

Lawrence Police Department

April 18, 2011

Incident 11002775Document 11002775-AInvestigation Report - Det. Capt. Denis PierceSynopsis

Mayor William Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette reported to the Lawrence Police Department that a late model, light silver colored Ford Fusion or Focus, occupied by two Caucasian-appearing males, drove past them at least twice on March 30, 2011 at approximately 1330 hours while they and a third person were standing on the sidewalk near City Hall. Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette also reported that an occupant of the vehicle appeared to be photographing them. Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette further report that then they attempted to cross Common Street and the same vehicle pulled out of parking space and attempted to run them over. Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette reported that the registration was Mass. 788EA3. That registration number is listed no matching record. No surveillance video footage is known to have captured the incident. Witness Rachel Conrad stated that she was driving on Common Street at the time and saw the incident.

Summary of Investigation

1. On Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at approximately 1340 hours, Lawrence Chief of Police John Romero received a cell phone call from Mayor of Lawrence, William Lantigua. Mayor Lantigua indicated to Chief Romero that while he was crossing the street a silver Ford compact car almost struck him. Mayor Lantigua reported that the plate of the offending vehicle was Mass. Reg. 788EA3. Chief Romero asked Mayor Lantigua if he felt that the act was intentional and Mayor Lantigua stated he didn't know. There was no mention at that time that the occupants of the motor vehicle had been seen photographing Mayor Lantigua.

Chief Romero had the listing on the plate run and Mass. Registration 788EA3 came back 'no matching record found'. Chief Romero had a BOLO notification sent by Lawrence control to Lawrence Police units for that vehicle.

2. On March 31, 2011 at approximately 1700 hours, Mayor William Lantigua presented at Lawrence Police Station accompanied by City Attorney Charles Boddy and reported that he(Lantigua) and Patrick Blanchette were involved in an incident on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 just outside City Hall. Lantigua submitted a typed, unsigned report to Sgt. James Raso indicating that at 1330 on March 30, 2011 he and Patrick Blanchette and a third unnamed individual were having a conversation on the sidewalk near city hall when they observed a silver car pass by with an occupant taking pictures. The report indicated that shortly thereafter Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette were crossing Common Street when the same car pulled out of a parking space and drove right at Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette. Sgt. Raso attempted to interview Mayor

48 Lantigua regarding the incident but Mayor Lantigua refused and stated that he had to go
49 somewhere. Sgt. Raso then did read the report aloud to Mayor Lantigua and asked him
50 to confirm that was what happened. Mayor Lantigua said that was what happened.
51 Mayor Lantigua told Sgt. Raso he wanted a report prepared by the next morning and then
52 he and Atty. Boddy left. The following is a reprint of the narrative portion of Sgt. Raso's
53 report(#11002775):

54
55 I, Sgt. Raso, was working as shift supervisor from 5pm - 1am. I was informed that
56 Mayor Lantigua and City Attorney Boddy were at the front desk and wanted to file
57 a report. Mayor Lantigua handed me a typed statement stating "someone tried to
58 run me over." I asked if he could wait a few minutes because I had to conduct roll
59 call and he stated "no, I am in a rush." Attorney Boddy then stated "he has to go." I
60 then read the following typed statement out loud to him:
61 "On or about 1:30 on Wed March 30th, I was standing in front of Lawrence City
62 Hall parking lot at 200 Common Street speaking with two individuals. On of the
63 individuals I was speaking with was Patrick Blanchette who informed me that a
64 silver vehicle was driving around the block several times and appeared to be
65 taking photos of me. After I finished speaking to the individuals I was speaking
66 with, I then started walking with Patrick Blanchette down Common Street,
67 towards Lawrence Street. As I was attempting to cross the street, I noticed the
68 same silver car was parked illegally in front of a fire hydrant on Common Street
69 and quickly pulled out of the parking space in full speed which I perceived as a
70 deliberate attempt to hit me and Patrick Blanchette as we attempted to cross Common Street."
71 "We both memorized the license plate number as 788EA3 Massachusetts plate,
72 silver Ford Fusion or Focus. I then contacted Chief Jogn Romero to inform him of
73 the incident and the plate number as I was extremely nervous and concerned at
74 what took place. Chief Romero informed me that the plate # does not have a match
75 through the RMV system, but would inform officers to be on the look out for such
76 vehicle."
77 "To this date no further information has been reported."
78 After I read it I asked Mayor Lantigua if that is what happened and he stated "yes,"
79 the Mayor stated "I want you to make a report that I can pick up tomorrow." I
80 inquired upon Ma #778EA3 and it came back "no matching record found." I
81 contacted Chief Romero and was advised to file this report and forward it to
82 detectives for investigation.

