**Executive Summary:**

On July 8, 2023, at approximately 0009 hours, Officer Brandon Tyson was on patrol when heard what he believed to be a gunshot. Simultaneously, Endicott Police received calls of a drive by shooting and a male shot on Fillmore Avenue. Officer Tyson arrived on scene and located a large group of people yelling on Fillmore Avenue, who then directed him to a black male victim lying on the sidewalk with a gunshot wound to his chest. The victim was later identified as Richard Nims. Officer Tyson began life-saving efforts on Nims with Officer Joe Stone who had also arrived on scene, and Union Volunteer Emergency Squad and Endicott Fire Department medics responded.

Richard Nims was in grave condition when he was transported to Wilson Hospital and was later pronounced dead. An autopsy that was performed on July 9, 2023, by Broome County Medical Examiner Dr. Mort Allee determined the cause of death to be homicide. During the autopsy it was discovered that Richard Nims’s internal thoracic artery had been ruptured by as a result of the gunshot wound. A single 9 mm projectile round was discovered lodged inside Nims, underneath his right shoulder.

Officers that initially arrived on-scene were advised by witnesses that the perpetrator was “Antonio” or “Tony,” a white male who drives a silver or grey sedan. Witnesses reported that “Tony” was operating the silver or grey sedan when he arrived on Fillmore Avenue from North Street, then stopped the vehicle in front of 4 Fillmore Avenue, where Richard Nims and the witnesses were playing cards and listening to music. Mr. Nims approached Tony’s vehicle, then a verbal argument ensued, followed by a single gunshot. Tony then fled the area in the grey vehicle. One witness identified Tony as Desiree Watson’s boyfriend.

Sgt. John Willy arrived on scene and was advised of the preliminary interviews conducted by patrols. Sgt. Willy immediately recalled a previous domestic incident he had investigated involving Desiree Watson and a male named Tony who drove a silver or grey Ford Focus. After conducting a records search of the previous incident, Sergeant Willy identified Antoine Croop as a suspect, who had been operating NY ABC-123 at the time of the previous incident. Croop fit the description of the perpetrator and was known to have a concealed carry permit and carried a handgun.

An attempt to locate was distributed to Broome County agencies and a search of areas known to be frequented by Croop were conducted. Croop’s vehicle bearing NY ABC-123 was located behind 106 W. Main Street, Endicott and surveillance teams were assembled around the residence. A short time later, Croop was observed leaving the residence, walking east on Main Street, and taken into custody. Interviews with other occupants at 106 W. Main Street revealed that Croop had arrived a short time earlier and kept repeating that there had been an accident, but did not provide further details.

Forensic examination of Croop’s vehicle revealed a single 9 MM round which had not been fired, resting on the front seat of the vehicle. Fingerprints matching Antoine Nims were located on the driver’s side A and B pillar, on the windshield on the driver’s side, and on the hood of the vehicle on the driver’s side.

A search warrant was conducted at Croop’s residence, during which a HI Point, Model C9, 9 MM with serial number A987654 registered to Antoine Croop was discovered and placed into evidence. The weapon was test fired by the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center Ballistics Unit and the round secured. Forensic examination of the expended round by the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center Ballistics unit demonstrated the round was consistent with the projectile that was secured from the body of Richard Nims during autopsy.

As a result of the investigation, Antoine Croop was charged with Murder in the Second Degree and subsequently indicted on October 25, 2024 by a Broome County Grand Jury for Murder in the Second Degree.

As of the date of this executive summary, Croop’s case is pending trial in Broome County Court.

**LEAD DESK**

**Case Summary**On July 8, 2023, Officer Brandon Tyson was on patrol when he heard what appeared to be a gunshot. While investigating the noise, he observed a large group of people on Fillmore Avenue who directed him to a victim who had been shot in the chest. The victim was later identified as Richard Nims. Multiple witnesses were present at the time of the shooting. Witnesses stated a male named “Antonio” or “Tony” driving a silver sedan had been arguing with Nims before the shooting. Nims was transported to Wilson Hospital where he later died from his injuries.   
  
**Lead 1 – Instructions**: Document the initial response of Officer Brandon Tyson and other responding officers. Obtain the incident report and supplemental reports.

