



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



2023-2306

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ave., Alliance, OH 44601, Stark County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Officer Shane Tallman (W)
Activity Date: September 22, 2023
Activity Location: Alliance Police Department, 470 E. Market Street, Alliance, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente #139

Narrative:

On September 22, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Alliance Police Department (APD) Officer Shane Tallman (Officer Tallman). The interview took place in a training room at the APD and was video recorded. The video recording has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item C. Prior to beginning the interview Officer Tallman, in the presence of his attorney, read and signed a criminal investigation notification form indicating he understood this interview was voluntary and not part of or related to any departmental review of the matter. The criminal investigation notification form signed by Officer Tallman was attached to this report.

Officer Tallman was identified as an APD officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the September 3, 2023, officer-involved shooting which occurred at [REDACTED], Alliance, Ohio. Officer Tallman did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Officer Tallman (excluding any potential Garrity derived information).

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all of the questions and answers from the interview. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information obtained during the interview.

Throughout the interview, Officer Tallman provided the following information:

Officer Tallman watched his body-worn camera recording of the incident a single time the day after the incident occurred.

Officer Tallman was not under the influence of any substances that could impair his memory or judgment during the interview with BCI agents or at the time of the officer-involved shooting.

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Officer Tallman could not recall having ever interacted with the subject before or having responded to the location where the officer-involved shooting occurred prior to this incident.

Officer Tallman wore the standard issue APD uniform at the time of the officer-involved shooting and considered himself to have been well represented as a police officer.

Officer Tallman was at the APD eating lunch when he heard information on the public address system in the building regarding a 911 call. The broadcast included "he has a knife to her throat or something along those lines" and that statement caught his attention. Officer Tallman stopped eating his lunch and responded to the call. Officer Tallman heard one of the APD officers request a halogen tool. Officer Tallman acquired the halogen tool and responded to the scene.

When Officer Tallman arrived, he found "several people in the backyard yelling 'You gotta get him, you gotta stop him' or something similar. Officer Tallman arrived after Officer Rose, Officer Caughey, and Sergeant Minnick. Officer Tallman found these officers yelling at the subject through the bedroom door. The subject yelled back at the officers something along the lines of asking them to leave. The group of officers already in the apartment directed Officer Tallman to strike the hard-wooden door. Officer Tallman struggled with using the halogen tool due to the narrow nature of the hallway and lack of space to properly use the tool. Sergeant Minnick then took over using the halogen tool to try and open the door. Officer Tallman then positioned himself behind Officer Rose. Officer Rose had his pistol out so Officer Tallman drew his taser for a less lethal option. Officer Tallman was then at the back of the group of officers looking at the door.

Moments later, the officers were able to force the door open. Officer Tallman explained when the door opened, he attempted to reach over Officer Rose to tase the subject. At that moment Officer Tallman saw "this long knife, he had this long knife, and, and she had her hands, I think she had her hands on, uh, on his arm that had the knife going up to her throat. And, whew, I'm sorry if this starts to bother me a little bit. So, I'm thinking about, I'm thinking about trying to get the Taser darts, this all goes through my head really fast. Because I know it's a red zone, uh, uh, meaning serious harm or death. Meaning, I try to get it up towards his head because he has her almost like you would see in the TV type hostage situation and without hitting her and that's when I heard the two shots fired. Um, he dropped. She went to the ground. I yelled at uh, uh, Officer Rose 'get her out of here, get out of here.'"

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Officer Tallman recounted he then ran into the bedroom and kicked the knife away from the subject. Officer Tallman approached the subject to render first aid and based on the subject's physical condition Officer Tallman determined he would not be able to render any aid to the subject. Officer Tallman exited the bedroom, threw up in the bathroom, and exited the apartment.

When asked where the knife was when he first noticed it, Officer Tallman stated it was near the female's throat. As shown below, Officer Tallman then demonstrated how large he recalled the blade of the knife to be.



Officer Tallman demonstrating the size of the knife blade held by the subject - 11:22 mark of interview video recording (face blurred).

Officer Tallman remembered officers giving the subject commands, and believed those commands were "drop it" or "drop the knife" but did not recall specifically the wording of orders given to the subject.

When asked how much time transpired between the door opening and the shots being fired, Officer Tallman stated it was "seconds." Officer Tallman was able to observe blood on the female's shirt in that short time before the shots were fired.

When asked if he feared for his safety, Officer Tallman stated he had a heightened concern for the safety of all of the officers and the female victim during the incident.

Officer Tallman told agents his statements made to them during the interview were based on his recollection of the event rather than his single review of his body-worn camera recording the

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morning after the incident occurred. Officer Tallman stated in the moment the events described above unfolded, he felt like the officers stood outside the door for a period of time before entering the bedroom, but upon review of his body-worn camera recording felt their entry into the room was instantaneous.

When asked why the officers did not leave the apartment after the subject made statements to them through the door to leave, Officer Tallman stated the witnesses reported the subject had a knife to the subject and they did not know her condition.

Attachments:

1. 2023-09-22 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification – Shane Tallman

Reference Items:

- C – Video Recorded Interview of Officer Shane Tallman.

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Re SHANE TULLMAN #303
Printed Name of Interviewee

9/22/23 1035 hrs
Date / Time

[Signature] 303
Signature of Interviewee

[Signature] #64
BCI Agent (Printed)

Cory Mornchilev
BCI Agent (Signature)