83
84 Mayor Lantigua did not stay to assist and participate in the initial stages of an
85 investigation in which he was reporting that someone intentionally tried to run him over,
86 but did want Sgt Raso to prepare a report by the next morning. It is noted that the victim,
87 Mayor Lantigua characterized the event in lines 50 and 51 above as a deliberate attempt
88 to hit him and Patrick Blanchette, in contrast to his initial statement to Chief Romero that
89 he didn't know if it was intentional.

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91 3. On April 1, 2011 at 1200 hours I, Det. Capt. Pierce, went to City Hall to begin the
92 investigation by interviewing Mayor William Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette regarding
93 the incident. I prepared to interview Lantigua in the conference room adjacent to the
94 Mayor's office. Mayor Lantigua, City Attorney Charles Boddy, Patrick Blanchette and
95 Leonard Degnan all entered the room and sat down. I explained that the procedure for
96 interviewing witnesses was to do so separately and without other people present. Mayor
97 Lantigua stated that he wanted Degnan present because he was his Chief of Staff. I again
98 explained that witnesses are interviewed separately and so Blanchette could not sit in on
99 his(Lantigua's) interview and vise versa and Degnan had nothing to do with the
100 investigation and so had to leave. Mayor Lantigua stated that he wanted Atty. Boddy to

101 remain. I asked Mayor Lantigua if Atty. Boddy would be present as his counsel and he
102 stated "Yes."

103

104 4. Prior to the start of my interview with Mayor William Lantigua, he stated that
105 Blanchette needed the conference room that we were about to use for conducting job
106 interviews beginning at 1245 so Atty. Boddy, Mayor Lantigua and I moved to the
107 Mayor's office.

108

109 5. I conducted an audio-recorded interview of Mayor William Lantigua which
110 began at 12:35 and ended at 13:20. Mayor Lantigua also elected to audio tape the
111 interview with his own recorder. Several times during the interview he picked his
112 recorder up and appeared to touch buttons on it. Several times during the interview I
113 heard Mayor Lantigua's recorder beep, as if turning on or off, and I also heard voices
114 playing back on it briefly. My recorder remained on throughout the interview. I
115 prepared a typed summary of this interview as a separate document (11002775-B).

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118 6. A summary of Mayor Lantigua's account of the incident is as follows: Mayor
119 Lantigua and Blanchette were talking to the third witness outside City Hall when Patrick
120 Blanchette told him about the car driving by and that someone in it appeared to be taking
121 photos. Mayor Lantigua described the car as a late model, light silver Ford Focus or
122 Fusion with two light skinned, Caucasian males. Mayor Lantigua said the third person
123 left the area and then he and Blanchette started to cross Common Street from south to
124 north when the same car pulled quickly out from the curb on the south side of Common
125 Street, travelling one to two car lengths before reaching his location and attempted to run
126 him and Blanchette over. Mayor Lantigua said that he was right in front of the car when
127 it came at him and it was close enough to him that he could have put his hands down on
128 the hood. The car then slowed down and he got out of the way and then the car continued
129 west on Common Street. He said he and Blanchette memorized the plate, 788EA3, and
130 Blanchette wrote it down. Then he called Chief Romero on his cell phone.

131 I asked Mayor Lantigua for the third person's name several times in that the
132 individual was a potential witness in a criminal investigation. Mayor Lantigua refused to
133 give me that person's name. Mayor Lantigua stated he did not want the developer's
134 name publicized. During Mayor Lantigua's interview he stated that the third person he
135 would not name was present when the car drove by the first two times taking photos. He
136 said that Blanchette was the one that noticed it first and spoke about it first, having
137 noticed an occupant taking photos on the second pass. The following is an excerpt from
138 Mayor Lantigua's interview summary lines (241-256):

139

140 Q-(24:26) And that's when you walked across the street?

141 A- The first time that the car went around, that third person was there.

142

143 Q-(24:37) What's that third person's name?

144 A- If it's relevant I'll tell you. If it's not...

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146 Q- I'm looking at it as he's a potential witness.

