



**STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
900 Longbrook Avenue • Stratford, Connecticut 06614-5099  
(203) 385-4110 • Fax: (203) 385-4019

**Paul Dossantos**  
*Acting Chief of Police*

**Anthony Rhew**  
*Acting Deputy Chief of  
Police*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Homicide at 437 Woodstock Avenue**

**April 28, 2026**

**Captain Jerry Pinto**

The Stratford Police Department responded to 437 Woodstock Avenue on **April 04, 2026** at approximately 2340 hours on report of a disturbance.

This incident was determined to be a homicide.

**Paul T. Balzarano** (08-23-1982) was identified as the deceased victim. He died as the result of suffering multiple gunshot wounds.

On **April 28, 2026**, the investigation of this incident culminated with the arrest of **Robert Kopasz** (07-23-2003).

**Robert Kopasz** is charged with *Murder by Firearm, Illegal Possession of an Assault Weapon without a Certificate, Illegal Violation of Fire Rate Enhancement (Machine Gun), Illegal Possession of a High-Capacity Magazine and Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm.*

**Robert Kopasz** was issued an **April 28, 2026** court date. He is being held in lieu of a \$1,500,000.00 court set bond.

An American Tactical Omni Hybrid semi-automatic multi-caliber rifle and a Glock 22 40 caliber pistol, equipped with an illegal *after-market switch*, which allows this firearm to be fired fully automatic, were seized as evidence.

Anyone with information related to this incident may contact Detective Marc Halper at (203) 385-4126 or [mhalper@townofstratford.com](mailto:mhalper@townofstratford.com).

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