



**Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation**  
**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

12/06/12

**INTERVIEW OF DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER EREG**

**Summary**

On December 6, 2012, Cleveland Police Detective Christopher Ereg, who was involved in the shooting on November 29, 2012, was interviewed at the BCI Richfield offices. Also present with the officer was Atty. Patrick D'Angelo, along with Jeff Follmer and Steve Kinan representing the union. The interview was conducted by East Cleveland Police Sergeant Scott Gardner and BCI SA John Saraya.

Detective Christopher Ereg was advised of his "Miranda" rights which he waived and consented to speak with investigators.

The interview was video recorded and submitted to the case file as Exhibit #11.

**Details**

Ereg was asked how he was doing since the shooting. He said he was doing fine.

Ereg is a 13½ year veteran of the Cleveland Police Department. He is currently assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice Unit. Ereg's shift is from 1800-0200 with Saturday and Sunday off in November. His supervisor is Sgt. Matt Putnam.

Ereg had not worked any extra shifts or details.

Ereg said he felt fine on Thursday, November 29, [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] He had not taken anything on this date.

Ereg wears contact lenses.

Ereg works in plain clothes and was wearing jeans, t-shirt, a zip-up hooded sweatshirt, and his vest over his clothes. This is a concealment vest that he wears over his clothes. He was unsure if had his badge displayed. Ereg said that that night he was working in an undercover capacity. As

<b>File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493</b>	<b>File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)</b>
<b>Case Agent: Mark Kollar</b>	<b>Authoring Agent: John Saraya</b> <i>JS</i>
<b>Date of Report: 12/06/12</b>	<b>Exhibit #: 11</b>
<b>Investigative Activity: Ereg Interview</b>	<b>Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet</b> <i>DCS</i> JAN 09 2013

such, he was carrying his pistol, two magazines and handcuffs. While Ereg does have a back-up weapon, he was not carrying it on this day. Ereg said he carries a Glock 17 and with it fully loaded was carrying 52 rounds. He did not have a personal recording device with him.

Ereg was in an unmarked Crown Victoria, car 382, with concealed red and blue lights and siren. All equipment was functional. There was no camera in the car. Ereg said that they usually operate on Tac 3 on the radio, but some officers stay on channel 3 to monitor regular traffic. This is how they learned that the chase was underway. They then switched to channel 2. Their call sign was 3V85A. Ereg was a single officer for the shift; however, Sgt. Putnam was with him during the pursuit, when they took car 382. Ereg drove.

Ereg has had extra training in criminal gangs and narcotics. Ereg has no military experience. He qualified with his handgun and with a shotgun. He received use of force training in the last 12 months. Ereg said his OPOTA is current.

Ereg had been involved in a prior shooting in April of 2007. Ereg fired his weapon in that shooting.

Ereg said that earlier in the shift they had conducted a buy/bust operation and were finishing the paperwork and entering evidence at the District Vice Office. Someone had heard a chase going on on channel 3. They then switched to channel 2 to monitor the chase. As they were listening, the chase went through the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and they heard "multiple times" that the subjects had fired on officers and that they were pointing a gun out the window at officers.

Ereg said that Sgt. Putnam is one of the few officers in the agency assigned a patrol rifle. "After hearing numerous times that these people had fired on officers, and were pointing guns at officers, at some point we decided to get in the car and see if we could assist in any way." Putnam grabbed his rifle and told Ereg, "Let's see if we can help them out". Ereg thought they made this decision when the chase was at about Dead man's Curve.

Ereg said they left and went up MLK to Ansel and ended up "in the tail end of it" when the pursuit exited I-90 at 72<sup>nd</sup> and St. Clair. Ereg thought there were at least 10 cars in the pursuit in front of him. The pursuit went through the area of 70<sup>th</sup> and Donald, south of Superior, near Star, Decker, and Addison, and ended up eastbound on Wade Park. While on Wade Park, Ereg said he thought near Case Western, someone broadcast that it looked like the passenger was reloading. They went south on 111<sup>th</sup> St. and ended up eastbound on Euclid Ave. They could not see the subject vehicle. While on Euclid, the subject car turns right onto a side street. Ereg said that he cannot make the turn and continues and turns onto Lee Rd. Ereg said the suspect car turns east and he turns west. He was shown an overhead picture of the area and said that somehow the suspect vehicle was coming head-on at him at one point. Ereg said that while on Lee Rd., they jumped the curb and headed into the school parking lot. Ereg pointed and said that there was a road on the east side of the lot in the picture. He could see zone cars parked in the driveway. He sees the suspect vehicle coming back down the driveway towards the zone cars. When Ereg was driving on the access road he hears the suspect car strike the zone car. When he is pulling in, Ereg thinks he hears someone on the radio saying, "Block them in". When he is still moving,

Ereg said he hears rounds being fired. Ereg exited his car, fearing crossfire. Someone was on the radio saying, "They're shooting at us or shooting at officers" and he said he heard someone yell "They're shooting!" as well.

