



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 197 West 8th Ave., Columbus,
Ohio 43201 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED]
Date of Activity: 09/11/2024
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On September 11, 2024 at approximately 1359 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and Aja Chung (SA Chung) interviewed Ohio State University Police Department (OSUPD) [REDACTED] regarding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on August 11, 2024, at 197 West 8th Avenue in Columbus, OH. BCI was requested for assistance by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and the Ohio State University Police Department (OSUPD) after officers responded to a forced entry/break-in involving an individual identified as Asante Taaj Omar Miller (Miller). During the encounter, Miller was allegedly in possession of and discharged a firearm at responding CPD/OSUPD officers, and several responding law enforcement personnel reportedly returned fire. Miller was later located in a bedroom closet and found to be deceased with a potentially self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. No responding law enforcement officers were injured during this incident.

The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by [REDACTED]. Also present for the interview was [REDACTED] Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) designated legal counsel, Kate Harshman.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to beginning the interview, SA Douglass provided [REDACTED] with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" (CIN) form. SA Douglass advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that CPD may be conducting. [REDACTED] was advised her statement was voluntary and that she could stop answering questions at any time. [REDACTED] verbally confirmed she understood the contents of the form and signed the document, acknowledging her understanding of the nature of the interview. A copy of the signed (CIN) is attached to this report.

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FOP legal counsel Kate Harshman provided SA Douglass with a written statement from [REDACTED] regarding her involvement in the OICI. SA Douglass provided [REDACTED] with a printed map of the location of the OICI scene to reference throughout the interview. [REDACTED] was asked to read aloud her written statement, and then signed her statement provided to BCI, and verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of her recollection the OICI incident. Please refer to [REDACTED] statement for further details. A digital copy of the signed written statement was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

[REDACTED] wrote in her statement, "At approximately 8:15am, an OSUPD officer aired a report of a 6-foot tall black male running with a 33 (the 10-code for a gun) in our area and Lieutenant Alan Horujko told all units to respond to set up perimeter on Neil Avenue. When I arrived in the area of 8th Avenue and Neil, I heard gun shots south of my location. I drove south down the alley towards where I heard the gunfire. I initially parked near that area and waited for more information outside my cruiser with my gun a low ready. I approached OSUPD Officer David Ferimer, who was on foot at the location. Eventually, we were told that the suspect was wearing dark clothing and was on the run not pinned down like we previously thought. I got back in my cruiser and drove closer to the reported location. I parked in an alley south of West 8th Avenue pointed in the direction of Worthington Street (east). After I got out of my cruiser, I saw the suspect running east in the alley just south of W. 8th Avenue and across Worthington Street. I ran across Worthington (east) to where OSU Cruiser 34 (Officer Ferimer) was parked on the northeast corner of the Worthington and the alley. I notified Officer Ferimer that I had seen the suspect. I first took cover on the passenger side of Cruiser 34 and then at the brick wall at the side of what I now know to be 1476 Worthington St."

[REDACTED] continued, "I proceeded to the parking lot to the east of that building. Officer Ferimer and I were joined by several CPD officers. We moved forward as a group, attempting to clear the parking lot in all the directions. We eventually approached several homes that faced north onto what I now know was West 8th avenue. I and other officers tried to clear the yards/driveways behind these homes. A CPD Officer, who I know now was [REDACTED] yelled that there was a 7-A at one of the residences, the 10-code for broken entry. I moved in that direction. I now know that the entry occurred on a side entrance of 197 W. 8th Avenue. The door next to the door upon which we made entry had a 234 address. The doors (the one labeled 234 and the open door) were located on a raised concrete patio with stairs that were open in the direction of West 8th Avenue. I stood off the porch covering the doors and windows while three (3) Columbus Police officers, who I now know were [REDACTED] and Officer Deeann Trionfante, were positioned at the door and [REDACTED] was announcing the presence of "Columbus Police". I did not know any of these officers prior to this event. As they entered, I ran towards the concrete stairs. Officer Trionfante asked for "one more" to come in, so I followed her into the apartment. Upon entering the apartment, it appeared to be vacant. There was a small room at the entry, which opened to the right and then directly in front of us through a doorway that appeared to have the door removed. [REDACTED] and Trionfante went right upon entry. I moved forward with [REDACTED] who upon reaching the opening straight in front of the outside door went left as I covered the kitchen area to the right. From my vantage point in the doorway that was directly in front of us upon entry, I could see through the kitchen to another room beyond. I heard [REDACTED] yell that she was coming out "clear" as she left one room to my left and entered another."

