



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



12/13/2012 INTERVIEW OF DET. SGT. PATRICIA COLEMAN

Summary

The Cleveland Police Officers involved in the shooting on November 29, 2012 were interviewed at the BCI Richfield Offices. Also present with the officer was Attorney Robert M. Phillips, along with Fraternal Order of Police President Brian Betley and Fraternal Order of Police Vice President Jerry Zarlenga representing the union. The interview was conducted by Ohio BCI Special Agent John Saraya and Special Agent Thomas Verhiley.

Detective Sergeant Patricia A. Coleman was advised of her "Miranda Rights" which she waived and consented to speak with investigators.

The interview was video recorded and submitted to the case file as Exhibit #25.

Details

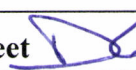
Coleman was asked how she was he was holding up. Coleman responded that she was doing okay and good.

Coleman is currently assigned as a Sergeant to the 2nd District Vice/Narcotics Unit and is a 24-year veteran of the Cleveland Police Department. In the month of November, Coleman was working either 1700 hours to 0100 hours or 1800 hours to 0200 hours depending on the various details with Saturdays and Sundays off. Coleman's supervisor was Lieutenant Moore.

Coleman does not work any part-time jobs. On Thursday, November 29, 2012, Coleman said she felt good and no issues. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She does not wear corrective lenses only occasional reading glasses.

Coleman is a plainclothes sergeant, and on Thursday, November 29, 2012 she was wearing blue jeans, tee shirt, Cleveland Police Department sweatshirt, tennis shoes, and bulletproof vest. Coleman is the supervisor for several detectives working in an undercover assignment. She carries her gun in a holster, and handcuffs. She also carries a small flashlight with her.

File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493	File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)
Case Agent: Mark Kollar	Authoring Agent: Verhiley, T. #76
Date of Report: December 13, 2012	Exhibit #: 25
Investigative Activity: Coleman Interview	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet 

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency.

JAN 14 2013

Coleman was assigned to a gray Dodge Charger, (Unknown Unit Number) unmarked, but equipped with lights and siren. Coleman is not assigned a partner; however, she was working with Detective William Miranda. Coleman was the passenger. There's no camera in the car and all equipment in the vehicle was functioning properly.

Coleman has never received any additional training in search warrants or narcotics enforcement. She has no prior military experience. She has qualified with handgun and shotgun in the past year. A segment of the qualifications was dealing with Use of Force and Taser Training.

Coleman was never involved in any shootings; however, she has been shot on two occasions.

Earlier in the shift, Coleman and the other detectives conducted a buy operation at a residence in Cleveland.

Coleman and the detectives from the 2nd District Vice/Narcotics Unit were finishing up on a narcotic detail and returned to the 2nd District Vice Office. Coleman was conducting various routine office assignments when she heard Officer Nan broadcast on channel 2, shots fired and he was involved in a vehicle pursuit. Coleman was on the first floor of the 2nd District when she first heard the broadcast over channel 2. At this time, Coleman ran upstairs to the vice office and advised the other detectives in her squad that an officer was shot at and to grab their gear. Detectives Rinkus, Miranda, Fairchild, Mitchell, and Graves were advised by Coleman to respond and assist Officer Nan. Coleman grabbed her vest and possibly her flashlight and advised the detectives to do the same and monitor channel 2. Coleman asked Miranda if there was a car available and Miranda indicated he had the keys to the grey Dodge Charger. The Dodge Charger was parked to the rear of the station adjacent to the gas pump.

Coleman and Miranda departed the 2nd District Police Station in the Charger and went to the area of West 65th Street and Clark Avenue in order to assist with the pursuit. Coleman was able to receive a description of the suspect's vehicle over channel 2. The vehicle pursuit was westbound on Clark Avenue approaching Coleman and Miranda. Miranda and Coleman were on Clark Avenue in their designated lane. As the suspect's vehicle approached Coleman and Miranda, they had to pull to the side of the street to avoid a head-on collision with the suspect's vehicle. During the initial portion of the pursuit, Coleman thought the front passenger was a male; however, she later determined the passenger was a female.