**Lead 1 – Returns:**

**A – (Officer Brandon Tyson)** – While on patrol driving Northbound on Harrison Avenue at approximately 0009 hours, I heard a loud popping sound west of my location that sounded like a gunshot. I heard what sounded like a large group of people yelling and observed a crowd on Fillmore Avenue. A male from the group ran towards my patrol vehicle and yelled “someone just got shot.” As I pulled up in front of 4 Fillmore Avenue, I observed a black male lying on the ground with a large amount of blood underneath him. The male was slightly conscious but unable to speak. I placed the male in the recovery position and noted a pulse and that he was breathing. I located a GSW in the upper right chest area. PO Stone also arrived on scene and began assisting me with the male and I radioed for EMS, priority 1. The male then went unconscious, and I could not feel a pulse and CPR was initiated by PO Stone until EFD and UVES personnel arrived on scene to take over medical attention. At the request of UVES, I used medical shears to remove the victim’s shirt. UVES continued medical care and transported the male to Wilson Hospital. PO Stone rode in the ambulance with the victim.

I, along with Police Officers Short, Homan, Washington, English, Dorner and Sergeant Willy secured the crime scene and began a canvass of witnesses.

I spoke with Taylor Carpenter, DOB 08/10/1990, 2 Fillmore Avenue, Apt. 2, Endicott NY 607-123-4567, who stated she knows the victim as Richard Nims and his date of birth was July 9th, unknown year. She stated she has known Nims for 10 years and he has no permanent address but had been staying at 4 Fillmore Avenue. Carpenter was not aware of any issues or altercations with anyone who would want to hurt him. She stated she observed a silver sedan turn off North Street on to Fillmore Avenue and stop in front of 4 Fillmore. She then heard a loud “bang” sound and then the sedan drove south on Fillmore Aven and out of sight. She believed the sedan was occupied by a single male subject who she identified as “Antonio” who sometimes also goes by “Tony.” Carpenter described Antonio has been acting crazy lately and driving around looking for “this one guy.” Carpenter stated she was going to get into trouble with other people for providing me with this information, but she gave me Antonio’s number: 607-856-7894. She stated Antonio has been texting her phone, speaking to an individual named “Donnie.” Carpenter could provide no further information at this time.

I was notified by Sgt. Willy that he obtained information that the alleged shooter was a white male named Antonio C. Croop. Based on information in Mobile, myself, Sgt. Willy, and PO Homan patrolled to Croop’s last known address in an attempt to locate his vehicle, NY ABC 123, which fit the description provided by Carpenter and other witnesses. We were unable to locate the vehicle at Croop’s home address on Arthur Avenue. We then began to patrol the area of 106 W. Main Street as Croop was known by Sgt. Willy to frequent that area. I was notified that NY ABC 123 was located in a rear alley behind 106 W. Main St. Sgt Willy instructed PO Homan to post at the rear of the location and for me to secure the front. At approximately 0210 I observed a male exit the front entrance of the location and began walking eastbound on Main St. I notified Sgt. Willy and I was able to positively ID the male as Croop. Sgt. Willy and I then stopped and detained Croop. Croop was searched and placed into Patrol Vehicle 656 and transported to EPD HQ along with his belongings. I then brough Croop into the booking area and conducted a second search of his person. Croop was then placed into interview room 1 to await further questioning by Det. Pepper.

NFAT (no further action taken)

Incident report attached as an enclosure.