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██████████ reported in her statement her involvement in the shooting incident, "I then heard 2-3 gunshots and pulled back into the small entry room for cover. I believed that it was the suspect firing at us. At the time, I believed ██████████ had been struck and fallen back into the room on my left for cover. I yelled something like "he's in there" to indicate the location of the shooter. The shots echoed so much that I knew it would be hard for the other officers to know from where it was coming. I looked around the left side of the doorway that was straight in front of us upon entry. I could see a room with a door open directly to my left and a door straight ahead with a white door that swung into the room beyond. I saw a tall, light-skinned black male with a gun held up and pointed in my direction. The suspect fired a round in my direction. I fired my weapon at his center mass. I would estimate that I fired 5-6 rounds. I knew at some point that ██████████ was on my right side and was also firing. I believe the suspect was also firing at us at this time. The door swung closed and I stopped firing. At some point, though I do not remember exactly when in the order of events, I saw the suspect with his gun to his head. ██████████ was yelling at ██████████ to get back to us. He kicked the door that led to the room with the suspect and came back to cover near me in the entry way. He helped ██████████ move back and pushed her towards me in the entryway and she made her way outside."

██████████ also wrote regarding the incident, "██████████, Officer Trionfonte, and I retreated slightly into the entry room. Officer Trionfonte told us that anyone who had fired should tactically reload, which I did. ██████████ was standing closest to the doorway with his weapon pointed in the direction of the room where the suspect was last seen. Officer Trionfonte was just behind him. I was standing with my weapon at down ready closer to the outside door. I believe that ██████████ was out on the porch of the dwelling at this time. ██████████ and I began calling the suspect out of the room. ██████████ stated that he was going to kick the door to the room. At that point, I believe I heard the suspect reload his weapon. Upon review of the video, it also sounded like the suspect shot at us, but I don't remember that at that time. We backed out of the apartment at Officer Trionfonte's urging and I moved to cover at a residence east. I explained to a CPD officer with a rifle where the suspect was. My Lieutenant, Alan Horujko, was there, as were several other OSU and CPD officers. I relayed to Lt. Horujko that I had shot at the suspect. I remained station at this location for approximately a half of an hour. I was then relieved and went to Substation 4 to await my FOP representation. I had no further involvement with incident."

██████████ wrote in her statement about firing her weapon, "I am also unable to tell from the video of the incident how many times that I fired, but I would estimate 5 to 6 times. When I fired, I fired from a standing position. I fired one-handed by my right dominate hand. I did not use my sites. I fired from the cover of the large plaster wall that separated my body from the suspect. I fired at the suspect's center of mass. My backdrop was the closet that I believe the suspect was initially hiding in and window behind the suspect. I did not see any civilians or officers in my backdrop. At the time I fired, I knew that the suspect had been running with a gun and that dozens of officers had been chasing him on foot throughout the neighborhood. At the time, I believed that he had previously exchanged gun fire with police officers at another location. I knew he had broken into an apartment. He had fired upon ██████████ and myself. I believed for a time that ██████████ had been shot until she was pulled back to safety. I saw the suspect with a gun raised at me and the suspect had fired a round in my direction when I fired. He had repeatedly been told to come out, to show his hands, but had refused all orders

from police. He gave no indication that he intended to leave peacefully. I was unable to deploy a taser because the suspect was actively shooting at us and I didn't have the time or distance necessary to successfully deploy less than lethal force. At the time I fired, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my own life, the lives of the other officers around me, and the public from death or imminent bodily harm."

BCI agents asked [REDACTED] several follow-up questions and had her explain where and when she fired her weapon based on a scene sketch of the interior structure where the shooting incident occurred.

[REDACTED] believed she was approximately fifteen (15) feet away from Miller when she initially saw him on the street. [REDACTED] observed Miller to be wearing a backpack and had an object in his hand, but at the time was unable to tell if the object in Miller's hand was a firearm. [REDACTED] reported several law enforcement officers gave Miller verbal commands to "stop" and "drop the gun".

