



Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation Investigative Report



2024-1470

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4738 McAllister Ave.
Columbus

To: Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor
From: Kyle Douglass #126, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: August 26, 2024
Involves: Columbus Division of Police [REDACTED]
BCI Case Numbers: 2024-1470
BCI Laboratory: 24-14395

Investigative Request

On May 11, 2024, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was notified by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) of an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred near 4738 McAllister Avenue in Columbus, OH. It was reported that CPD officers were responding to an armed individual who had allegedly discharged a firearm when they became involved in an encounter with Corey Roach (Roach). During the encounter, a CPD officer discharged his duty weapon. Roach was transported to Mount Carmel Hospital with alleged gunshot wounds, where he was pronounced deceased. A female victim was also discovered, later identified as Nicole Pleasant (Pleasant), and was pronounced deceased on scene by EMS medics.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the May 11, 2024 officer-involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

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Investigative Team

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA Kyle Douglass

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA James Poole
- SA Ryan Scheiderer
- SA Chad Holcomb

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents/Evidence Technicians:

- SA Aja Chung (lead)
- SA Sarah Taylor

BCI Investigative Supervisors:

- Acting SA Supervisor James Mulford

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview of the officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident

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- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 - Firearm identification testing of involved firearm and casings
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officers who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review

Incident Summary/Overview

On May 11, 2024, at approximately 1913 hours, CPD [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were responding to a domestic disturbance with reports of an armed individual, later identified as Corey Roach (Roach), who had discharged a firearm at neighboring residents.

Upon arrival to 4738 McAllister Avenue, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] made contact with a male resident, who indicated the armed individual was still in the area and directed them towards Lockwood Road. As [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] approached Lockwood Road, Roach fired a gunshot in their direction. [REDACTED] aired on the radio shots had been fired. [REDACTED] gave verbal commands to Roach to put his hands up. As [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] moved towards Roach's location with their duty weapons drawn, gunfire is exchanged between Roach and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] announced on the radio additional shots had been fired and Roach was armed with a rifle. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took cover behind vehicles parked in the driveway at 4738 McAllister Avenue.

[REDACTED] attempted to visually locate Roach when several more gunshots were fired by Roach towards [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] returned fire, and appeared to strike Roach, who fell to the ground on the sidewalk. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] retreated to cover in a driveway on Shady Lane

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Road, where [REDACTED] reloaded his duty weapon. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] verbally checked each other for possible injuries from the shooting incident and advise each other they are not injured.

Another responding CPD officer, Sergeant James Diehl (Sergeant Diehl), announced on the radio Roach was "down" and confirmed Roach was armed with a rifle. Sergeant Diehl removed several firearms from Roach's possession. [REDACTED] and Sergeant Diehl secured and handcuffed Roach, then began rendering first aid to Roach. EMS medics arrived and transported Roach to the hospital for emergency medical treatment, where he was later pronounced deceased.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED], and several other responding CPD officers entered the neighboring residence at 1083 Lockwood Road, where a female victim was found bleeding and unresponsive. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attempted to locate wounds and provide first aid. EMS medics arrived shortly after and pronounced the female deceased. The female victim was later identified as Nicole Pleasant.

Subsequent Investigation

Coroner and Autopsy Reports

Corey Roach was transported to Mount Carmel Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased by Dr. Lowell Chambers on May 11, 2024, with a time of death at 1950 hours. An autopsy of Roach's body was conducted at the Franklin County Forensic Science Center by the Franklin County Coroner's Office (FCCO). As part of the investigation of the incident, BCI requested the autopsy and coroner's reports for Roach from FCCO. [REDACTED]

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

Several firearms were recovered during the incident which reportedly did not belong

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to any CPD officers on scene, which were collected by the BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU). All firearms believed to be related to the OICI were subsequently submitted to the BCI firearms lab for analysis.

The BCI Laboratory Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officer's firearm, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene and vehicles. By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

A total of five (5) cartridge cases and one (1) fired bullet projectile were collected by CSU and submitted to the lab for analysis. BCI Forensic Scientist Krystal Soles (FS Soles) identified three (3) of the 9mm Luger cartridge cases (Items 1 and 2) and one (1) fired bullet projectile (Item 8) as being source identified to the Smith & Wesson MP9 2.0, 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, serial # [REDACTED], assigned to CPD [REDACTED]. FS Soles identified one (1) 9mm Luger cartridge case (Item 4) as being source identified to the FNH USA model 509 9mm semi-automatic pistol, serial #GKS0180540, which was recovered from the scene and was in the possession of Roach during the incident. FS Soles identified one (1) 5.56 NATO cartridge case (Item 6) as being source identified to the B-Kings Firearms 5.56mm NATO semi-automatic rifle, serial #MOD-0-02189, which was recovered from the scene and was in the possession of Roach during the incident.

Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsised below.

CPD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] provided a verbal statement to BCI as a witness to the shooting incident. [REDACTED] recalled he and [REDACTED] were dispatched to respond to a possible domestic situation near the intersection of McAllister Avenue and Lockwood Road, possibly with one or more individuals shooting a firearm. [REDACTED] said dispatch had reported hearing gunshots in the background when speaking to a 911 caller.

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Upon arrival, an unidentified male at 4738 McAllister Avenue advised [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] there was a male shooter "right around the corner" on Lockwood Road. The male told CPD the male shooter still had a gun. During that conversation, [REDACTED] heard a gunshot. [REDACTED] moved to cover on the south side of the house, and heard [REDACTED] say, "Put your fuckin hands up!" [REDACTED] could not initially see the male subject, later identified as Corey Roach (Roach). [REDACTED] said he peeked around the corner of the house and saw Roach standing near a Honda Civic parked in the street on Lockwood Road. [REDACTED] observed Roach was armed with a rifle. "That's when [REDACTED] started shooting," [REDACTED] stated.

[REDACTED] said he and [REDACTED] ran to cover behind a vehicle parked in the driveway at 4738 McAllister Avenue. While they were behind cover, [REDACTED] could not see Roach but saw [REDACTED] fire his weapon towards where Roach had been. [REDACTED] explained he and [REDACTED] retreated further and believed [REDACTED] had stated Roach was still actively pursuing them.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ran to cover in the driveway of a house on the west side of Shady Lane Road. [REDACTED] heard his sergeant on the radio announcing Roach was "down." [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] checked each other for injuries and then returned to the location of where Roach had fired at them. At the time, [REDACTED] believed Sergeant Diehl may have fired at and struck Roach because Sergeant Diehl is a rifle operator. Sergeant Diehl advised Roach was already down when he located him.

[REDACTED] approached and saw Roach lying on the ground. [REDACTED] observed Roach had a gunshot wound in his upper left chest area and was bleeding from his mouth and ears. Sergeant Roach had notified [REDACTED] that he had removed three firearms from Roach's possession. [REDACTED] and Sergeant Diehl handcuffed and secured Roach, and other CPD officers began arriving to assist. [REDACTED] then approached 1083 Lockwood Road, where neighbors reported there was possibly an injured female victim inside. [REDACTED] observed numerous shell casings on the ground outside of the residence. [REDACTED] found the female victim, later identified as Nicole Pleasant (Pleasant), who appeared to have been shot multiple times and was bleeding severely. [REDACTED] attempted to locate gunshot wounds on Pleasant. EMS medics arrived and pronounced Pleasant deceased shortly after. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] exited the residence and were then removed from the scene.

[REDACTED] recalled [REDACTED] fired his weapon two separate times, and

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recalled hearing to different gun(s) being fired (a pistol and a rifle). [REDACTED] explained he heard one initial shot from Roach as they were approaching, and then heard Roach fire again when they were behind cover in the driveway at 4738 McAllister Avenue. [REDACTED] reported he did not fire his weapon during the incident, and all his ammunition was accounted for.

[REDACTED] reported their ballistic vests were not capable of stopping a rifle-caliber round, and felt their best option was to retreat. [REDACTED] stated he and [REDACTED] retreated further because they did not know Roach's status, and believed Roach was still actively pursuing them.

[REDACTED] did not believe [REDACTED] had any other option than to use lethal force against Roach. [REDACTED] noted Roach shooting at civilians before CPD arrived, and Roach then shooting a rifle at him and [REDACTED] when they approached Roach's location.

CPD [REDACTED]

In his official written statement given to BCI, [REDACTED] wrote, *"Immediately before this incident, [REDACTED] and I were on routine patrol when the radio tone went out and radio advised that there was a male black in white shirt and gray hoodie outside shooting and that someone may be shot. Radio further advised that the location was 4738 McAllister Avenue. [REDACTED] was driving and I put the address into my phone to get directions since 14 precinct is not my regular assignment. We activated the cruiser emergency lights and sirens and immediately began driving to the location. I believe within a few seconds of the alert tone, radio advised that this may be a possible domestic incident. As [REDACTED] was driving, I was relaying the information that was coming over the MDT (mobile digital terminal) from the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system. There were multiple calls coming in regarding this incident. I relayed the updated information to [REDACTED] as it came across the MDT. I believe one of the callers reported that someone was shooting towards them and dispatch noted that they could hear gunshots in the background. Another caller stated that the suspect was a male black with dreadlocks in a brown shirt and that he ran eastbound on Lockwood and another caller indicated that the suspect went back into the house. Given the two differing suspect descriptions: white shirt/gray hoodie and brown shirt, I thought that we potentially had two suspects. As I was reading the additional information, I was also giving [REDACTED] directions to the location."*