147 A- He's not a witness to what happened. He's a witness as to having a conversation with me.

148 Q- In as much as I'm doing the investigation I would like to determine whether he is possibly a witness. So what's
149 his name?

150 A-I will not give you that name because I don't think it has any relevancy to the case.

151
152 Q-He was there when the car first went by, correct? Is that what you just told me?

153 A-Un-huh. Didn't see anything. The only person that saw the car. I didn't even see the car the first time. Pat
154 Blanchette saw it and identified the issue the second time.

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156
157 The following is an excerpt from Mayor Lantigua's interview summary lines (280-296):

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159 Q-(26:50) Lets go back to when the car first passed. You said it looked like, your report says 'It looked like he,
160 somebody in the car was taking photos of you. Correct?

161 A-Un-huh.

162
163 Q-Passenger or the driver?

164 A-Passenger. And again, Pat was the one that, I'm facing the parking lot. Pat is facing the street. The first time he
165 didn't even tell me about it. I didn't know. Until the second time when they went by again and tried ah and was
166 snapping pictures. That's when he got my attention on that.

167 Q- How many times did it pass by all together?

168 A-It passed twice and then to our surprise, they were parked there as we are going to cross the street.

169 Q- Did you ever see a camera then?

170 A- I didn't because I was facing the parking lot, I'm facing this way while I'm talking. Pat is the one to the front.

171 Q-So Pat said "Looks like they're taking pictures"?

172 A-Right.

173
174 Mayor Lantigua's statement clearly establishes that the third witness is present
175 with him and Blanchette when the car is passing and during the conversation about the
176 car and the photography and that Mayor Lantigua does not want to provide the identity of
177 the witness.

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179 7. During Mayor Lantigua's interview, while I was attempting to establish the
180 certainty of the plate number and explain to Mayor Lantigua that we can try to run other
181 plate combinations, he stated that he has 'friends in other agencies, not Lawrence
182 Department,' that can also look up plates and do things. He said he had them run the
183 listing on (788)AE3. When I attempted to establish whether or not another agency is now
184 running a simultaneous investigation, Mayor Lantigua refused to disclose who ran the
185 other plate for him. He did disclose that he knows the AE3 plate is a cancelled plate
186 belonging to some other old car that has been expired for a long time. See lines 194-220
187 from Mayor Lantigua's interview:

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189 Q- Are you certain that you got the plate right.

190 A- One hundred percent, no doubt at all.

191
192 DP- We can try to find some ways of searching and maybe substituting certain letters and see well maybe it wasn't
193 EA3. Maybe you transpo... We can search for other ...

194 WL-It's OK.. AE3. It's a...I have the (?)because I have friends in...that can also look up plates and do things, that
195 work for other agencies, not for Lawrence Department..AE3 is a cancelled plate belonging to some other old car
196 that been expired for a long time. That plate EA3 is nonexistent. It's attached.

197
198 Q-So you've already had the plate run by somebody else?

199 A-Yes.

200 Q-Who ran it?

201 A-Just some body else did it for me. I'm not privy to disclose that.

202 Q-You don't want to tell me?

203 A-No.

205 8. A Registry of Motor Vehicle listing check performed on April 14, 2011 at 10:30
206 a.m. shows recent queries of Mass. 788-AE3. The record indicates that 788-AE3 was
207 only queried by a Lawrence Police terminal on April 1, 2011 at 10:33 a.m.,
208 approximately two hours before I began interviewing Mayor Lantigua. It did come back
209 to a cancelled plate.

210

211 9. During Mayor Lantigua's interview we went to the west-facing window in the
212 Mayor's office and he described, on tape, where the vehicle was parked prior to trying to
213 strike him. Mayor Lantigua described a location one or two spaces behind the fire
214 hydrant. This contradicts his written statement that the car was illegally parked in front
215 of a fire hydrant. The following excerpt is from lines 81-86 of Mayor Lantigua's recorded
216 interview:

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218 Q-How far down the street was the suspect vehicle when you first saw it parked?

219 A- I can show you(pointing out window.) After the entrance to the parking lot, is one car, then there is the fire
220 hydrant, then there is another car. I would somewhere around behind the second car. So we were here(subject points
221 to area of sidewalk next to the parking lot on the west side of City Hall.) I would say 80-100 feet what ever it is from
222 here to there.