After Coleman and Miranda pulled to the side of Clark Avenue, they were able to get in the number three position of the pursuit. The pursuit traveled east on Clark Avenue to Quigley Avenue. Coleman estimated the speed of the suspect's vehicle reached 60 miles per hour on the main streets. While in the area of West 14th Street and the round-about, Coleman heard one of the detectives broadcast over channel 2 that someone from the suspect's vehicle threw an item out the window. Coleman did not see anything exit the suspect's vehicle.

The pursuit continued eastbound to Interstate 90 from Clark Avenue. Coleman and Miranda were the forth car in the pursuit when they entered the freeway. While in the area of "Dead Man's

Curve" (I-90 and State Route 2) Coleman observed car #243A pull next to the suspect's vehicle as if to conduct a Pursuit Intervention Tactic Maneuver (PIT Maneuver). The PIT is commonly used during a vehicle pursuit to take out the suspect's vehicle. Based on officer safety reasons, Coleman adamantly did not want any of the officers to conduct a PIT Maneuver on the suspect's vehicle at any time. Coleman was in fear that the suspects would shoot at the officers if the officers got too close to the suspects. Coleman broadcast to the other officers to stay back and keep a safe distance from the suspect vehicle due to the earlier shots fired broadcast. Coleman and Miranda dropped back to a safe controlled distance from the suspect's vehicle.

At this time, Coleman observed the front passenger turn toward the rear of the vehicle and point what appeared to be a gun out the rear window. The female passenger leaned toward the left and with the right hand over the left shoulder as if going to fire out the rear window at the officers. Coleman observed this movement by the front passenger two to three separate times during the pursuit. Coleman also observed the front passenger lean down in her seat toward her right side waistband, as if she was reloading a gun with a magazine. Based on these actions by the passenger, Coleman was fearful the suspects would shoot at the pursuing officers if they were too close. Coleman broadcasted to the other pursuing officers that the front passenger leaned toward the left and with the right hand over the left shoulder as if going to fire out the rear window at the officers. Coleman advised Miranda several more times to stay at a safe distance from the suspect's vehicle. Coleman requested additional assistance including air support; however, the helicopter unit was unavailable.

The suspects exited I-90 at East 72nd Street and continued southbound. Coleman ran the plate through dispatch to determine what the situation was with the vehicle. Coleman thought the vehicle might be stolen or the suspects were involved in a prior crime. While southbound on East 72nd Street, Officer Siefer indicated he was going to call the pursuit location because he was familiar with the area. Coleman was not sure what streets they were on; however, she advised the other officers that the suspects were attempting to take out the police cars. The suspects nearly missed striking several of the marked Cleveland Police vehicles. Again Coleman observed the front passenger turn toward the rear of the vehicle and point what appeared to be a gun out the rear window. The female passenger leaned toward the left and with the right hand over the left shoulder as if going to fire out the rear window at the officers. Coleman was in fear for her safety and the safety of the other officers involved. Coleman advised Miranda, "This ain't going to end good, this is not good." Coleman said one of the officers observed the front passenger appear to pull or hold the front right door closed.

While traveling on the side streets, Coleman said she was dumbfounded when she observed the driver of the suspect's vehicle casually smoking a cigarette. While in the area of East 79th Street and St. Clair, the suspect nearly struck the front left portion of Detective Fairchild's vehicle. Detective Fairchild had to maneuver quickly out of the way to avoid being struck.

Coleman was not exactly sure what street they were on (possibly Euclid Avenue); however, she observed the suspect traveling at a high rate of speed going through several red lights with no regard to anyone's safety. While on the main road, Coleman observed police vehicles blocking all of the intersections for the pursuit. Again Coleman observed the front passenger lean down in

her seat toward her right side waistband, as if she was reloading a gun with a magazine. Coleman broadcasted to the other pursuing officers that the front passenger was possibly reloading a gun to be careful. Coleman told Miranda, "This whole thing could end if they just pull over and stop." The suspects did not stop or slow down for any of the red traffic lights.

The suspects pulled into a business area and continued through the parking lot around the side of a business toward the rear. At this time, Coleman thought the pursuit was going to be terminated behind the business; however, the suspects ran over a cement parking block, several bushes and over the curb. The suspects pulled out onto the street putting Coleman and Miranda toward the rear of the pursuit. Coleman was amazed that none of the citizens in the area were injured or killed due to the suspect's negligence and disregard for safety.

