

State data: Danbury police stopping more Latino drivers

By Joshua Eaton
STAFF WRITER

The share of Latino drivers stopped by Danbury police increased “substantially” in recent years, according to data compiled by state auditors.

The summary, compiled by the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project, found that the Danbury Police Department also shifted its enforcement priorities between 2021 and 2025 — making more stops for administrative or equipment

violations, such as an expired registration or excessive window tint, and fewer stops for safety violations, including cell-phone use or speeding.

Although the share of stops that resulted in a search ticked up slightly, the share that resulted in

an officer finding contraband declined slightly, according to the summary.

“During this period, notable shifts occurred in the racial and ethnic composition of drivers stopped, residency status, reasons for stops and enforcement
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Hearst Connecticut Media file photo
Police headquarters in Danbury.



Connecticut Sports Group
A rendering of the proposed Connecticut United Football Club stadium that organizer Andre Swanston is aiming to build in Bridgeport.

Conn. United soccer has players, working on building a home

Group pushing for stadium in Bridgeport

By Brian Lockhart
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — What Andre Swanston lacks in bricks and mortar he at least is making up for with flesh and blood.

Over two years since the entrepreneur first announced plans to bring professional minor league soccer to Connecticut's largest municipality, Swanston is still trying to get a stadium built on the lower East Side.

But now he does have players to compete in Connecticut United Football Club's promised 2026 inaugural season, and eventually in that permanent Bridgeport venue if it ever does get constructed.

Starting just before Christmas Day, Swanston's Connecticut Sports Group began announcing recruits



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media file photo
Andre Swanston at a January 2024 news conference in Bridgeport to provide details on the proposed Connecticut United Football Club.

to its Connecticut United team, part of Major League Soccer Next Pro, on social media. The rollout kicked off Dec. 23 with head coach Shavar Thomas, who after attending and playing at Hotchkiss boarding school in Lakeville and the University of Connecticut over 20 years ago, rose through

the ranks of Jamaican soccer.

That announcement was followed over the last few weeks with the introductions of 17 Connecticut United players hailing from in and outside of the United States.

Then on Wednesday Connecticut Sports Group

revealed the team's first match will take place March 1 but out of state against Cincinnati, Ohio before CT United returns home and competes from April 11 through September at still-to-be-announced locations here. Practices are scheduled at the Chelsea Piers sports complex in Stamford.

“This moment is about more than individual announcements,” Swanston said in a statement Wednesday. “It's about laying a real foundation for professional soccer in Connecticut. From assembling our first group of players to announcing our first season schedule, each step reflects our long-term commitment to building a club that represents this state with pride and ambition.”

Dan Onofrio, president of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council and an enthusiastic supporter of Swanston's effort, emphasized the importance of the team finally coming to
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Troopers probed over 'conduct' with guards

By Lisa Backus
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Several Connecticut State Police troopers are under investigation in connection with alleged “conduct” with security guards who were working at a Capitol Avenue building that houses some of the state's biggest government agencies, officials confirmed Thursday.

“The Connecticut State Police are conducting an internal affairs investigation regarding conduct that may have occurred at 165 Capitol Ave. in Hartford,” said Trooper Pedro Muniz, a spokesperson for the state police.

Muniz declined to provide any information on the dates of any alleged incidents, the number of troopers allegedly involved or whether they have been placed on leave, saying that the information was “not available at this time as it is still an active internal investigation.”

He also declined to specify whether the alleged “conduct” occurred while the troopers were on duty.

“I don't know anything about that,” said Gov. Ned Lamont when asked about the incident during an unrelated event
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Connecticut intervenes in two large city school districts

By Natasha Sokoloff, Jessica Simms, and Crystal Elescano
STAFF WRITERS

Two of Connecticut's largest school districts have made headlines in recent years for having multimillion dollar deficits and facing significant layoffs that sparked outrage from teachers and parents alike.

Now, the state is working with both the Bridgeport and Hartford school districts to help get them back on track.

This process is known as a state intervention. Here's what that means, how it works and when it ends:

What is an intervention?

School districts in Connecticut are generally governed by a local board of education that sets policies, with a superintendent in charge of day-to-day operations.

In some cases, districts dealing with severe challenges like staffing shortages and major budget shortfalls draw the attention of the Connecticut State Department of Education
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Lawmaker to keep roles despite 'damning' audit

By Ken Dixon
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Despite an audit report released this week that stated there was “potential fraud and misappropriation of public funds” in state grant awards to a nonprofit linked to state Sen. Douglas McCrory, the veteran Democrat from Hartford will retain his leadership posts in the General Assembly, lawmakers said.

But the entire grant process is expected to come under close scrutiny when the General Assembly convenes on Feb. 4 for the 13-week budget-adjustment session, officials said.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said Wednesday that more oversight is needed in the process that allows lawmakers to support local nonprofits such as the now-closed Blue Hills Civic Association. The nonprofit received more than \$15 million in

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A look at what is and is not known about potential misuse of state funds. **A3**

state funds over the three-year period examined, from fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2025, according to the audit.

On Tuesday, the state Department of Economic and Community Development issued a forensic audit that said the Blue Hills

Civic Association had inadequate oversight and accountability in violation of principles of grant management “and raise serious questions” about the association. The audit found \$208,000 in unsupported disbursements that it said either violated conflict-of-interest best practice standards or were used to pay for services that were not performed. The audit noted an ongoing federal investigation involving McCrory and his
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Contributed photo
State Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, will retain his leadership posts in the General Assembly, fellow lawmakers said.