223

224 10. At the conclusion of my interview with Mayor Lantigua I informed him that I
225 wanted to interview Patrick Blanchette now. Mayor Lantigua left the room leaving Atty.
226 Boddy and me there. Mayor Lantigua also left his audio recorder on the table. After
227 several minutes, Blanchette had still not entered the room and Lantigua returned, picked
228 up his audio recorder and left the room again. I took my recorder and notebook and
229 began looking around the office suite for Patrick Blanchette. After a minute Blanchette
230 entered the connecting hallway from the rear of the conference room and Lantigua
231 entered the reception area of his office from the third floor hallway. There was a brief
232 discussion over the location for interviewing Blanchette and then they decided the only
233 area that would be unoccupied would be the City Attorney's Office. At that point
234 Lantigua and Blanchette walked out of the Mayor's Office reception area into the hallway
235 and continued in the direction of the City Attorney's office. I walked right behind them.
236 Lantigua handed his audio recorder to Blanchette and told him to tape the interview.

237 Upon arriving outside the City Attorney's office Mayor Lantigua told Blanchette
238 he needed to talk to him and the two began to walk up the hallway away from the City
239 Attorney's Office still in possession of the audio recorder. I began to walk right behind
240 them again until Mayor Lantigua turned around and told me he needed to speak to
241 Blanchette privately. As I had already conducted a witness interview of Mayor Lantigua
242 but had not yet conducted a witness interview of Blanchette I told them I did not want
243 them to speak to each other outside my presence. Mayor Lantigua told me he needed to
244 talk to Blanchette about something unrelated to the case. I again explained that during
245 criminal investigations witnesses are kept separate until their interviews are conducted.
246 Mayor Lantigua stated "We are also victims." I told him I knew that and all I was trying
247 to do was maintain the integrity of the interview process. Mayor Lantigua became upset
248 and asked me "Who else could interview Patrick?" I told him that I was going to
249 interview Blanchette and he asked "I know that you are in charge of that division but who
250 else can interview him. I told Mayor Lantigua again I was going to interview Blanchette.
251 Mayor Lantigua stated he was going to call Chief Romero and told Blanchette not to talk
252 to me until he got back. Mayor Lantigua went into the City Attorney's office and a few

253 minutes later Chief Romero called my cell phone and told me that Lantigua was
254 requesting that someone other than me interview Blanchette. I told Chief Romero that
255 there had been no issues until Mayor Lantigua, a witness who I had already interviewed,
256 attempted to talk to Blanchette, who was still an un-interviewed witness, outside of my
257 presence. Additionally, they possessed an audio recording of the Lantigua interview at
258 this time.

259 I informed Chief Romero that I had prevented that conversation to maintain the
260 integrity of the interview process and so as not to jeopardize the case if and when the
261 suspects were located and brought to trial. I told Chief Romero that I did not want to
262 answer a question from a defense attorney as to why I allowed two witnesses to speak to
263 each other, but not let me hear the conversation, before I had interviewed the second
264 witness. Chief Romero agreed and ended the phone call. A minute or two later, Mayor
265 Lantigua exited the City Attorney's office and told Blanchette that Chief Romero would
266 be sitting in on his interview. Mayor Lantigua then told Blanchette not to talk to me until
267 the Chief arrived.

268 Chief Romero immediately called my cell phone and told me that he was on the
269 way and that he would sit in on the Blanchette interview. While awaiting Chief Romero's
270 arrival I stood with Patrick Blanchette in the third floor hallway outside the City
271 Attorney's office. During that time Patrick Blanchette had no conversations with anyone
272 beyond small talk with passersby. During that time Blanchette did not receive any cell
273 phone communications.

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275 11. Upon the arrival of Chief Romero I interviewed Patrick Blanchette in the City
276 Attorneys office in the presence of Chief Romero and City Attorney Charles Boddy.

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278 12. During Mr. Blanchette's interview, he stated that he and Mayor Lantigua and a
279 third person were speaking on the sidewalk next to City Hall when he saw a light silver
280 Ford Fusion drive by twice. He said second time he noticed that an occupant appeared to
281 be taking photos of them. Blanchette said he told Mayor Lantigua about it, but Mayor
282 Lantigua didn't see the car at that point. He said they then attempted to cross Common
283 Street to look at the front of the building next door and then the car in question pulled out
284 of a parking space on the south side of Common Street and almost hit Mayor Lantigua
285 and him. Blanchette said they got the plate number and Mayor Lantigua called Chief
286 Romero with it and told him what happened.

