



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Dr.,  
Columbus, OH 43228 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Officer Rodney Mayberry (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 08/26/2024  
**Activity Location:** Columbus Police Department – Business – 120 Marconi Blvd.,  
Columbus, OH 43215  
**Author:** SA Craig Call

**Narrative:**

On August 1, 2024, the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving several CPD officers and Benjamin Wheeler (Wheeler). The incident occurred at 818 Cherryberry Drive. It was reported to BCI that Wheeler stabbed three CPD SWAT officers and was ultimately shot by a SWAT team member during the incident resulting in this death.

On August 26, 2024, BCI Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole), Aja Chung (SA Chung), Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass), and Craig Call (SA Call) spoke with the members of CPD SWAT directly involved or witness to the shooting incident. The interviews took place at a CPD facility and the officers were accompanied by legal counsel during throughout the process.

CPD Officer Rodney Mayberry (Officer Mayberry), accompanied by Attorney Lathan Lipperman, was identified as one of the officers present during the shooting and was interviewed by SA Call and SA Douglass.

The interview was audio recorded and began at approximately 1101 hours.

Officer Mayberry is badge number 2130 and has approximately 27.5 years of service with CPD. Officer Mayberry is currently assigned to CPD SWAT (Green Team). Officer Mayberry's is scheduled 0700–1500 hours with Saturday and Sunday scheduled off.

Officer Mayberry indicated the original call for service was some kind of domestic dispute which ultimately resulted in Columbus SWAT responding. Officer Mayberry could not recall the specifics of the original dispatch other than it initially started as a CPD patrol call for service that escalated into a barricade situation.

Officer Mayberry said [REDACTED] was assigned as the entry team. Officer Mayberry

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indicated the front door of the residence was breached with the ram on the BearCat (armored vehicle) in order for the entry team to see inside. Officer Mayberry described himself and several other officers approaching the front to assess the situation. Officer Mayberry indicated [REDACTED] yelled "Gun" as he was in front of the door and he observed [REDACTED] with blood coming out of his arm. Officer Mayberry did not know at the time what caused [REDACTED] injury due to hearing issues. Officer Mayberry said [REDACTED] was initially treated by their Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) personnel and transported to the hospital by squad afterwards. Officer Mayberry did not know the extent of [REDACTED] injuries at the time, however later learned he received over 20 stitches. Officer Mayberry said the entry team retreated from the doorway to BearCat at this time to regroup.

Officer Mayberry indicated a plan was formed to use the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) drone unit to see inside the house while using diversionary and chemical gas munitions to keep Wheeler confined to a certain area of the house. Prior to making entry, Officer Mayberry indicated the consensus was they believed Wheeler to be in the kitchen area.

Officer Mayberry recalled the following officers, in addition to himself, to be involved with the second entry attempt:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Officer Mayberry said the officers were all wearing gas masks during the entry making verbal communication nearly impossible.

Officer Mayberry described [REDACTED] leading the entry team with a "bunker" (also known as a ballistic shield) through the first room to the threshold of the kitchen. Officer Mayberry described the conditions of the first room as being congested with DVDs all over the floor, making it difficult to maintain steady footing. Officer Mayberry described Wheeler as grabbing [REDACTED] bunker and a struggle ensued in which [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fell to the ground. Officer Mayberry described [REDACTED] deploying a flash bang device during this time. Officer Mayberry described [REDACTED] reaching over top of the above officers in an attempt to taser Wheeler, however Wheeler lunged at [REDACTED] with a butcher knife in one hand and the other hand attempting to grab the taser. It was during this moment that Officer Mayberry reported [REDACTED] reached past him and shot Wheeler multiple times with his pistol. Officer Mayberry believed [REDACTED] fired approximately five (5) shots.

Officer Mayberry said he and other officers chased after Wheeler through the kitchen area to the top of the downstairs area leading to the basement. Officer Mayberry said they used "tacview" (a camera device at the end of a long pole with a remote viewing console) to observe the basement area. Officer Mayberry said Wheeler was observed unresponsive leading himself and other officers to proceed into the basement. Officer Mayberry said he handcuffed

Wheeler initially. Officer Mayberry reported Wheeler to be completely unresponsive and surrounded by a large amount of blood. Officer Mayberry believed Wheeler to be deceased at this time. Officer Mayberry said he could not observe the specific gunshot wound locations on Wheeler due to the volume of blood covering his body.

Officer Mayberry estimated the second entry attempt to be several hours after the initial attempt. Officer Mayberry described it being daylight during the initial attempt and dark during the second attempt.

Officer Mayberry indicated he did not learn about [REDACTED] additional knife wounds until after the incident concluded. Officer Mayberry once again cited the visibility and audible issues the gas masks caused along with other environmental factors.

Officer Mayberry indicated his belief at the time of the shooting was [REDACTED] was the only officer to fire their weapon.

Officer Mayberry said he has had a chance to review the video footage available associated with the above incident and it did not materially change his recollection.

The interview concluded at approximately 1117 hours.

**References:**

No references.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-08-06 CPD Officer Rodney Mayberry Interview