[REDACTED] stated she and other responding officers who pursued Miller to 197 West 8th Avenue announced and identified themselves as police before they entered the structure. [REDACTED] explained she was facing the kitchen when she first heard gunshots, and believed the initial gunshots she heard were fired by Miller. [REDACTED] turned and took cover behind a wall, then saw Miller inside a bedroom holding a gun. [REDACTED] confirmed she observed Miller point his gun at her and fired at least one round at her, possibly more than one round. [REDACTED] explained she had seen Miller point the gun at his own head after the exchange of gunfire had occurred.

[REDACTED] recalled hearing Miller manipulating his gun and CPD [REDACTED] say, "It sounds like he's reloading." [REDACTED] confirmed then hearing a single gunshot, which she believed to be fired by Miller, before she and other CPD officers retreat out of the building.

[REDACTED] answers to follow-up questions from BCI appeared to be consistent with her written statement.

Interview concluded at approximately 1419 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Audio Interview – OSUPD [REDACTED] 09.11.2024
- Attachment # 02: CIN – [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 03: Signed Statement – [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 04: Google Maps – W 8th Ave
- Attachment # 05: Scene Diagram – 197 W 8th Ave

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DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of Interviewee

9/11/24 2:02p
Date / Time

[Redacted]

Signature of Interviewee

Hyle Douglass

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

[Signature]

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED], BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Sunday, August 11, 2024, between 8:15am and 8:30 am.

I was hired by the Ohio State University Police Division (OSUPD) in [REDACTED]. I do not have any previous law enforcement experience. I do not have any prior/current military service. My regular assignment at OSUPD is [REDACTED]. I have been in that assignment for approximately six (6) years. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] with [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] On Sunday, August, 11, 2024, I was on my regular assignment. I was dressed in the Division-issued bike patrol uniform, which identified me as a police officer. I was armed with a Division-issued Glock 17 9mm with standard Division-issued ammunition that identifies me as a police officer. My weapon has a TLR1-HL light made by Streamlight. I am current in my range qualifications with my sidearm and the light. I was not carrying any backup weapons. I was driving OSU Cruiser [REDACTED] during my shift. I had no partner.

I am right-hand dominant. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I was not taking any medication that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I did not consume any drugs or alcohol for the twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to the incident. I had not worked special duty for the twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to the incident. I had plenty of sleep prior to my shift. I was not under any unusual stress. I do not wear a hearing aid, nor do I have any problems with my hearing. I do not wear glasses, nor do I have any problems with my sight.

At approximately 8:15am, an OSUPD officer aired a report of a 6-foot tall black male running with a 33 (the 10-code for a gun) in our area and Lieutenant Alan Horujko told all units to respond to set up perimeter on Neil Avenue. When I arrived in the area of 8th Avenue and Neil, I

heard gun shots south of my location. I drove south down the alley towards where I heard the gunfire. I initially parked near that area and waited for more information outside my cruiser with my gun a low ready. I approached OSUPD Officer David Ferimer, who was on foot at the location.

Eventually, we were told that the suspect was wearing dark clothing and was on the run-not pinned down like we previously thought. I got back in my cruiser and drove closer to the reported location. I parked in an alley south of West 8th Avenue pointed in the direction of Worthington Street (east). After I got out of my cruiser, I saw the suspect running east in the alley just south of W. 8th Avenue and across Worthington Street. I ran across Worthington (east) to where OSU Cruiser 34 (Officer Ferimer) was parked on the northeast corner of the Worthington and the alley. I notified Officer Ferimer that I had seen the suspect. I first took cover on the passenger side of Cruiser 34 and then at the brick wall at the side of what I now know to be 1476 Worthington St.

I proceeded to the parking lot to the east of that building. Officer Ferimer and I were joined by several CPD officers. We moved forward as a group, attempting to clear the parking lot in all the directions. We eventually approached several homes that faced north onto what I now know was West 8th avenue. I and other officers tried to clear the yards/driveways behind these homes. A CPD Officer, who I know now was [REDACTED] yelled that there was a 7-A at one of the residences, the 10-code for broken entry. I moved in that direction. I now know that the entry occurred on a side entrance of 197 W. 8th Avenue. The door next to the door upon which we made entry had a 234 address. The doors (the one labeled 234 and the open door) were located on a raised concrete patio with stairs that were open in the direction of West 8th Avenue.