As Ereg is moving down the hill from his car, he sees two officers down and believes they are shot. As he approaches the suspect vehicle, rounds are still being fired. Ereg believed that they (officers) are taking fire. Ereg sees "Glass from the suspect vehicle exploding. I thought they were shooting through the window. And I saw bullet holes in the police car, over here. I thought these officers were taking fire." When shown the diagram, Ereg indicates car 217. Ereg sees the passenger in the vehicle moving forward. Ereg thought the action was the subject "...loading his gun." Ereg said that he could not believe that he was "in the middle of a shootout right now. And that's when I took aim at the passenger and discharged my firearm." Ereg thought he fired 4 times. He later learned it was 6 times when Sgt. Stacho counted his rounds.

Ereg said he exited his car and ran around the front, and tried to use car 238 as cover as he moved up. Ereg had moved down the hill and stepped off the wall and was on the sidewalk. Ereg said he was in front of 238 when he fired. The firing stopped. Ereg said he walked up "...to see if the suspects were dead". Ereg heard someone call for EMS and someone "Called for a boss." Ereg saw O'Donnell and asked if she was alright, and saw Demchak and asked the same. Sgt. Putnam came up and asked if they had fired their weapons. Ereg said Putnam did not fire. He also said that he did not see anyone on the suspect's vehicle.

Ereg saw officers moving around and he said he was concerned with crossfire. Ereg said that he may have even called out "Crossfire, crossfire!"

During the chase, Ereg was driving with lights and siren activated. He said he was "99% sure" that Putnam did not use the radio. During the chase, Ereg did not see the subject vehicle during the pursuit. The closest he was to the car was in the parking lot. During the chase, Ereg said that fastest they drove was on Euclid and he said their speed was between 50-60 MPH. They drove at that speed to catch up. Once they were with the chase, the zone cars were going slower.

Ereg said that he became aware of the race of the subjects when he walked up to the car. He became aware of the sex of the subjects the next day when he heard it in the news. At the scene he thought they were both males. Ereg said that he never heard the original description that was broadcast.

When asked if he knew the names of the subjects, Ereg said he did. He was shown pictures of both and asked if he was familiar with them. Ereg said that he thought he may have arrested Malissa Williams before. Ereg had been in the "Downtown Unit" and had dealings with her. Ereg did identify Williams and said he did know her. He also said that Russell looked familiar to him.

When asked about the lighting in the parking lot, Ereg said it was dark, but there was lighting and that he could clearly see into the subject vehicle. He also said that he could see into the

police vehicles. Ereg said that he heard someone else yelling about crossfire and maybe someone yelled "cease fire"; however, he did not hear any other verbal commands.

Ereg was asked to clarify the motion he saw in the subject vehicle. He said that he saw the passenger, "... sitting up at first, then, I saw him kind of bend down. And that's why I felt that maybe, he was reloading his weapon. Then sat back up." Ereg believed that his rounds hit as he aimed into the passenger window.

As for other options that could have been used, Ereg said there were none. Ereg heard someone over the radio call for EMS but he does not know who.

When the shooting ended, Ereg walked up to the car to look. He said that he did not touch anything. He did take a couple of pictures. Ereg did not check to see if he had been hit when at the scene. Afterward, he did check his vest but did not find anything. Afterward, Ereg said everyone was in shock. Mostly, people were asking each other if they were alright, checking everyone else's wellbeing. Ereg said that he stayed with people in his unit. He said that they were just amazed that it went on and that they would not stop. Ereg said that officers were asking "Why wouldn't they just stop?"

Ereg said that he has spoken to his wife, people from the police department, his father, and two of his brothers. The conversations with others from the department were people checking on him and his wellbeing. Ereg estimates that it has been 20-25 officers that he has spoken to.

Ereg said that he thought his and others' actions were in accordance with the training that they have received.

Ereg called his wife from the scene and then used his phone to take pictures. He was asked to clarify this statement. He said that he took the pictures to "kind of remind me where I was standing... in regards to where I was, by the suspect vehicle. And then, when I walked up to the car, I thought I recognized the driver. So I took a picture of him and, um, sent it to old partner. To see if it was someone we knew." This was identified as Chuck Schultz. These were the only pictures he took. Ereg also said that he sent the images to his father in Michigan. When prompted by D'Angelo, Ereg said that while they were at the scene, O'Donnell asked if he had taken a picture and asked to see it. Ereg thought that she took a picture of the image on Ereg's phone.

In clarifying details, Ereg said that as they were coming up on the scene, the subject vehicle is coming towards them down the drive. Ereg said that he heard crashing sounds, and then the shooting started. Ereg did not shoot from his car. He moved up to within 15'-20' of the subject vehicle.