**B- (Officer Daniel Homan):** At the date and time of the incident, I responded to 4 Fillmore Ave for a victim with a gunshot wound. I was advised the victim later died at the hospital. Upon arrival, I observed a black male with a GSW to his right shoulder area. The black male was later identified to me as Richard Nims. He was lying on his back on Fillmore Ave in front of 4 Fillmore, while Officers Brandon Tyson and Joe Stone assisted EMS. I placed yellow caution tape around the area and secured the scene while ensuring that other responding officers were interviewing witnesses at the scene. I was notified by Sgt. Willy that a suspect, Antoine Croop, had been developed. Croop was known by officers to drive a grey Ford Focus bearing NY ABC-123, registered to him. I was directed by Sergeant Willy to clear the scene and look for Croop’s vehicle near his residence at 114 Arthur Avenue and other locations he is known to hang-out. As part of that assignment, I traveled to the area of 106 W. Main Street where I located a grey Ford Focus bearing NY ABC-123. I ran the registration in Mobile and verified it was registered to Antoine Croop. I maintained constant observation of the vehicle and the rear of 106 W. Main Street. I was notified that Croop exited 106 W. Main Street out the front and began walking east, where he was stopped and taken into custody, while I maintained observation of the vehicle, which was not approached or touched by anyone while I was watching it. I then approached the vehicle and looked through windows and was able to observe an unused pistol round that was laying on the driver’s seat. Per Sgt. Willy’s instruction, I contacted Endicott Towing to have the vehicle towed as evidence and I maintained direct visual contact of the vehicle until it was transported back to EPD and secured in the garage bay 2.

I was then directed by Sgt. Willy to contact Alfonso McCormick, DOB 01/03/1956, to attempt to obtain security footage from his residence at 106 W. Main St. McCormick did not answer his door or phone. At 0620, I was able to make contact via telephone and he stated he was upset because he didn’t get any sleep last night and would not talk to police or show us security footage until at least 1000 today.

NFAT

Incident report attached as an enclosure.

**C – (Sgt. John Willy)** – On July 8, 2023, at 0009, I was the patrol supervisor and responded to what was initially labeled as a weapons complaint. Patrols were informed by dispatch of a “drive by shooting” with a male shot in the chest. The suspect was a W/M in his 50s driving a silver Ford Focus which was last seen turning on to Monroe St in an easterly direction. I tasked PO Colby English to check License Plate Readers (LRP) data for a vehicle matching that description in an attempt to get a direction of travel and develop a suspect vehicle. I then responded to 4 Fillmore Ave and made contact with Officer Trevor Short. PO Short informed me that he spoke to witnesses who stated the suspect is “Tony” and is Destiny Watson’s boyfriend. I am familiar with Destiny Watson and recalled dealing with her and a white male named Tony at the Price Chopper recently for a domestic incident. During that encounter, I had added a plate number to a vehicle with a similar description of the silver Ford Focus reported in this incident. I directed PO English to search for that case in Mobile and he located EPD Case 2023-9999 which listed plate number NY ABC-123, belonging to a grey 20210 Ford Focus registered to Antoine Croop of 114 N Arthur Ave Apt 2. I was also aware that Croop possessed a NYS concealed carry permit and possessed a HI Point, Model C9, 9 MM with serial number A987654. I directed Broome dispatch to put out an ATL for Croop with a caution notice on the weapon and incident.

I then directed POs Dorner, Short, Washington, and English to post on the perimeter of the scene and ensure no one entered inside the scene. I directed that a crime scene log be established. I then directed POs Homan and Tyson to respond with me to 114 Arthur Avenue to attempt to locate Croop’s vehicle. A search of the area was negative. I then directed those officers to the area of W. Main ST and Exchange Ave because I was also aware of previous information that Croop was moving Watson out of his residence on Arthur and into a residence near that intersection. While patrolling that area, I located Croop’s vehicle behind the 100 block of W. Main St and instructed PO Homan to sit stationary and observe the vehicle, while I directed PO Tyson to maintain surveillance on the front of the building. I then made notification to Assistant Chief Shepard about the incident and requested state or county assistance to hold the front of the building with PO Tyson.

A short time later, PO Tyson advised me that a male he suspected was Croop exited the front and headed east. I responded and observed the male and identified him as Croop wearing a black hoodie. I exited my vehicle and drew my firearm, pointing it at Croop, and directed him to get on the ground. Croop complied with my orders and laid face down on the sidewalk. He was handcuffed behind his back. While this was occurring, I observed a subject who I know to be Watson exit the building and I requested a county car to stop her. I also ordered PO Homan to hold his position with the car as evidence. I directed Tyson to transport Croop back to EPD for further investigation. PO Homan advised me he observed a live round in the front of Croop’s vehicle and I advised him to make sure no one touched the vehicle. I then made contact with Watson who advised me she was visiting Alfonso McCormick and while she was there, Croop came and visited her. Watson could not provide the apartment number but it was later discovered to be Apt. 4 at 106 W. Main St.

