

**In The Matter Of:**

*Caniglia vs*

*Strom, et al*

---

*Officer Wayne Russell*

*July 20, 2018*

---



**ALLIED**

COURT REPORTERS, INC.

— AND —

VIDEO CONFERENCE CENTERS

*Min-U-Script® with Word Index*

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

21

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. As well as CCRI in Rhode Island.

3 Q. Okay. I understand you got an Associate's degree  
4 from CCRI?

5 A. Correct. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Did you get a degree from anyplace other than  
7 CCRI?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. And what was your degree in?

10 A. Law Enforcement.

11 Q. Okay. And when did you receive that degree?

12 (P A U S E)

13 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) If you don't remember the exact  
14 date --

15 A. I don't remember.

16 Q. Can you give me an estimate of approximately when  
17 it was.

18 A. 2015.

19 Q. Fairly recently, in other words?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. When did you start working for the  
22 Cranston Police Department?

23 A. 2013.

24 Q. Okay. Did you have employment before you went to  
25 work for the Cranston Police Department?

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

40

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Prior to this incident, had you ever been  
3 involved in a situation where the Cranston Police  
4 seized firearms from someone for safekeeping?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. How many times?

7 A. I wouldn't be able to answer that.

8 Q. Can you estimate the number?

9 A. That I've been involved with?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Best estimate would be couple dozen times.

12 Q. Okay. And do you recall what the reasons were?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Generally speaking, what were they?

15 A. Domestic violence, if someone was threatened,  
16 suicidal.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Essentially, if somebody was a threat to  
19 themselves or others. That weapons were seized,  
20 correct?

21 Q. Correct.

22 A. I believe one -- maybe one time, maybe more,  
23 somebody died and maybe a spouse came across  
24 weapons when moving things out and we seized  
25 those because they didn't want them in the house,

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

41

1 but the most common I would say would be suicidal  
2 or domestic violence.

3 Q. Okay. And prior to this event, had you ever been  
4 involved in a situation where the Cranston Police  
5 had had someone go for a psychiatric or  
6 psychological evaluation?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Approximately how many times?

9 A. I wouldn't be able to answer that.

10 Q. Can you estimate?

11 A. That rescue was called and they were  
12 transported to --

13 Q. Correct. Yes.

14 A. Probably 50 times.

15 Q. Really? Now, had you ever been the person who  
16 made the decision to seize firearms?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Have you ever been the person that made the  
19 decision to have someone sent to the hospital for  
20 an evaluation?

21 A. No.

22 Q. How did you hear about the incident involved --  
23 well, let me back up.

24 Before August of 2015, had you had any  
25 dealings or contact with the Caniglias at all?

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

42

1 A. Not that I'm aware of.

2 Q. Okay. Did you know anything about them at all?

3 A. No.

4 Q. All right. How did you learn about the incident?

5 A. I don't know the specific.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I would assume that what's common would be  
8 Mastrati may have called me or Sergeant Barth may  
9 have called me and gave me the heads up of the  
10 nature of the call and asked me to respond or  
11 told me to respond.

12 Q. My understanding is the Cranston Police cars  
13 have, like, kind of a computer monitor in it by  
14 which you receive dispatches?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you recall if you received any dispatch  
17 information on your monitor about the Caniglia  
18 incident?

19 A. Without being 100 percent specific, I would  
20 assume so.

21 Q. Okay. But you don't have a specific recollection  
22 of seeing that?

23 A. I can't remember that, no. I would assume  
24 that when it was clear to dispatch that I was  
25 going to that residence, they would have put the

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

43

1 details of the call on the screen.

2 Q. Okay. You went to the Scramblers -- you went to  
3 Scramblers before you went to the house?

4 A. I don't --

5 Q. Okay. Let me withdraw the question. Do you  
6 specifically recall that you went to the  
7 Caniglia's house?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you recall whether you went to Scramblers  
10 before you went to the Caniglia's house?

11 A. I don't -- I don't remember.

12 Q. Okay. Your knowledge of what occurred at  
13 Scramblers is something you heard either from  
14 other officers or from the incident report?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. What I'm interested in knowing right now  
17 is what you personally remember because you saw  
18 it yourself with respect to this incident. And  
19 you gave me an awful lot of facts here. I'm  
20 inferring that actually some of them you know  
21 either because you heard them from others or you  
22 saw the incident report.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Okay. What do you personally remember about the  
25 incident involving the Caniglias separate and

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

44

1           apart from reviewing the incident report or --

2           A. Okay.

3           Q. -- stuff you heard from other officers?

4           A. That he was -- he was nice. He was very  
5           polite.

6           Q. Okay.

7           A. He -- as far as I -- what I remember from  
8           outside of the incident report, I believe I was  
9           working overtime so I think I worked third before  
10          that. He was very welcoming.

11          Q. Okay. When you say "he," you're talking about  
12          Mr. Caniglia?

13          A. Yes, sir.

14          Q. Okay.

15          A. I didn't -- I don't believe I said anything to  
16          him.

17          Q. Okay.

18          A. As far as I remember, I never went inside the  
19          house.

20          Q. Okay.

21          A. I think myself and I think Officer Smith just  
22          stood on the porch while Officer Mastrati and  
23          Sergeant Barth spoke to him.

24          Q. Okay.

25          A. Besides that, I don't really --

Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

46

1 Q. Okay. Was Mr. Caniglia agitated or upset?

2 A. Not that I -- not that I can recall, no.

3 Q. Okay. When you were on the porch and you were  
4 talking with him, did Mr. Caniglia ever indicate  
5 that he wanted to harm himself?

6 MS. MURPHY: Objection. You may answer.

7 A. I was never speaking to him.

8 Q. (By Mr. Lyons) Okay. I'm asking what you may  
9 have overheard.

10 A. Between Mastrati and --

11 Q. And Mr. Caniglia. Did Mr. Caniglia ever say  
12 anything that indicated that he wanted to harm  
13 himself?

14 A. I don't believe so. I think he might have  
15 said between the argument with him and his wife,  
16 "if you want me gone" or "you want to end this"  
17 or something -- I don't remember the specifics,  
18 though.

19 Q. Okay. Do you specifically recall whether Mr.  
20 Caniglia described what happened in the argument?

21 THE WITNESS: Do you mind if I just take  
22 a break for a second?

23 MR. LYONS: Oh, absolutely.

24 THE WITNESS: I'm just getting a little  
25 airy. Can I get a drink of water?



Officer Wayne Russell - July 20, 2018

49

1 firearm?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Do you recall if he said anything about his wife  
4 overreacting to the argument?

5 A. I don't remember that.

6 Q. Okay. When you were with Mr. Caniglia on the  
7 porch, did he seem suicidal?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Do you remember what Mr. Caniglia said, if  
10 anything, about going to the hospital for an  
11 evaluation?

12 A. Anything that he said?

13 Q. Anything he said.

14 A. Do I remember anything that he said about  
15 going to a hospital?

16 Q. Right.

17 A. I remember, like I said earlier, Mr. Mastrati  
18 saying that due to the nature of the call he's  
19 gonna be checked out by rescue. As far as going  
20 to the hospital, I don't specifically remember  
21 anything like that.

22 Q. Okay. Do you remember if Mr. Caniglia objected  
23 to going to the hospital?

24 A. No, I don't remember that.

25 Q. Do you remember if he objected to being checked