While following the suspects, one of the pursuing officers broadcast that the suspects entered the East Cleveland Water Treatment Plant; however, they were actually at Heritage Middle School, 14410 Terrace Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio. As they entered the driveway of the school, Coleman heard shots being fired. She was not sure who was shooting or where the shots were coming from. Coleman broadcast, "Shots Fired." Coleman observed the suspects travel around and over a parking island and pass several marked police vehicles. Coleman thought the suspects were firing at the police officers as they were driving by them. At this time, the suspects were driving head-on right toward Coleman and Miranda. Miranda had nowhere to go therefore he stopped the vehicle along the right curb line of the school driveway. Both Miranda and Coleman ducked down on the front floorboard of their vehicle. Coleman said she thought they were going to be fired upon, so they got as low as they could. Coleman thought if they were behind the engine block of the vehicle, they would be a little bit safer from the gunfire. Coleman was completely lying on the floorboard in a fetal position asking Miranda several times, "Can you see them? Can you see where they are? Are they coming for us?" Coleman heard additional shots being fired and described it as an AK-47 being fired. Coleman asked Miranda, "I can't see them, stay down." Miranda then told Coleman, "I can't see shit, stay down!" Coleman and Miranda thought at this time the suspects were firing at them. Coleman said they didn't want to be trapped in the car while being shot at. Coleman said based on the shots being fired, she thought other officers were being fired upon by the suspects. Coleman thought they were going to be killed at this time by the suspects, so they decided that on the count of three, they would jump out of the vehicle and gain cover. Coleman and Miranda counted to three and exited their vehicle simultaneously. Upon exiting their vehicle, Coleman saw that vehicle #217 was all "shot up." Coleman thought the officers in unit #217 were dead and she could not see if they were in the vehicle. During this interview, Coleman became very upset, broke down crying and had to be consoled. Coleman said, "All they had to do was stop and none of this would have happened." After a several-minute break, Coleman continued with the interview. Coleman stated that during the gunfire, she yelled to the other officers, "Watch your crossfire, watch your crossfire!" Coleman said the gunfire seemed to have slowed down or stopped after she broadcasted for everyone to watch their crossfire. Coleman estimated their vehicle was approximately ten feet from the suspect's vehicle.

Coleman ran to several of the officers to determine if they were injured in any way. Coleman then checked the welfare of the suspects, again thinking they were two males, and determined

Coleman's observation of the scene appeared eerie to her. She said there was a dense fog in the air and the overhead emergency lights from the marked police vehicles reflected off the fog. She described the lighting somewhat poor. The vehicles in the parking lot assisted somewhat with the lighting.

Coleman said during the initial separation of "Shooters and Non-Shooters" she was very concerned that one or more of the officers were missing. Coleman said she treated the scene like a "Roll Call" and advised everyone to team up with their assigned partners.

Coleman was not injured; however, she did observe Officer Patrick with pieces of glass imbedded in his forehead. Coleman said this injury was a direct result of the officer involved shooting. Coleman physically checked several of the officers and advised them to check each other for injuries.

After the officer involved shooting, Coleman talked to her daughter, husband, friends and all of the officers involved. Coleman offered all of the officers who were involved support and guidance during this very difficult time.

When asked if she thought her actions were in line with her training, Coleman said, "Yes." Coleman did not think that there were any other options available to her, due to the actions of the suspects. Coleman said her main objective was to keep everyone safe. "All they had to do was pull over," Coleman said.

At no time during the pursuit did Coleman hear the vehicle backfire.

Coleman stated based on the totality of the circumstances, and had she had the opportunity, she would have fired her weapon.

Coleman did not see anyone acting contrary to their training.

Coleman did not have her cellular telephone with her nor did she have a camera on her person.

During the pursuit, Coleman said, they were using the lights and siren the entire time.

When asked if anyone tried to influence her statement, Coleman replied "No."

