



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



12/31/12

**MICHAEL JANUSCZAK INTERVIEW**

**Summary**

Cleveland Police supervisors involved in the shooting on November 29, 2012 were to be interviewed. These officers, while pertinent to the investigation, were not immediately involved in the shooting. As such, they were interviewed telephonically. Also present with the officer was Brian Betley and Jerry Zarlenga representing the union. The interview was conducted by BCI SA Eric Lehnhart and BCI SA John Saraya.

The interview was audio recorded and submitted to the case file as Exhibit #96.

**Details**



Janusczak is a 23-year veteran of the Cleveland Police Department. He is currently assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> District Patrol Division, "C Platoon" working from 2000-0600 hrs. He is unsure of his days off the week of the shooting. His supervisor is Lt. Cheryl Brown. Janusczak has prior law enforcement experience with Parma Police from 1984-1987 and Cuyahoga County Sheriff from 1973-1976.

Janusczak had not worked any extra shifts or details.

Janusczak said he felt fine on Thursday, November 29; it was a "regular day." He does not take any medications and does not drink.

Janusczak wears glasses.

Janusczak is a uniformed officer and was wearing an off-duty holster with a Glock 17, one magazine and handcuffs. He is issued other equipment, including OC spray and Taser, and carries it in a bag with him. He does not have a back-up weapon or a personal recorder.

<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> 
<b>Date of Report: 12/31/12</b>	<b>Exhibit #: 96</b>
<b>Investigative Activity: Janusczak Interview</b>	<b>Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet</b>  <b>JAN 14 2013</b>

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During his shift, Januszczak usually is solo in a patrol car, driving a fully marked car. Januszczak does not remember what car he was using, although he did say it was one of the supervisor's cars and all equipment was functional. Januszczak was using call sign 5S33. Januszczak was operating on channel 5 the whole time.

Januszczak's OPOTA certificate is up to date with no extra certifications. He has no military experience. Januszczak qualified with his handgun and shotgun and received Use of Force training within the past 12 months.

Januszczak has been involved in 3 prior shootings, one of which he fired.

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Januszczak was at his desk at the 5<sup>th</sup> District Station and an officer told him of the pursuit in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and that it was heading east. Januszczak was with Lt. Brown, who turned her portable radio on to channel 3. They left the district in a patrol car, with Januszczak driving, and headed west towards the pursuit. Januszczak remembers hearing the pursuit headed southbound on 72<sup>nd</sup> St. This was across Brown's portable, while the cruiser radio was still on channel 5. They began to break off at that point, when Januszczak said he thought he heard the subjects had rammed car 532. Januszczak said that "That would be one of my cars." They continued to monitor the pursuit on channel 3. They stayed in the area of the pursuit as it continued onto Euclid Ave. When Januszczak heard radio traffic about a water treatment plant he was puzzled. He had worked that zone for 23 years and did not know of any such plant. They continued towards East Cleveland when they heard radio traffic on channel 3 of shots fired and to watch the cross fire. They continued on Euclid until, "...finding a street covered with zone cars." Januszczak said they ended up parking about 200 yards north and 100 yards east of the shooting. By the time they walked up, the shooting had stopped.

Januszczak clarified that they were never involved in the pursuit and they did not see it. When asked if an order was given to terminate from the pursuit, Januszczak said that Sgt. Rose gave that order for 5<sup>th</sup> District cars. Januszczak said that most of his district's cars that were in it did terminate from the pursuit. They stayed involved after hearing of the car being rammed and later the shots fired. Januszczak was asked directly if Lt. Brown had countermanded Rose's order. He replied that she did not.

Eventually Januszczak did speak to two officers from the 5<sup>th</sup> District at the scene, but he did not see their car. He believed that they had arrived behind Januszczak and Brown. When he arrived, he said officers were standing around talking. Januszczak walked up to car 217 and looked to check on the officers. Januszczak said "Frankly we thought the officers were dead." He did identify a male and female officer that were standing near 217 and checked on them. From a distance of about 10' he looked at the subject vehicle. Januszczak said it was obvious that both occupants were deceased. He never got close enough to make contact or touch the car. Januszczak had never heard the original description of the occupants in the car. He did recall another supervisor on the radio talking about an occupant with a gun. He did not find out the sex of the subjects until the news the next day. Januszczak said that he did not know the names and was not familiar with the subjects. Januszczak said that he did not hear any type of comments about race being used by officers. He was asked about how many cars he sees at the scene. Januszczak



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responded that there were about 10 parked in front of him with overheads on, as he approached the scene he saw another 4-5 on his left, and on his right were another dozen. Januszczak then said that not all the cars belonged to Cleveland. He clarified this by saying he saw cars from East Cleveland, the Highway Patrol, and a number of unmarked cars.

While at the scene, Januszczak said that he contacted one of the members of the Chaplin Corps. He tried to call Rabbi Wolfe, who was out of town but sent two others out. He said that officers were "really shaken up". He and Lt. Brown went to a gas station to pick up bottled water and return to the scene to distribute them. Januszczak said that they had a hard time leaving because the number of zone cars and the way they were parked. They had to wait for some of them to leave first. They cleared shortly after that.

When asked what his interpretation of the lighting at the scene, Januszczak responded, "Absolutely crazy. Everywhere you look is red and blue lights. Sirens on half a dozen cars still going off. It was chaos."

Januszczak did not recall hearing anyone calling for EMS. He did say that after looking into the car he did not think EMS was an option. In describing the scene, Januszczak said that he did not know some officers. He did recall an officer telling him that all he could think about were his kids. He also spoke to Ofc. Almeida who was pretty distraught, but cannot recall what was said.

Outside of calling the Rabbi, Januszczak made no other calls from the scene and did not take any pictures. He did not see anyone taking pictures there. Januszczak felt officers responded to the scene as they have been trained.

Januszczak said that no one had tried to influence his statements.

**Subject Information**

Name: Michael Januszczak  
Address: [REDACTED] OH 44138  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Employment: Cleveland Police Department  
DOB: 3/18/1952  
SSN: [REDACTED]  
Sex: M  
Race: W  
Height: 600  
Weight: 210  
Hair: Bro  
Eyes: Gray  
S/V/W: W  
CCH:

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