



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

**12/21/2012 INTERVIEW OF OFFICER RALPH VALENTINO**

**Summary**

On December 21, 2012 at 12:45 pm, Detective Scott Gardner of the East Cleveland Police Department and S/A Jean-Philippe Rigaud met with Cleveland Police Officer RALPH A VALENTINO (DOB: 04/24/70, of [REDACTED] North Royalton, Cleveland Ohio, 44133, Ph. # [REDACTED] (cell)). The meeting occurred in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations Office interview room at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The purpose of the meeting was to gather a statement from Valentino regarding the officer involved shooting on November 29, 2012 involving the Cleveland Police Department.

**Details**



On December 21, 2012 at 12:45 pm, Detective Scott Gardner of the East Cleveland Police Department and S/A Jean-Philippe Rigaud met with Cleveland Police Officer RALPH A VALENTINO (DOB: 04/24/70, of [REDACTED] North Royalton, Cleveland Ohio, 44133, Ph. # [REDACTED] (cell)). The meeting occurred in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations Office interview room at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The purpose of the meeting was to gather a statement from Valentino regarding the officer involved shooting on November 29, 2012 involving the Cleveland Police Department.

The following person was also present for the interview:

- Attorney Patrick A. D 'Angelo

Valentino stated the following facts:

Valentino is assigned to basic patrol of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) district. His days off are according to his 'S' class designation. His badge # is 2546. His normal hours are 1530-0130. He has been with Cleveland Police Department for fourteen (14) years and RTA for two (2) years prior to working for the police. As of November 29, 2012, his supervisors were Sergeants David Saffo and Dorr-Guiser. He is a certified police officer by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Valentino

<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 #142</b>	<b>Authoring Agent: SA J. Rigaud</b>  #91
<b>Date of Report: December 21, 2012</b>	<b>Exhibit #: 87</b>
<b>Investigative Activity: Interview of Officer Ralph Valentino</b>	<b>Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet</b>  <b>JAN 14 2013</b>

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.

re-qualified with his firearm and shotgun with Cleveland Police Department recently this year. He also completed his Use of Force training at the same in-service.

Valentino stated that he felt rested on November 29, 2012.

Valentino denies any use of drugs, alcohol, or prescription medication at this time as well on November 29, 2012. He does use corrective lenses.

Valentino stated he is a certified Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy instructor. Valentino stated he has ten (10) years of experience with the Air Force as a ground combat specialist and a security specialist (1987-1996).

Valentino described one incident involving disciplinary action related to him losing a baggie of drugs during a vehicle search. He received a verbal warning for this.

Valentino stated that in 2004 or 2005, he was involved in a shooting incident. He stated that he had to shoot a dog that had attacked him.

Valentino described his standard uniform as basic patrol uniform. Valentino stated that the following equipment was on his person the evening of November 29, 2012:

1. City issued firearm (Glock 19)
2. Flashlight
3. Taser
4. Mace
5. Radio
6. Two (2) sets of handcuffs
7. External body armor

Valentino denied the use of any personal recording devices, including his personal cell phone, for audio or video of the November 29, 2012 incidents.

Valentino stated that on November 29, 2012:

- He was in a marked black & white police vehicle, a Crown Vic. The vehicle was designated #511B
  - He was the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle.
  - The vehicle contained no dash camera
  - The vehicle had a radio that worked intermittently.
  - Lights and sirens operated properly in the vehicle.
- Valentino said his call sign was 5D22.
- Valentino stated that he had just left the 5<sup>th</sup> district and returned to patrol. He was in the area of 123 St and St Clair when he heard the broadcast from the 2<sup>nd</sup> district that they were in pursuit of a vehicle that had fired shots at the police.
- Valentino stated that the radio traffic stated that they were pursuing an active shooter, shooting at police, displaying a firearm. Heard the broadcast as well as to the suspect

pointing a gun at police through the window of the vehicle. He heard this through the radio.