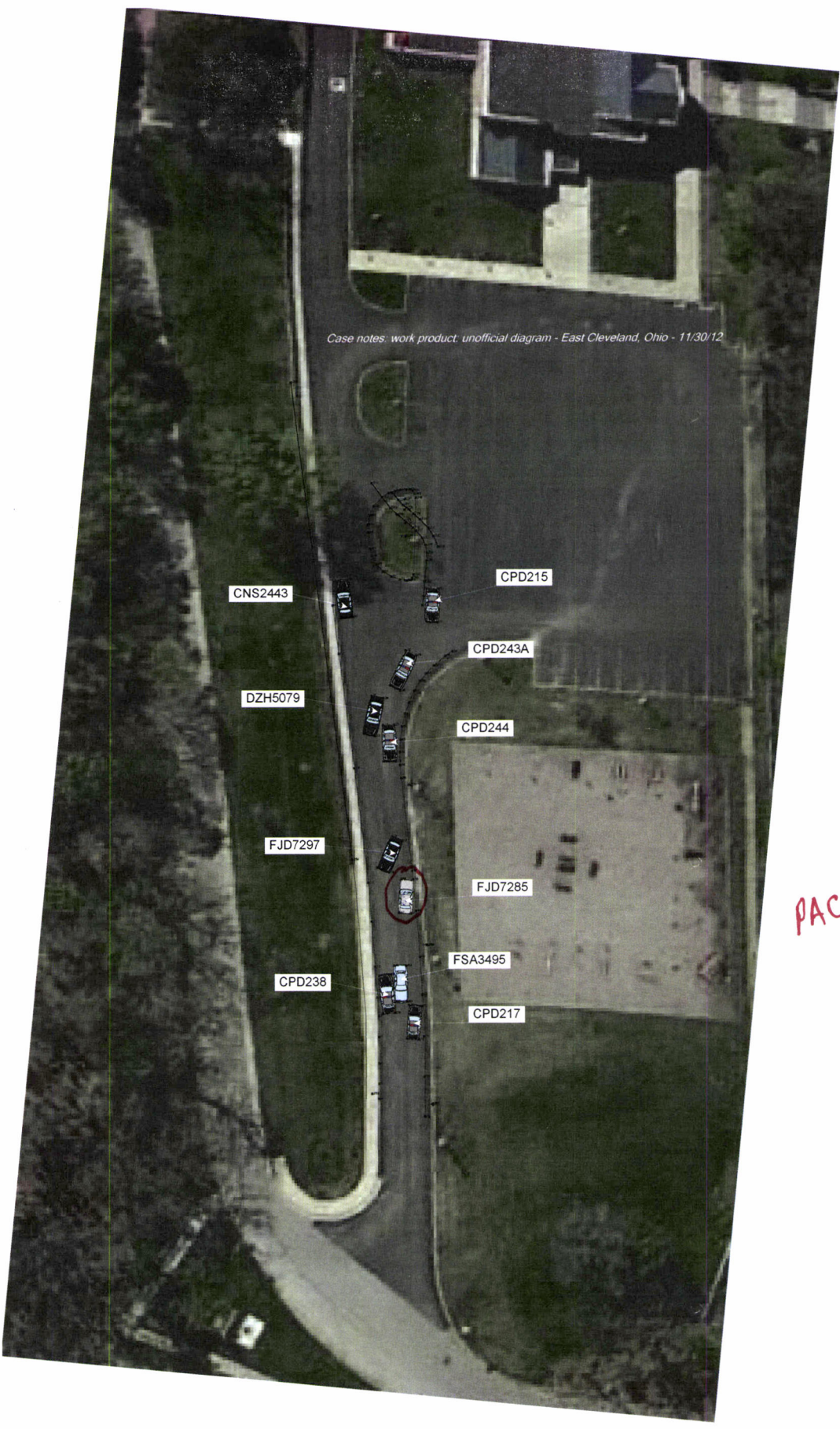
When asked if she had to add anything to the interview Coleman said, "All they had to do was stop."

Coleman was provided with a map of the scene. She circled the vehicle they were in and initialed the map. This map was submitted as an attachment to this report.

Subject Information

Name: Patricia Ann Coleman
Address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Ohio 44144
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Employment: Cleveland Police Department
DOB: 07/10/1964
SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: Female
Race: White
Height: 5'-07"
Weight: 130 lbs
Hair: Blond
Eyes: Blue
S/V/W: W
CCH: No

12/13/12 Sgt Coleman
514 / 55-81704



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

CNS2443

CPD215

CPD243A

DZH5079

CPD244

FJD7297

FJD7285

CPD238

FSA3495

CPD217

PAC 9987