I was advised on scene by Deputy Eggleston of BCSO that prior to my conversation with Watson, she had advised him that that around 0100 she and Croop were at Bella’s Min Mart and Croop kept telling her there was an accident. Watson told Eggleston that Croop sat on McCormick’ couch. Watson refused to come to the EPD to provide a statement. While speaking with Deputy Eggleston, I observed Angel Shelton exit the apartment building.

I then interviewed Shelton who stated Croop had showed up at the apartment and kept saying “there was an accident” over and over. Shelton stated that Croop was at “Alfonso’s” apartment for about an hour and that Alfonso had responded down earlier and spoken with police who informed Alfonso they were looking for Croop. Shelton stated Alfonso returned to the apartment and advised Croop he had to leave and speak with police as they were looking for him. I then told Shelton she knew why we were there and asked her where the gun was. Shelton stated Croop gave her a car key and told her to grab the stuff out of the middle console. Shelton stated she did not do as Croop asked and she had given the key to Watson minutes earlier when she was talking with police because she didn’t want to be involved. The key was described as a key fob with an unlock button. I searched Shelton with her consent. Nothing of evidentiary value was located.

I then interviewed Watson who provided me with the key fob. I again asked Watson to come to the station to be interviewed and she refused, stating she was concerned for her friend Brandon Johnson who lives on Hannah St. Watson advised me if we wanted any more information we would have to speak with her lawyer.

I transported Shelton back to EPD to be interviewed by Detectives.

Incident report attached as an enclosure.

**D – PO Short’ Report**

**E – PO Dorner’s report**

**F – PO Washington’s report**

(Note: Each of their incident reports would be attached as enclosures)

**Lead 2 – Instructions:**

**Lead Source: 1 – A , 1 -C, 1 – D**

When initial officers responded to the scene, they reported numerous people who were present, including the male subject who approached Officer Tyson and stated “someone got shot.” Attempt to identify any witnesses at the scene at the time of the shooting and specifically the male who approached Officer Tyson.

**Lead Return – Officer Bill Bates**

On July 9, 2023, I reviewed the BWC footage of the officers on the scene. 6 potential witnesses were identified, including one subject who I am familiar with, Charles DuPont. DuPont is a black male wearing a dark blue hoodie. Other than DuPont, I observed a white male subject wearing a checkered shirt who was speaking and interacting with DuPont, a white male who was shirtless, and a white female wearing a white tank top. Officer Brandon Tyson also identified Taylor Carpenter and stated the white male with the checkered shirt is who approached him and stated that “someone got shot.” In addition to these subjects, there was a tall white male with a beard, shirtless, who had a tattoo across his lower back wearing short denim jeans and an older white male with a mullet, acid washed jeans, high top white sneakers and a blue quarter zip jacket.

I have secured individual photographs of each subject that were captured from the BWC videos. 6 photographs are attached.

**Lead 3 - Instructions**

**Lead Source: 1 -A**

Re-interview Taylor Carpenter and attempt to obtain a written statement. Attempt to identify other witnesses who were present at the scene, including any information on Antonio and the telephone number 607-856-7894. Attempt to identify or obtain further information on the identity of “Donnie” was that she is referring to in text messages involving Antonio.

**Lead Return – Detective Joe Friday**

On July 9, 2023, I reinterviewed Taylor Carpenter, who provided a written statement which is attached. Carpenter stated that On July 8, 2023, she was handing out with friends outside of 4 Fillmore Avenue. She then went inside her residence to the bathroom. When she finished, she walked outside and saw a silver sedan that she knows to be Antonio or Tony’s pull around the corner. She then observed that Richard Nims approach the vehicle and an argument occurred. She couldn’t hear what was being said, but then she heard a loud bank and the silver sedan drove off. People then stared saying Richard had been shot by Tony. She stated the group of people was a large group and she didn’t know everyone, but she stated that Sally Jones who lives at 6 Fillmore was there with her friends and a subject named Ron who was a white male wearing a checkered shirt, and a black male with a dark hoodie named Charles. She also stated that both residence of 4 Fillmore, Jim and Julie Smith were there as well when she went inside.