[REDACTED] also wrote in his statement, *"We turned left (south) from E. Main Street onto Shady Lane Road. I told [REDACTED] that 4738 McAllister was going*

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to be the first house on our left once he turned onto McAllister Avenue. Due to the nature of the call, as well as the multiple calls, I drew my weapon as we were approaching McAllister Avenue. [REDACTED] parked the cruiser across the street from 4738 McAllister Avenue. We exited the cruiser and walked across the street. I had my firearm in the "high-ready" position, as the information that came over the radio indicated we potentially had two suspects who were firing weapons. 4738 McAllister Avenue is a single-story green house. There was a male black in a white shirt standing outside of the house. He initially caught my attention as the original description had listed a male black in a white shirt as the suspect. However, he was looking and pointing to the east and I asked him where's it at. I believe he replied in the car or words to that effect. I saw a gray Civic, with dark tinted windows, parked in the middle of Lockwood Road. [REDACTED] and I walked northeast towards Lockwood Road. He was several feet ahead of me. Suddenly, I heard a gunshot and saw a puff of smoke at the front of the Civic. I saw the driver's side door of the Civic open and the suspect's legs come out of the car to the ground. As his legs came down, I saw what appeared to be a rifle in between his legs. I yelled "put your hands up!" while leveling my firearm at him. He raised and fired his rifle while I simultaneously fired my weapon and yelled "gun, gun, gun!" I fired my weapon while retreating west. I aired "shots fired; he's got a rifle!" I took a position behind the rear corner of a parked SUV. I then saw the suspect advancing toward us and firing his rifle. I returned fire and I retreated further west, as did [REDACTED]. I went across Shady Lane Road and aired that I was across the street. I was not sure how many rounds I had fired, so I re-loaded my weapon. I did not see [REDACTED] as there were a lot of trees and cars in the area. I yelled out to make sure he was not hit and he responded and asked if I was good. I aired that suspect description: a male black, gray Civic with tinted windows and that I thought he was wearing a black jacket. Then S-14 aired that he was with the car and had a male with a rifle down."

[REDACTED] also wrote in his statement, "I believe I fired nine (9) rounds at the suspect. During the incident, I did not know how many rounds I fired but I believe it was nine (9) based on the round count after the incident. I did not fire any additional rounds after I re-loaded my weapon. When we first arrived on scene and I heard the gunshot, I did not initially see the suspect and continued advancing northeast towards the area the neighbor indicated the suspect was located. It was a second later that I saw him emerge from the vehicle with the rifle and fire at us. That is the first time that I fired at him and I believe I was approximately 50-65 feet from him. I believe I fired from a standing position while retreating east to try and obtain some cover. I do not know how many shots I fired at that time. I took a position behind a CRV parked in the driveway of 4738 McAllister Avenue. Initially, I could not see the suspect and

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then I heard a gunshot and saw him advancing west towards us while firing his rifle. I fired my weapon from a standing position at the rear of that CRV while trying to utilize it as cover/concealment. I believe I was approximately 65-75 feet from the suspect. I fired with a two-handed grip and I do not recall if I used my sights. The direction of my shots was northeast to east. My backdrop was the suspect's car. My target was center mass. I stopped firing because I could no longer see the suspect. I retreated across the street to wait for additional officers with rifles to arrive as the body armor I was wearing would not stop a rifle round and [REDACTED] and I could not match the firepower of his rifle with our service weapons."

[REDACTED] also wrote in his statement, "At the time I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of [REDACTED] and the civilians in the area. Prior to our arrival there had been multiple phone calls that he was shooting a weapon and that there was a possible domestic. Immediately before I fired my weapon, the suspect had just fired at us. I believe he fired the first shot while still in the Civic so I am not sure if that round was fired at us but once he exited the Civic, he was firing at us. I believe he was trying to seriously injure or kill us. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, the life of [REDACTED] or the lives of the civilians in the area from the suspect's deadly actions at the time I fired my weapon. This entire incident happened in a matter of seconds. From the time we arrived on scene and walked across McAllister Avenue until the time the last round was fired was approximately twenty (20) seconds. The suspect fired the first round from inside the car before I even knew where he was located. I did not have time to attempt any de-escalation techniques."

Summary

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this Officer-Involved Critical Incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement which might be deemed to be necessary to the investigation.

Contact Information

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collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Kyle Douglass. SA Douglass can be reached via email at Kyle.Douglass@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-949-6278.

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