



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



2020-3388

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus,  
Ohio

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer

**Involves:** Officer Darren Stephens (W), Columbus Police Department (O),  
Jaclyn Renee Tipton, Esq. (O)

**Date of Activity:** 01/13/2021

**Activity Location:** 5th Precinct Sub-Station – 1371 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, Ohio,  
OH, Franklin County

**Author:** SA Jonathan Dozer, #57

**Narrative:**

On January 13, 2021 at approximately 0220hrs BCI Special Agent (S/A) Jonathan Dozer #57 and James Gore #168 interviewed Columbus Police Officer Darren Stephens #2829 regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) on December 22, 2020 at 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, OH. The interview was recorded by S/A Gore. Also present during the interview was Attorney Jaci Tipton and prior to the interview, Attorney Tipton advised S/As Dozer and Gore that questions regarding the rendering of aid and body cameras were off limits. Any possible video from Officer Stephens' body camera and/or cruiser was not available for him to review prior to the interview.

When asked, Officer Stephens said he has been employed by the Columbus Division of Police since June 24, 2013 and had no law enforcement experience prior to being hired by Columbus. His badge number is 2829.

Officer Stephens stated that he is assigned to patrol on Zone 4, 2 Precinct, C Company (██████████) and was a one-man patrol unit in car #22 on December 22, 2020. Officer Stephens said his normal shift is ██████████ hours with ██████████ off and the address of Precinct 2 is 2770 Parkwood Avenue, Columbus, OH. His immediate supervisor is Sergeant Charles Albers.

When asked, Officer Stephens said he responded to the OICI on Oberlin Drive because he heard radio traffic regarding "shots fired" at the location. He responded from the 2 Precinct Substation where he was completing paperwork. Officer Stephens stated that he initially arrived in the area on Kenny Road just south of Oberlin Drive and started toward the scene on foot. However, after going just a short distance, he could see that numerous officers were already on scene and that crime scene tape was already up. At that time, Officer Stephens decided his best course

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of action was to return to his cruiser and secure the intersection of Kenny Road and Oberlin Drive so that no unauthorized traffic could drive into the scene. Officer Stephens said he recalls allowing other officers and a medic unit to enter onto Oberlin Drive, but did not recall the medic leaving the area past his location. Officer Stephens added that while guarding the intersection, a Columbus Police Lieutenant arrived and directed Officer Stephens to start a "guard log" or crime scene entry-log listing personnel entering the area of the scene. Officer Stephens stated that he provided that log to his replacement when he was relieved from guarding the intersection at approximately 0650 hrs. Officer Stephens could not recall the name of the officer that relieved him.

Officer Stephens stated that he did not observe Mr. Hill because he was never close enough to the scene to see him nor did he have any direct contact with Officer Coy or any other witnesses at the scene. Officer Stephens said he does not recall having any prior contact with Mr. Hill or any other non-law enforcement witnesses and does not recall ever responding to any calls for service at the incident location or on Oberlin Drive.

Officer Stephens said that he knows Officer Coy because in the past Officer Coy has occasionally worked as a plain clothes officer in Zone 4. Officer Stephens had no direct contact with Officer Coy on December 22, 2020, and does not appear to know him well. Officer Stephens stated that he saw Officer Coy on December 22, 2020, when Officer Coy returned to the scene with his Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) representative.

When asked, Officer Stephens said that he could not recall any other information that might be helpful to the investigation. The interview of Officer Stephens was concluded at approximately 0239 hrs.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01:2020-3388 CPD Ofc. Darren Stephens Interview 1-13-2021 - Gore, Dozer