



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



**12/21/2012 REPORT RECEIVED FROM CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Summary**

On December 18, 2012 Special Agent (SA) Mark Kollar received reports from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office detectives regarding the ongoing investigation into the officer involved shooting in East Cleveland, Ohio.

**Details**

On December 18, 2012 Special Agent (SA) Mark Kollar received reports from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office detectives regarding the ongoing investigation into the officer involved shooting in East Cleveland, Ohio. The reports received were as follows:

12/18/12 – Interview of Officer Donald Kopchak – Exhibit #32

12/18/12 – Interview of Officer Alfred Johnson – Exhibit #32

12/18/12 – Interview of Officer Steve Beckner – N/A

<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: Mark E. Kollar</b> <i>MK</i>
<b>Date of Report: 12/21/2012</b>	<b>Exhibit #: 32</b>
<b>Investigative Activity: Report Received from CCSO</b>	<b>Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet</b> JAN 17 2013 <i>[Signature]</i>

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**CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**INCIDENT CLEVELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUIT/SHOOTING 11/29/2012**

On December 18, 2012, while assigned to Special Investigation in cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCII) and the East Cleveland Police Department (ECPD). BCII Agent Scott Stranahan and Detective David Jacobs, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) were assigned to interview Cleveland Police Department (CPD) Patrolman DONALD KOPCHAK in the presence of CPD Union representative Steve Kinas and Union Attorney Patrick D'Angelo. The Interview took place at 4055 Highlander parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. KOPCHAK thereafter provided the following information concerning the captioned incident:

**Synopsis:**

Prior to specific questions concerning the captioned incident KOPCHAK was read his Miranda Warnings. KOPCHAK stated he understood his rights and in concurrence with Attorney D'Angelo he agreed to speak to investigators.

CPD OFFICER DONALD KOPCHAK

Home address: [REDACTED] Brunswick, Ohio

Date of Birth (DOB) 09/24/1983

Cell Phone [REDACTED]

No cell phone use at crime scene and or during incident (photos, videos)

Employed at CPD five years

Current Assignment- Fifth District (Basic Patrol)/ Detailed to the Second District after shooting incident, short manpower.

Shift 2:30pm to 12:30am

Supervisor Sergeant Dana Saffo

Days off "Q" class

No overtime/no part-time 48 hours prior to incident, possibly court time (3 hours)

Rested at the time of the incident-yes

No issues with drugs and alcohol

No medications (current to include the night of the incident)

Corrective lenses-Yes (stigmatism) only worn at work

Uniform-Class "B" (blue on blue)

Duty Belt-CPD issued Glock 19, 2 magazines (topped off), 2 sets of handcuffs, portable radio

Outer carrier bullet proof vest-Taser, pepper spray ("O.C.")

Vehicle number-Crown Victoria "unsure of vehicle number"

Call Sign-5A25

Partner-None one man car

In car camera-no

Spotlight-yes, Emergency Lights-yes, Siren-yes

Radio Channel-Car was set to Channel 5 and Portable was set to Channel 2

Vehicle MDT-yes-"pretty sure"

In Service Training-"Shooting in a zone car, Shooting out a zone car" Annual Requalification

No specialized training or certifications

Prior shooting involvement- KOPCHAK was shot at but never discharged his weapon. Suspect received an 18 year sentence.

No prior military experience

## **DETAILS**

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, KOPCHAK was at the Fifth District when he became aware of a vehicle pursuit that started out of the Second District. KOPCHAK's partner was Officer Natasha COLLINS. KOPCHAK went to his vehicle (Crown Victoria unknown vehicle number) and waited in the passenger seat for Officer COLLINS. COLLINS never came out of the Fifth District Police station. KOPCHAK went back inside and could find her. KOPCHAK went back to the Crown

Victoria and was gestured to by his Supervisor, Sergeant Dana Saffo to leave without his partner. According to KOPCHAK, Sergeant Saffo made a hand gesture with his thumb. KOPCHAK left the police station and headed east and then immediately switched lanes westbound. KOPCHAK made it to East 72<sup>nd</sup> where he went south. KOPCHAK saw police cars turn onto Ansel Road but did see other police cars continue east on St Clair Avenue toward East 105<sup>th</sup> Street. The next radio traffic KOPCHAK heard was that the chase was Superior Avenue toward Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland. KOPCHAK then heard radio traffic that the pursuit had just entered a water treatment plant (later confirmed it was a school). Prior to the water treatment radio traffic he heard "shots fired" being called on the radio. KOPCHAK was at East 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Superior Avenue when the "shots fired" call came over the radio. KOPCHAK never proceeded to the shooting scene but did hear Lieutenant Cheryl Brown call out "everybody is ok, no officers were hurt." KOPCHAK continued north on East 125<sup>th</sup> Street and headed back to the Fifth District. KOPCHAK never witnessed the suspect vehicle.

