dismissed
- 5/3/2004 Minor possession Alcoholic Beverage - Dismissed
- 3/18/2004 Breaking & Entering – CWO
- 2/13/2004 Assault & Battery - CWO
  - Disorderly Conduct – CWO
  - Disturbing School Assembly CWO
  - Trespassing – CWO
  - B&E DT W/Intent to Commit a Felony – CWO
  - Larceny More - CWO

***Lexington Police Documented Involvements***

- Case #22-1692, Assault W/DW, Officer Involved Shooting 98 Hancock Street
- Case #22-1555, Cruiser Check Person (Involved)
- Case #21-591, Disturbance-Fight (Caller)
- Case #21-208, Property Damage-non criminal (Involved)
- Case #21-15, Section 12 Committal

Case #20-12916, Cruiser Check Person (Involved)  
Case #20-12914, Cruiser Check –Person (Involved)  
Case #20-12824, Section 12 Committal  
Case #20-12818, Cruiser Check Person (Involved)  
Case #12-491, Cruiser Check-Person Involved 188 Grove Street  
Case #20-11626, Disturbance (Involved) 9 Victory Garden Way  
Case #14-5938, Police Information (Involved) 282 Bedford Street  
Case #14-5893, Section 12 Committal 282 Bedford St  
Case #14-5764, Police Information Involved 282 Bedford Street  
Case #14-5645, Police Information CNV 282 Bedford Street  
Case #14-5592, Suspicious activity (Involved) 36 Bedford Street  
Case #14-446, Missing Person (Involved) 282 Bedford Street  
Case #14-4850, Suspicious activity (Involved) 180 Bedford Street  
Case #12-4683, Suspicious activity (Involved) 440 Bedford Street  
Case #12-124, Property Found (Involved) 35 Reed Street  
Case #08-25, Operating after License Suspension (Arrest) 36 Eldred Street

**Officer Accounts** (*Officer Accounts were recorded by Sergeant Delucia of the Massachusetts State Police; Officers accounts of the incident were based upon their recollection of events at the time).*

**Officer Papia (413)**

*Officer Papia was assigned to the 413 sector and the first Officer on scene.*

*\*See audio file.*

**Officer Frissore (415)**

Officer Frissore was assigned to the 415 cruiser that day and was the second cruiser to arrive on scene.

*\*See audio file.*

**Officer Carruthers (414)**

Officer Carruthers was assigned to the 414 cruiser that day and was at the police station when the 413 and 415 were dispatched to 98 Hancock Street.

*\*See audio file*

**Officer Sullivan (411)**

Officer Sullivan was assigned to the 411 sector that day.

*\*See audio file.*

**Andrew McAleer (412)**

Officer McAleer was assigned the 412 sector that day. He was in the area of 1386 Mass Ave when he heard the 413 and 415 cruiser dispatched to 98 Hancock Street.

*\*See audio file.*

**Witness Statements:** witness statements were collected by the Massachusetts State Police and Lexington Detective Michael Sowle. Witness names are listed below and attached.

- Johny Chang (roommate and victim)
- Bukiet, Shaina Hindi (witness, Rabbi)
- Olidort, Eli (witness)
- Mattoon, Scott (witness, 911 caller)
- Wetmore, Thomas (witness, on bike)
- Dinnar, Samuel (witness, on foot)
- Dinnar, Tal (witness , on foot)

- Kinger, Vikas (witness, on foot)
- Schlein, Toby (witness)
- Jenness, Patricia (witness, in car)
- Lowe, Eileen (witness)
- Cunningham, Kristina (witness, on foot)