Statement of Carpenter attached as an enclosure.

**Lead 4 – Instructions**

**Lead Source 1**

Obtain and review the Body Worn Camera footage of all officers at the scene during the initial response. Identify all officers at the scene. Attempt to identify any witnesses.

**Lead Return**

**Lead 5 Instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A**

Obtain carrier information and secure a preservation record for telephone number 607-856-7894.

**Lead 6 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A**

Obtain a subpoena for subscriber information for 607-856-7894

**Lead 7 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A**

Obtain UVES and EFD records from their response to 4 Fillmore Avenue to treat Richard Nims

**Lead 8 Instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A**

Obtain Hospital records from the Emergency Room for treatment of Richard Nims. Review Wilson Hospital security footage to determine if there are potential witnesses at the hospital that should be identified and interviewed.

**Lead 9 Instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D**

Conduct a DMV and Broome County records check of NY ABC-123, registered to Antoine Croop.

**Lead 10 Instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A, 1-B, 1-C**

Conduct a Broome County records check of 114 Arthur Avenue, the residence of Antoine Croop.

**Lead 11 Instructions**

**1-A**

Conduct a neighborhood canvass in the area of the incident to identify anyone in the neighborhood with additional information. Identify neighbors, homes, or businesses that may have video.

**Lead 12 instructions**

**1-A**

Obtain the prisoner log and property receipts for Antoine Croop when he was booked into custody at EPD on July 8, 2023

**Lead 13 instructions**

**1-A**

Attend the autopsy of Richard Nims and obtain the coroner’s report.

**Lead 14 Instructions**

**1-B, 1-C**

Obtain a copy of the crime scene log for the incident.

**Lead 15 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-A**

Obtain a copy of the NYSP Forensic Investigation Unit report of crime scene processing of NY ABC-123.

**Lead 16 instruction**

**Lead Source 1-A**

Obtain a copy of the NYSP FIU crime scene processing of the area of 4 Fillmore Avenue

**Lead 17 Instructions**

**Lead Source 1-B**

Interview Alfonso McCormick and take a written statement. Obtain security footage of his residence on the night of the shooting from 11 PM on 07/07/2023 until the time the video is reviewed, or earlier if additional evidence may be gleaned.

**Lead 18 instruction**

**Source Lead 1-C**

Obtain the LPR reader data from 1800 on 07/07/2023 through 0600 07/08/2023

**Lead 19 Instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Interview Destiny Watson, through her attorney if identified, and attempt to obtain a statement or details about her knowledge related to Antoine Croop and/or Richard Nims.

**Lead 20 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Obtain a copy of the case report for case number 2023-9999.

**Lead 21 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Contact the Broome County Pistol Permit section and obtain information related to the concealed carry permit of Antoine Croop Jr.

**Lead 22 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Conduct an ATF trace on the handgun registered to Croop a HI Point, Model C9, 9 MM with serial number A987654

**Lead 23 instructions**

**Lead source 1-C**

Obtain a copy of the ATL with caution notice broadcast at the request of Sgt. Willy.

**Lead 24 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Obtain a copy of the report of BCSO Deputy Andrew Eggleston related to the incident and obtain his Body Worn Camera footage of the incident.

**Lead 25 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Document the interview of Angel Shelton.

**Lead 26 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Attempt to obtain a consent to search of the residence of Alfonso McCormick, specifically related to the areas where Antoine Croop had access or was sitting, including the couch.

**Lead 27 instructions**

**Lead Source 1-C**

Log the key fob provided by Destiny Watson into evidence and obtain a copy of the evidence log.

**Lead 28 instructions**

**Lead Source 3**

Interview Jim and Julie Smith of 4 Fillmore Avenue.

**Lead 29 instructions**

**Lead Source 3**

Interview Sally Jones of 6 Fillmore Avenue. Attempt to identify Ron, a white male wearing a checkered shirt and Charles, a black male wearing a dark hoodie, who were at 4 Fillmore on the night of the shooting.