S/A Scott Stranahan #98

Agent Scott Stranahan BCII

D. Jacobs #211

Detective David Jacobs CCSO (author)

Cheryl A. Brown Sgt.

OK

## CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### SUMMARY REPORT

#### INCIDENT CLEVELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUIT/SHOOTING 11/29/2012

On December 18, 2012, while assigned to Special Investigation in cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCII) and the East Cleveland Police Department (ECPD). BCII Agent Scott Stranahan and Detective David Jacobs, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) were assigned to interview Cleveland Police Department (CPD) Patrolman ALFRED L. JOHNSON in the presence of CPD Union representative Steve Kinas and Union Attorney Patrick D'Angelo. The Interview took place at 4055 Highlander parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. JOHNSON thereafter provided the following information concerning the captioned incident:

#### **Synopsis:**

Prior to specific questions concerning the captioned incident JOHNSON was read his Miranda Warnings. JOHNSON stated he understood his rights and in concurrence with Attorney D'Angelo he agreed to speak to investigators.

CPD OFFICER ALFRED L. JOHNSON

Home address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Ohio 44104

Date of Birth (DOB) 11/26/1977

Cell Phone [REDACTED]

No cell phone use at crime scene and or during incident (photos, videos)

Employed at CPD five years

Current Assignment- Third District Community Services Unit (CSU)

Shift- 6:00pm to 2:00am

Supervisor- Sergeant Neal Hutchinson

Days off- Friday and Saturday

No overtime/no part-time 48 hours prior to incident

Rested at the time of the incident-yes

No issues with drugs and or alcohol

No medications (current to include the night of the incident)

Corrective lenses-Yes "near sighted", contacts

Uniform-Class "B" (blue on blue)

Duty Belt-CPD issued Glock 19, 2 magazines (topped off), 2 sets of handcuffs, portable radio

Outer carrier bullet proof vest-Taser (3 extra cartridges for Taser in bag), pepper spray ("O.C.")

Vehicle number-316

Call Sign-3F25

Partner-VINCENT SCHNEIDER (passenger)

Driver-JOHNSON

In car camera-no

Spotlight-yes, Emergency Lights-yes, Siren-yes

Radio Channel-Car was set to Channel 2 and Portable was set to Channel 3

Vehicle MDT-yes

In Service Training-'Shooting in a zone car, Shooting out a zone car", Building Searches, Annual Requalification

No specialized training or certifications other than prior employment at Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Officer as a Correction Officer, JOHNSON was a member of the "Jail SRT Team"

Prior shooting involvement-Yes, twice, September of 2011 and September of 2012

No prior military experience

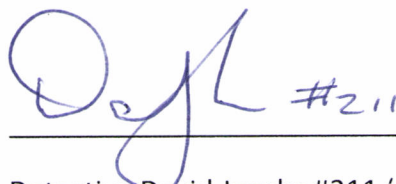
## **DETAILS**

JOHNSON and SCHNEIDER were near Broadway Avenue when they received a radio broadcast for "someone is shooting from a car at a Police Officer near the Justice Center." JOHNSON switched car to Channel 2 while keeping his portable radio on Channel 3. JOHNSON and SCHNEIDER make it the bridge near Progressive Field when they hear the pursuit is heading

west. JOHNSON goes west on the Detroit Avenue Bridge and hears radio traffic for Steelyard. JOHNSON goes east on Lorain Avenue toward the Carnegie Bridge. JOHNSON hears radio traffic that the pursuit is on 90 east. JOHNSON goes toward East 55<sup>th</sup> Street and Woodland Avenue. Radio then advises the pursuit is southbound on East 71<sup>st</sup> Street. JOHNSON gets to East 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Wade Park Avenue when he sees the pursuit and the suspect vehicle is in his rear view mirror. JOHNSON stated he had to swerve out of the way of the suspect vehicle which was going at least 70 mph. JOHNSON waited for all the Police Cars to pass him and began to follow them. JOHNSON was pretty sure that the suspect vehicle was not going to make the turn at Wade Park Avenue because of his speed but was able to make it and the pursuit continued toward the City Of East Cleveland. The pursuit continued to Euclid Avenue past Superior Avenue and suddenly made a right hand turn from Euclid Avenue up a street Johnson was not familiar with. JOHNSON followed the pursuit and parked on Terrace Avenue and heard "shots fired, shots fired" over the radio. JOHNSON and SCHNEIDER exited their vehicle and took cover as they proceeded up the hill to where the shots were coming from. JOHNSON had his weapon ready and once he made it to the top of hill the shooting had stopped. JOHNSON stated he advised dispatch of his location and began to check Officers for any injuries. JOHNSON stayed on scene for approximately two hours.

