



# PRESS RELEASE

MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
222 MAIN STREET  
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On 05-20-2021 at approximately 14:16 hours the Middletown Police Department responded to the Westfield Fire Department parking lot (653 East Street) for the report of a stabbing. The victim, who arrived in a motor vehicle, had multiple stab wounds to the body. EMS Personnel attempted to treat the wounds but they were unable to stabilize the victim for Lifestar transport. The victim was quickly transported to Middlesex Hospital where he/she was pronounced deceased.

Patrol officers quickly located the suspect on Ridgewood Road in Middletown. He was identified as 18-year-old Eugenio Vela of 988 Washington Street (Wesleyan Inn Suites) in Middletown. Vela sustained minor injuries during the incident and was transported to the hospital for treatment.

Officers and Detectives learned that Vela stabbed the victim in the vehicle while they were in the area of Ridgewood Road, he exited the victim's vehicle, and then left the area on foot. The victim was able to drive the vehicle to the Fire Department where he/she succumbed to the injuries. Officers were able to locate the weapon Vela used for the attack. It was also determined that there were two active Protective Orders between Vela and the victim.

Vela was subsequently arrested and charged with Murder, 53a-54a, and two counts of Violation of a Protective Order, 53a-223. In addition, he had an active arrest warrant for Violation of a Protective Order in a separate case with the same victim. Vela is being held on \$1,000,000.00 surety bond for the Murder and a \$10,000.00 court set bond for the warrant. He will be presented in Middletown Superior Court on 05-21-2021. This homicide was deemed to be a Domestic Violence offense so the victim's name cannot be released at this time.

Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Detective J. Remotti of the Middletown Police Department's Special Investigations Unit at 860-638-4132.