287

288 During Mr. Blanchette's interview, several issues arose. Although Mr. Blanchette's
289 account of what happened is largely consistent with Mayor Lantigua's, it differs
290 significantly regarding the third witness. First, just as Mayor Lantigua did, Blanchette
291 refused to disclose the name of the third witness. Similar to Mayor Lantigua, Blanchette
292 stated he did not want the developer's name publicized because other people were looking
293 at the building. Blanchette then clearly stated that the third person was not present when
294 the car drove by nor during any conversation about the car driving by or taking photos.
295 The implication being that if he wasn't there, his identity should not be relevant to the
296 investigation. The following is an excerpt from lines 279-295 of Blanchette's Interview
297 Summary-doc 11002775C:

298

299 Q-When they were there did you mention about the camera at that point when the two investors were there?

A-No. Not at all. They were gone when I mentioned so the again and I know maybe it sounds awkward but the second time, what I perceive to be the second time is when in my head Jeez I think they already had gone by. That was still when one of the um one of the individuals had left and then it was just three of us, myself, the mayor and another gentleman again with this company. We continued to talk and then when he left that's when I had made mention to the mayor cause at that point they had gone down what I believed to be a third time and the gentleman was up against the window looked like taking a photo. So they weren't there, um, at that point.

Q-(20:32) The third individual that, there's you, the mayor and whoever that last person was?

A-(???)

Q-In as much as he may be a potential witness what's his name?

A-Do I um? Well he wasn't there. He wasn't there at all. He wasn't there for the car. He wasn't there for that conversation.

-and From lines 307-308 of Blanchette's Statement- "...I'm assuming that if I tell you you'll call him..."

Further investigation would indicate that the witness that Blanchette and Mayor Lantigua refused to name, was in fact present with them when they had a conversation with each other about the car driving by taking photos. Note also that Mayor Lantigua stated earlier that the third witness was present. (see lines 147-179 in this report)

13. On Saturday, April 2, 2011 EagleTribune.com published an article titled 'I could be dead' (<http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x1075326076/Fearing-for-his-life-Lantigua-says-someone-tried-to-run-over-him-and-his-aide-with-a-car>).

The following is an excerpt from that article:

Lantigua said he didn't want to name the developer or the "go-between" person because he doesn't want their names dragged into this or to dissuade them, or future investors, from doing business in Lawrence. However, Bob LaRochelle, a private consultant, said he was standing outside City Hall with Lantigua and Blanchette Wednesday about 1:30 p.m. He said he had been meeting with Lantigua and Blanchette to talk about the Bell building. LaRochelle said they were looking at the building and both Blanchette and Lantigua mentioned a car driving by and someone taking photographs. LaRochelle said "they had seen the car drive by twice." LaRochelle said his back was toward the street and he did not see the car or anyone taking photographs. "They seemed a little concerned about it," LaRochelle said.

After reading the above I believed that I now had the name, Bob LaRochelle, of the third witness who was standing with Mayor Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette when they report that a vehicle drove by photographing them.

14. On Monday, April 4, 2011, at approximately 1100 hours I drove to TEC Incorporated, at 65 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA, to locate and interview Robert LaRochelle. I was informed that Mr. LaRochelle was out of state on vacation. I requested that he contact me as soon as possible.

15. On Monday, April 4, 2011 at 16:12 hours I received a call from Robert LaRochelle. Mr. LaRochelle told me he was in Orlando, Florida. Mr. LaRochelle indicated that he recalled the incident on March 30 and would tell me about it. I

353 prepared a summary from notes I took during my phone conversation with Mr.
354 LaRochelle. (See document 11002775-F).
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356 Mr. LaRochelle told me that William Lantigua, Patrick Blanchette and he were on the
357 sidewalk between City Hall and the building across the parking talking for a couple of
358 minutes.
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360 LaRochelle stated that while they were talking, the Mayor said to Pat, "Did you see that
361 car?"
362 Patrick Blanchette said, "Yes."
363 William Lantigua said, "I've seen it before."
364 Blanchette said, "That's the second time by. It looks like they're taking pictures."

