

Lee agrees to meeting with NAACP leaders

Forensic expert to offer thoughts on crash that killed 2 Orange teens

By Brian McCready
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Forensic scientist Henry C. Lee said Wednesday he will meet with state NAACP leaders as early as next week, and would be willing to offer them "advice" on a crash involving a Milford police officer in which two Orange teens died.

On Tuesday, NAACP state conference President Scot X. Esdaile said he called the "world renowned" Lee to ask for help in finding out what caused the June 13 crash in which a cruiser operated by Milford police Officer Jason Anderson collided with a car carrying David Servin and Ashlie Krakowski, both 19, killing them.

The accident occurred at the corner of Route 1 and Dogwood Road in Orange, not far from the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven School in West Haven.

Esdaile has said alleged witnesses to the accident told him two Milford police officers were "racing" as they returned to Milford from a mutual aid call to a large disturbance at the Utopia 77 Cafe in West Haven.

Lee said he is testifying in a New Jersey police shooting case and heading to Washington,

D.C., today. He said he hopes to meet with Esdaile before the July 4 holiday. Soon after that, he will travel to Canada for another case, Lee said.

"I've just promised to meet," said Lee, while adding he has "no idea" whether he will be able to offer any of the technical assistance he provided on such high-profile cases as the murders of Nicole Simpson and JonBenet Ramsey.

Lee said he was unaware of the details of the fatal crash until recently, and would like to learn more by seeing the police report and crime scene photos. The accident was also caught on the video camera of one of the police cruisers. It is now in the hands of state police investigators.

"Our school's mission is to assist anyone with advice," Lee said of the meeting with NAACP leaders. "We'll keep that commitment."

Lee said he may determine that the forensics in the case are not the type that would benefit from his expertise, and he may refer

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the NAACP to someone else at UNH.

Esdaile said he was "very excited" to speak with Lee, calling him the "most respected investigator in the world."

"It's ironic the crash happened in his backyard," Esdaile said of UNH's proximity to the accident site. "UNH is one of the most respected forensic science schools in the state."

Esdaile, who said he knew Servin and has questioned police officers' conduct at Utopia, said the NAACP has recovered some evidence, and wants Lee to look at it. Esdaile declined to elaborate.

"It makes sense for the NAACP to sit down with a specialist in the field," Esdaile said. "I'm thankful that Dr. Lee is willing to sit down and help the NAACP in their investigation and get his advice."

Anderson, who is on medical leave with injuries sustained in the fatal crash, has hired New Haven defense attorney Hugh Keefe to represent him.

Anderson's personnel file shows he has been involved in two minor motor vehicle accidents while on duty, and is the recipient of six unit citations for exemplary police work since joining the force in August 2004.

State police spokesman Lt. J. Paul Vance said the investigation will take six weeks to complete, and the information will then be turned over to the state's attorney's office for review.

Vance has said he is not sure what Lee could offer that would be different from what state police experts are doing.

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Lee

