



**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
2 James street Middletown, NY 10940  
(845) 343-3151 FAX (845) 343-2660



***Intra Agency***

**Memo**

**To: Chief John Ewanciw**  
**From: Lt Francis Graziano**  
**Date: November 14, 2018**  
**Re: Motor Vehicle Accident – Car 23 – No Blotter**

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I am in receipt of a Supervisor's Investigation from Sgt Magsamen pertaining to a Motor Vehicle Accident.


On February 28, 2018 Det. Artola was operating detective vehicle #23 (2010 Chevy, NY REG I ). Det. Artola was traveling to Goshen, NY so he could attend grand jury. Det. Artola was getting off Route 17 at exit 124. Det. Artola was behind a 2001 Dodge Ram truck, NY Reg . The operator of that vehicle was Allan Filip. Det. Artola explains that he was behind Vehicle #2 at the yield sign, which leads to Greenwich Ave. Det. Artola stated he observed Vehicle #2 begin to merge onto Greenwich Ave. Det. Artola was checking the traffic so he took his eyes off of vehicle #2. Vehicle #2 stopped due to traffic on Greenwich Ave. Det. Artola hit the rear bumper of Vehicle #2 with the front bumper (passenger side) of detective vehicle #23.

Sgt Magsamen responded to the scene where he gathered all pertinent information. Town of Goshen Police Department responded to the scene. Town of Goshen Police Department completed a Motor Vehicle Accident report (Incident # 1130-18).

It is clear that Det. Artola caused this accident by taking his eyes off of the vehicle in front of him. This accident was avoidable. Det Artola should have waited to look to see if the roadway was clear after Vehicle 2 had already merged into traffic. Luckily this was a minor accident with no one injured and vehicle 2 sustained no damage.

I have entered this incident into the Early Intervention System. I reviewed our Early Intervention System for the past three years and found one other accident involving Det. Artola. In 2016 he failed to place his vehicle in park and the vehicle rolled into a building. I believe that this incident was preventable and for that reason Det Artola needs to be verbally counseled in regards to this issue. I spoke to Det. Artola about this accident and he understands the important of safe vehicle operations.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Lieutenant Francis Graziano  
Bureau Commander of Services

  
11/29/18

**JOHN EWANCIW**  
CHIEF OF POLICE



AMES STREET  
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# Memo

**To: LT. Francis Graziano**

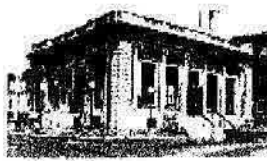
**From: Sgt. Ronald Magsamen**

**Date: 11/06/2018**

**Re: Det Ahmed Artola MVA- Detective Vehicle**

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- 1. On 02/28/2018 at approximately 0945 hours I was contacted by Det. Artola regarding an MVA he was involved in, on his way to County Court with a vehicle assigned to the Detective Unit, #23 (Vehicle #1). I was informed by Det Artola that both vehicles were removed off of the roadway, and that the accident was minor with no injuries. The accident took place on the off ramp of Exit 124 of Route 17, as it meets with Greenwich Ave, in Goshen.**
  - 2. I responded to the scene of the MVA and observed both vehicle #1 and vehicle #2, a 2001 Dodge Ram Truck NY Reg pulled onto the right side shoulder of Greenwich Ave. Both Det. Artola and the driver of Vehicle #2, Allan Filip, were out of their vehicles and exchanging information.**
  - 3. I approached Det. Artola and Filip and asked them if they were injured. Both of them stated to me that they were fine and had no injuries. Town of Goshen PD was contacted and informed of the accident. While waiting for the PD to arrive, I began to interview both drivers separately. I interviewed Det. Artola first and was informed that he was the sole occupant of Vehicle #1, and that he was traveling East bound on Route 17, behind vehicle #2. Both vehicles then exited at Exit 124, Goshen. Vehicle #2 approached the Yield sign first and vehicle #1 was positioned behind vehicle #2. Det. Artola then stated that he came to a stop behind vehicle #1. Det. Artola then began to pull forward as he observed vehicle #2 begin to pull onto Greenwich Ave. Det. Artola states that as he**

**JOHN EWANCIW**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**



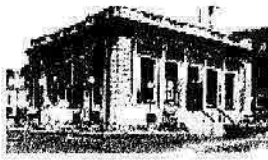
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**further approached the Yield sign, he began to monitor the flow of traffic, traveling on Greenwich Ave. Feeling that it was safe to turn onto Greenwich Ave, Det. Artola states that he was attempting a right turn onto Greenwich Ave, when he struck vehicle #2, making contact with the front end of his car, and the rear area of vehicle #2. Det. Artola advised me that it appeared to him that vehicle #2 had made the right turn onto Greenwich Ave, but in fact vehicle #2 had come to a stop due to oncoming traffic. Det. Artola stated that once the accident happened, he exited his vehicle to check on the driver of vehicle #2. Det. Artola identified himself and advised driver #2 that his supervisor was responding.**

- 4. I then interviewed the driver of vehicle #2, and identified myself to him. Filip informed me that he was in fact attempting to make the right turn onto Greenwich Ave from the Exit 124 ramp, when he approached the Yield sign. Filip states that he was going to make the right turn, and instead decided not to, due to a vehicle then was approaching in a fast manner. When he came to a stop, to let the quick moving vehicle by, he was struck in the rear bumper area by vehicle #1. He immediately pulled over to the right side shoulder and made contact with Det. Artola. Filip states that he was the only occupant of his vehicle at the time of the accident.**
- 5. While I was at the scene, I conducted interviews, took photos and ensured all the information was obtained from drivers and their vehicles. There were no injuries reported from the MVA. I waited for the Town of Goshen PD to respond, to begin their report process. I identified myself to the responding officer, and exchanged my information with him so I could obtain a copy of the MVA Report at a later time. I also advised Filip that an accident report would be completed, and how to get a copy for his records.**
- 6. Back at 370, a City Accident Report was completed by Det. Artola and approved by myself. I responded down to the Town of Goshen PD on a later date and obtained a copy of the accident report for the purpose of this investigation.**
- 7. It is my feeling that Det. Artola followed Department Order, AGO 051-017 Agency Owned Property, by contacting his immediate supervisor and providing the information and his account of the accident. Det. Artola was forth coming with the information regarding the MVA, and took responsibility for his actions, at the scene and in the days to follow. In**

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**many instances accidents can avoided, and to me it appears that Det. Artola knows that this one could have been avoided with a little more patients and/or awareness. The facts show that the operation of the vehicle by Det. Artola was well within the guidelines and policy, and in a safe manner, but a little more attentiveness could have helped avoid this incident from occurring.**

- 8. In the future, to prevent or lessen the possibility of incidents like this happening, I will stress to officers traveling to assignments, such as County Court, that they travel in groups or pairs. Sometimes having another pair of eyes concentrating on the surroundings can help to identify potential hazards.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sgt. Ronald Magsamen**

*Sgt. RM*  #1084