- Valentino also heard that the suspects in the vehicle were both males.
- Valentino stated he was in the area of Eddy and St. Clair and radioed his position. He stated he transmitted that he was going up onto I-90 and Eddy and wait for the chase on the off-ramp. He continued to monitor the chase on his portable
- Valentino stated that it was broadcast that the pursuit exited on E 72<sup>nd</sup>.
- Valentino stated he did respond to the area and remained on the perimeter of the pursuit.
- Garner stated he made his way to Wymore and Terrace roads and parked his vehicle on Terrace road.
- Valentino stated that he radioed the dispatcher and confirmed the location of the units. He stated that he transmitted the location to dispatch, "Wymore and Terrace, Wymore and Terrace". He transmitted this on Channel 5. As he was doing so, he stated he heard shots being fired.
- Valentino stated that he first heard shots fired over the radio. Once he exited his vehicle, he heard live rounds being fired.
- Valentino was not certain of the location from where the shots were being fired. He stated he made his way to the parking lot. He also stated he had his gun drawn as he made his way from his vehicle to the parking lot area.

Detective Gardner then showed Valentino two (2) photographs from the shooting scene at the school parking lot. Gardner explained the photographs to Valentino. Gardner then asked Valentino to use the photographs to show where his vehicle was parked on Terrace. Valentino also used the photographs to show the path he ran to get to the parking lot. Detective Gardner requested that Valentino sign the two (2) photographs he used to identify where they stopped their car on Terrace and ran to the parking lot. Valentino signed them and they were made attachments to this report.

- Valentino stated that it took about 15 seconds for him to run from his car to the parking lot area. He stated that there was a lot of smoke in the air and officers standing around. Shots were no longer being fired.
- Valentino stated he went first to Officer Paul Box. Valentino said that he grabbed Box by the arms. He stated he has known Box for a while and said Box was 'shaking like a dog-a scared puppy'. Box was also wide-eyed. Officer Box still had his shotgun in his hand. Valentino went up to Box and asked him if he was okay. Box did not say anything but nodded his head.
- Valentino stated he then went up and asked if everyone was okay; he stated that no one responded.
- Valentino stated he went up to Officer Brelo. He stated Brelo appeared to be shaking some, wide-eyed, and had a scared look on his face. Valentino stated that he did not grab Brelo but asked him if he was okay. Brelo said he was okay. Valentino said that a female officer unknown to him then went up to Brelo and walked him over to a car.
- Valentino stated he then walked up to Detective O'Donnell. O'Donnell also appeared wide-eyed, like she couldn't believe what just happened.

- Valentino stated he viewed the suspect car from this location.
- Valentino stated he spoke briefly with Lieutenant Brown and soon left the area in his vehicle.

Detective Gardner asked Valentino follow up questions. Gardner first asked if District 5 was ever called off the pursuit. Valentino stated the following:

- After the pursuit had ended and he was at headquarters, Valentino had heard that a Sergeant from the evening shift had radioed units to end the pursuit. Valentino said he then went to his supervisor, Sergeant Saffo, and told him that he was never aware of such an order. He explained to Sergeant Saffo that his radio in his police vehicle was not working properly which might explain the reason he did not hear such a transmission to end the pursuit.
- Valentino stated that he never heard the pursuit being called off; however, he did hear Lieutenant Brown transmit that it was 'our patch' and that they would assist.
- Valentino stated that in regards to the lighting, it was smoky; however, the parking lot where the vehicles and officers were standing had good lighting.
- Valentino did not have any previous knowledge of the suspects involved.
- Valentino did not recall hearing any verbal commands from the area as he was going up to the parking lot.
- Valentino stated that he believed his actions were consistent with his training. He stated that, when it comes to an active shooter, his training was to move towards the threat.
- Valentino also stated that all other officers' actions which he was able to observe were also consistent with training.

S/A Rigaud submitted the following item as Exhibit #87 to this case file.

- One (1) CD of video recorded interview of VALENTINO.

S/A Rigaud submitted the following document as an attachment for this case file.

- Two (2) printed photographs marked and signed by VALENTINO.

**Subject Information**

Name: RALPH A. VALENTINO

Address: [REDACTED] North Royalton, OH 44133

Telephone: [REDACTED] (personal cell phone)

Employment: Cleveland Police Department

DOB: 04/24/1970

SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M

Race: W

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 209

Hair: BROWN

Eyes: BROWN

S/V/W: W

CCH: None



RALPH VALENTINO

18-12-82-1493



Ralph Valentino

RALPH VALENTINO

18-12-82-1493