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366 LaRochelle told me he, (LaRochelle) then asked Lantigua and Blanchette, "Are we all
367 set, do you need me for anything."
368 They said, "No."

369
370 LaRochelle told me that Lantigua and Blanchette were facing and looking at Common
371 Street traffic. He said his back was to the street. LaRochelle told me he never saw the
372 car. He could tell they were looking at something. He said he got in his car, paid the fee
373 and left. LaRochelle told me he believed that they were talking about a car that was
374 driving by and not a parked or stationary car.

375
376 16. On Monday, April 11, 2011 at 1400 hours I met with Robert LaRochelle at his
377 office, 65 Glen Street, Lawrence, MA and interviewed him. Mr. LaRochelle agreed to
378 have the interview audio recorded. See the interview summary Document 11002775-E.
379 Mr. LaRochelle gave a statement which was consistent with the one he gave me over the
380 phone on April 4, 2011. In his statement he indicated that, during his conversation with
381 Mayor Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette outside City Hall on March 30, 2011, Mayor
382 Lantigua was the one who first spoke about the car passing by. The following is an
383 excerpt from that document, lines 33-42:

384
385 At some point the Mayor said to Patrick Blanchette, "Did you see that car?" Patrick responded to him positively to
386 him, that he did see the car. Said something to the effect of "That was the second time that the car had gone by."
387 Q-Now who said that Patrick or the Mayor?
388 A-Patrick said that to the Mayor. The Mayor responded that you know that he had seen a similar car that he too
389 thought it was the second time it had gone around. And that, I think it was Patrick, on of them said that said, "It looked
390 as though that they were taking a picture or pictures. And that was it. That was kind of the extent, it wasn't a
391 conversation with me, it was a conversation between the two of them.

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393
394 Thus far in this investigation I cannot reconcile the disparity in the accounts of this
395 conversation and the interviews with Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette, but must however
396 consider that both Mayor Lantigua and Blanchette attempted to keep me from learning
397 LaRochelle's identity. I must also consider that when I did learn LaRochelle's identity
398 through the newspaper story and did interview him, contradiction emerged in Mayor
399 Lantigua's and Patrick Blanchette's statements. Conversely, I have no reason to doubt
400 Mr. LaRochelle's statement.

17. On or about April 9, 2011, Mrs. Rachel Conrad, of 56 Durso Avenue, Lawrence, MA made it known to Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante that she was on Common Street and witnessed this incident on March 30, 2011 outside City Hall. Councilor LaPlante made that known to Chief Romero.

18. On April 11, 2011 at 0930 hours Chief Romero and I met with Rachel Conrad at her home and interviewed her. Mrs. Conrad agreed to have her interview audio recorded. See the interview summary Document 11002775-D.

Mrs. Conrad related that she was operating a vehicle and had just taken the turn from Lawrence Street onto Common Street easterly and was travelling behind another vehicle when she saw two men she recognized as Mayor Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette divide from each other as they crossed the street when a vehicle ahead left a parking space and drove east on Common Street. Mrs. Conrad said she had a sense that the vehicle might have possibly been going faster than it should have but also said it could have been going a little faster because it is a busy street. She said it wasn't a speeding incident. The following is an excerpt (lines 49-71) from Mrs. Conrad's interview summary -Document 11002775-D:

Q-Was it speeding?

A-I really couldn't tell but it didn't leave in any extra hurry or no tires screeched or anything like that. It just seemed as if they pulled out and were just heading east on the street.

Q-Like normally?

A-Normally, yah, maybe as fast as they were going but you know that type of thing I mean it wasn't a speeding incident they were trying to get away or anything like that.

Q-Did it appear that for the time and day did the car's speed seem to be normal and consistent with what you would expect for traffic in that area to be at that time?

A-It was probably going a little faster because it's a busy street, but I've seen it happen had it happen to me often times when your trying to cross the street, people are not really paying attention as they're driving and people are trying to get across but it wasn't in a crosswalk, so you know, the car just went along.

Q- You said there was no screeching of tires?

A-No. It didn't indicate to me that they were trying to get away.

Q-Did you hear exhaust like a heavy exhaust sound?

A-No?

Q- Not like somebody accelerating very quickly or anything like that?

A-No. It was on the road and heading east and going about their business.

Q- Did you recognize the two pedestrians?