 S/A Scott Stranahan #8

Agent Scott Stranahan BCII

 D. Jacobs #211

Detective David Jacobs #211 (author)

 S/A P. R. ... Sgt.

OK

# CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## SUMMARY REPORT

### INCIDENT CLEVELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUIT/SHOOTING 11/29/2012

On December 18, 2012, while assigned to Special Investigation in cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCII) and the East Cleveland Police Department (ECPD). BCII Agent Scott Stranahan and Detective David Jacobs, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) were assigned to interview Cleveland Police Department (CPD) Patrolman STEVE BECKNER in the presence of CPD Union representative Steve Kinas and Union Attorney Patrick D'Angelo. The Interview took place at 4055 Highlander parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. BECKNER thereafter provided the following information concerning the captioned incident:

#### Synopsis:

Prior to specific questions concerning the captioned incident BECKNER was read his Miranda Warnings. BECKNER stated he understood his rights and in concurrence with Attorney D'Angelo he agreed to speak to investigators.

CPD OFFICER STEVE BECKNER

Home address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Ohio 44135

Date of Birth (DOB) 07/28/1978

Cell Phone [REDACTED]

No cell phone use at crime scene and or during incident (photos, videos)

Employed at CPD three and one half years

Current Assignment Downtown Services Unit (DSU)

Shift 8pm to 4am

Supervisor Sergeant George Peters

Days off "L" class

No overtime/no part-time 48 hours prior to incident



Rested?-yes

No issues with drugs and alcohol

No medications (current to include the night of the incident)

Corrective lenses-no

Uniform-Class "B" (blue on blue)

Duty Belt-CPD issued Glock 19, 2 magazines (topped off), 2 sets of handcuffs, portable radio

Outer carrier bullet proof vest-Taser (2 extra cartridges in bag), flashlight, and pepper spray

Vehicle equipped with Patrol Rifle "Stag" AR-15

Vehicle number 9609

Call Sign-9624

Partner (Driver)-Officer Darien Laska

In car camera-no

Spotlight-yes, Emergency Lights-yes, Siren-yes

Radio Channel-3 switched to Channel 2 when pursuit is taking place

Vehicle MDT-yes

No specialized training or certifications except for certified on the "Stag AR-15"

No prior involvement in shooting incidents

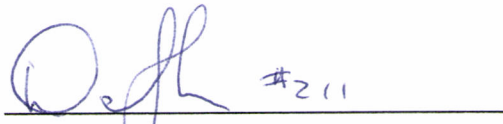
## **DETAILS**

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 BECKNER and LASKA were driving westbound on Huron Road near Ontario Avenue when they noticed a Second District zone car (possibly 244L) drive by with their overhead lights on and no headlights. BECKNER switched to Channel 2 to advise the Second District car about his lights. BECKNER became aware of the pursuit at that time. BECKNER continued to the Detroit/Superior Bridge when they heard over the radio "they are shooting at us." They continued to West 85<sup>th</sup> Street and went south and then east on Clark Avenue. They then continued to Detroit Avenue and went east to the Carnegie Avenue bridge. The radio traffic revealed that the vehicle pursuit had just exited east 72<sup>nd</sup> Street from I90.


During the pursuit BECKNER did hear a "shots fired, shots fired" call and this took place just prior to their arrival at Heritage Middle School. BECKNER stated he "never" witnessed the suspect vehicle until they arrived at Heritage Middle School. When BECKNER and LASKA arrived at Heritage Middle School the shooting had already taken place. BECKNER and LASKA stayed on scene for about five minutes and then left the area. BECKNER stated the third platoon Supervisor Lieutenant Wilson conferred with them prior to them leaving.

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S/ Scott Stranahan" with a horizontal line underneath.

Agent Scott Stranahan BCII

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Jacobs" with "#211" written to the right and a horizontal line underneath.

Detective David Jacobs #211 CCSO

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CW G. R." with "set." written to the right and "OK" written below it.