Ereg was asked why he began shooting. He replied, "Well, it was a combination of things. As I'm running up, I'm hearing shots being fired, someone yells out, 'they're shooting at us', over the radio I hear they're shooting at officers. As I'm running up, I'm seeing police officers on the ground. I thought that they were hit. I'm seeing the windshield of the suspect vehicle exploding. In my mind, I thought they were shooting through the window. And as I reach the front of the

car, I see the bullet holes in the Dodge Charger, CPD 217. I thought the officers in that car were taking fire.”

Ereg said that the shooting lasted about 30 seconds in his opinion, although it felt like a full minute. While the shooting is going on, sirens are still on multiple cruisers. The sirens did not get turned off until after the shooting stopped.

Ereg saw other officers engaging the subject vehicle, but he does not know who they are. As he was approaching the scene, he sees at least two officers on the ground. The officers appear down behind car 238. Ereg thought the officers had been shot. Atty. D’Angelo asked how long it took to form this decision. Ereg said a “split second” and also taking into account there was gunfire and sirens on.

No one has tried to influence his statement.

As things are calming down, Ereg was asked what officers are saying, and specifically if there are any racial comments. Ereg said that he did not hear anything bad being said. He said there were no racial comments made.

Ereg did not see any other agency involved in the pursuit. He did say that there were unmarked cars involved.

Ereg did not have a portable radio with him; it had been left behind when they left the office.

Atty. D’Angelo inquired what Ereg’s state of mind was at the scene. Ereg responded, “Scared shitless.” Ereg also said that he believed that the subjects in the car were shooting at officers. He said that he had no time to reflect on what was happening; he just reacted.

In concluding the interview, Ereg said that in 2007 he was involved in another shooting. In that case, Ereg said that instance, he was seated in his cruiser when an armed subject came up to him. As the subject drew his weapon and pointed it, Ereg said that he was questioning his actions as to whether he should shoot. In this case, Ereg said that he did not question himself at all. He thought officers were taking fire and they were “in a full-on firefight”.

In regard to the images on Ereg’s cell phone, he was presented with a *Consent to Search* which he signed. The phone was turned over to the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit which imaged the phone and extracted the images. The phone was returned.

**Subject Information**

Name: Christopher Ereg  
Address: [REDACTED], Brunswick, OH 44212  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Employment: **Cleveland Police Department**  
DOB: 05/08/1973  
SSN:  
Sex: M  
Race: W  
Height:  
Weight:  
Hair:  
Eyes:  
S/V/W:  
CCH:

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S/A K/S -



Case notes: work product, unofficial diagram - East Cleveland, Ohio - 11/30/12

CPD # 767

# CONSENT TO SEARCH

DATE: 12/06/12

TIME: 1707

I, CHRISTOPHER EREG having been informed by S/A J. SARAYA and \_\_\_\_\_ who has identified him/herself as a Peace Officer and or a Law Enforcement Officer, of my Constitutional right to not have a search made, exemplars taken, or evidence seized from me without a search warrant, and having been told of my right to refuse such a search or seizure, hereby authorize the above identified law enforcement officer to:

I. Conduct a search of my computer, further identified as:

II. IPHONE 4 - [REDACTED]

III. Said search may include all data contained on the referenced Hard Disk Drive or other storage media contained in the referenced computer and any other storage media which may be located such as but not necessarily limited to floppy disk, zip disk, Personal Data Assistant (PDA), secure media cards, smart cards, CD, CDR/W, digital camera media such as compact flash cards, magnetic tape or optical storage devices all other devices, in any format and, whether the data is stored in files, tables, other data structures, or unallocated space;

IV. Said search may include production and examination of a duplicate Hard Disk Drive or analysis files which contain all the data on the referenced Hard Disk Drive and or storage media, said duplicates, files, and data becoming the sole property of **Ohio Attorney General's Office - Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation**.

The above individuals are further authorized by me to take possession of any stolen property, implements of a crime, instrumentalities, or other property or data which may have been used, obtained, or possessed in violation of the laws of Ohio, any other States, or of the United States; and any physical evidence which is believed to be evidence of a suspected criminal offense known or unknown at the time; or any items that are believed to be relevant to the investigation of a suspected criminal offense.

This written permission is being given by me to the above named law enforcement officer voluntarily and without threats or promises of any kind, and is given with my full and free consent.

Christopher Ereg  
Person Granting Consent (name / printed)

[Signature]  
Person Granting Consent signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person Granting Consent (phone number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Person Granting Consent Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person Granting Consent (date of birth)

PATRICK A. D'ANZGLO  
Witness / Title (name / printed)

[Signature]  
Witness / Title (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness / Title (name / printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness / Title (signature)



## Calendar/Notes

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**Summary**  
**Text**

Numerous times throughout the chase i heard he's pointing a weapon out the back window, he rammed a police car, he's reloading his weapon "

Numerous times throughout the chase i heard he's pointing a weapon out the back window, he rammed a police car, he's reloading his weapon "

Someone yelled over the radio "he's shooting at police"

Crash

Police officers on the ground

Shots being fired

Window being shot

Bullet holes

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