A-Yes, at first I thought they might have been businessmen, they were both dressed in suits. Or Lawyers from the courthouse up the street, and then I recognized Mr. Lantigua and his aid, Mr. Blanchette.

Mrs. Conrad added the following regarding the operation of the vehicle in (lines 83-90):

Q-By Chief Romero-The allegation were are investigating is that the vehicle intentionally try to run over these two individuals. Did you get that sense from that seeing that being behind the vehicle?

A-Not at all. The sense I had was that this car pulled out and wasn't paying attention to the people crossing the street and once they separated just went on their way.

Q- By Chief Romero -You also mentioned that you heard, was it the Mayor who..?

A- The mayor was calling out the numbers and he called them out at least twice if not three times as Mr. Blanchette was writing it down.

Mrs. Conrad added the following regarding the operation of the vehicle in lines 105-108:

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Q- By Chief Romero -Another point. At any point was the Mayor in front of the vehicle? You indicate one was to each side of the vehicle? Did you ever see him in front of the vehicle?

A-No, not that I can say.

Mrs. Conrad added the following regarding the operation of the vehicle in lines 119-129.

Q- Did you notice the license plate on the car?

A-No. I just thought it was a regular incident like I've been, you know, like I've experience myself trying to get across that street.

Q-Was there anything about the car that drew your attention to it other than the people yelling in the street?

A-Well I saw, like I said, the gentlemen separating and then I saw the car and that type of thing but nothing other than that. It wasn't like it pulled out all of a sudden as they started crossing the street or anything like that.

Q- By Chief Romero - So there was nothing consistent with someone trying to run somebody over?

A-I didn't get that sense at all.

Finally, Mrs. Conrad added the following regarding the incident in lines 134-143:

It had been on my mind, you know, calling in or writing in or something like that and I just never got around to it.

Q-Capt. Pierce- Because it was on your mind? Why was it on you mind?

A- Because after I saw the article in the newspaper I thought it was a bit outlandish. That was my sense.

Q-That what was outlandish?

A-That, you know, he would claim that somebody was trying to run him over. It just didn't appear to me that way after seeing it happen. So at that point it was like, "Who do I write, who do I call?" type thing and I just didn't get around to it. And I happened to see it in the newspaper.

Summary

The investigation indicates a likelihood that a silver compact Ford with two occupants passed by Mayor Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette and an occupant may have had, as Blanchette said, a cell phone in his hand and may have been using it to take photographs. The reported license plate had no matching record. Indications are that later the vehicle pulled into traffic from a parking space on Common Street and could have driven near to Mayor Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette as they walked across Common Street.

After consideration of the following, I do not believe that the circumstances of this case are sufficient for a criminal prosecution for the operation of the motor vehicle should the operator ever be located.

I base my opinion on the following factors:

a) the inconsistency in Mayor Lantigua's first report of the incident to Chief Romero, in which he indicated that he did not know if the vehicle intentionally attempted to strike him, and his written statement supplied to the Lawrence Police Department the following day, in which he stated the vehicle deliberately attempted to strike both him and Patrick Blanchette;

b) the inconsistency in the written statement given by Mayor Lantigua, to the Lawrence Police Department, whereby he stated the vehicle was parked illegally in front of a fire

505 hydrant, and the recorded statement, whereby he stated the vehicle was parked one to two car
506 lengths beyond the fire hydrant;

507

508 c) the inconsistency in Patrick Blanchette's statement, whereby he stated that the third
509 party (Robert LaRochelle) had left the area prior to any conversations regarding the
510 photograph-taking activities of the occupants of the motor vehicle. Mr. LaRochelle clearly
511 states that Mayor Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette discussed this in his presence prior to the
512 conclusion of their meeting on Common Street; it is noted that neither Mayor Lantigua nor
513 Patrick Blanchette would release the name of Mr. LaRochelle to me as part of my
514 investigation;

515

516 d) The eyewitness observations of the incident by Mrs. Conrad, who stated that it did not
517 appear that the vehicle was attempting to strike Mayor Lantigua or Patrick Blanchette

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519 For the foregoing reasons, the criminal investigation into this matter should be
520 closed, due to an insufficiency of evidence to support a deliberate or intentional attempt by
521 the operator of the Ford motor vehicle to strike Mayor Lantigua or Patrick Blanchette.

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523 The audio recorded witness interviews and summaries of those interviews will remain on file
524 at Lawrence Police Department.

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