I stood off the porch covering the doors and windows while three (3) Columbus Police officers, who I now know were [REDACTED] and Officer Deeann

Trionfante, were positioned at the door and [REDACTED] was announcing the presence of "Columbus Police". I did not know any of these officers prior to this event. As they entered, I ran towards the concrete stairs. Officer Trionfante asked for "one more" to come in, so I followed her into the apartment. Upon entering the apartment, it appeared to be vacant. There was a small room at the entry, which opened to the right and then directly in front of us through a doorway that appeared to have the door removed. [REDACTED] and Trionfante went right upon entry. I moved forward with [REDACTED] who upon reaching the opening straight in front of the outside door went left as I covered the kitchen area to the right. From my vantage point in the doorway that was directly in front of us upon entry, I could see through the kitchen to another room beyond. I heard [REDACTED] yell that she was coming out "clear" as she left one room to my left and entered another.

I then heard 2-3 gunshots and pulled back into the small entry room for cover. I believed that it was the suspect firing at us. At the time, I believed [REDACTED] had been struck and fallen back into the room on my left for cover. I yelled something like "he's in there" to indicate the location of the shooter. The shots echoed so much that I knew it would be hard for the other officers to know from where it was coming. I looked around the left side of the doorway that was straight in front of us upon entry. I could see a room with a door open directly to my left and a door straight ahead with a white door that swung into the room beyond. I saw a tall, light-skinned black male with a gun held up and pointed in my direction. The suspect fired a round in my direction. I fired my weapon at his center mass. I would estimate that I fired 5-6 rounds. I knew at some point that [REDACTED] was on my right side and was also firing. I believe the suspect was also firing at us at this time. The door swung closed and I stopped firing. At some point, though I do not remember exactly when in the order of events, I saw the suspect with his gun to his head.

██████████ was yelling at ██████████ to get back to us. He kicked the door that led to the room with the suspect and came back to cover near me in the entry way. He helped ██████████ move back and pushed her towards me in the entryway and she made her way outside.

██████████ Officer Trionfonte, and I retreated slightly into the entry room. Officer Trionfonte told us that anyone who had fired should tactically reload, which I did. ██████████ was standing closest to the doorway with his weapon pointed in the direction of the room where the suspect was last seen. Officer Trionfonte was just behind him. I was standing with my weapon at down ready closer to the outside door. I believe that ██████████ was out on the porch of the dwelling at this time. ██████████ and I began calling the suspect out of the room. ██████████ stated that he was going to kick the door to the room. At that point, I believe I heard the suspect reload his weapon. Upon review of the video, it also sounded like the suspect shot at us, but I don't remember that at that time. We backed out of the apartment at Officer Trionfonte's urging and I moved to cover at a residence east. I explained to a CPD officer with a rifle where the suspect was. My Lieutenant, Alan Horujko, was there, as were several other OSU and CPD officers. I relayed to Lt. Horujko that I had shot at the suspect. I remained station at this location for approximately a half of an hour. I was then relieved and went to Substation 4 to await my FOP representation. I had no further involvement with incident.

I tactically reloaded at the scene and did not fire from the magazine in my weapon that was release to BCI at Substation 4. The magazine from which I fired was left on scene and I was not able to witness the round count from that magazine. I am also unable to tell from the video of the incident how many times that I fired, but I would estimate 5 to 6 times. When I fired, I fired from a standing position. I fired one-handed by my right dominate hand. I did not use my sites. I fired from the cover of the large plaster wall that separated my body from the suspect. I fired at the

suspect's center of mass. My backdrop was the closet that I believe the suspect was initially hiding in and window behind the suspect. I did not see any civilians or officers in my backdrop.

At the time I fired, I knew that the suspect had been running with a gun and that dozens of officers had been chasing him on foot throughout the neighborhood. At the time, I believed that he had previously exchanged gun fire with police officers at another location. I knew he had broken into an apartment. He had fired upon [REDACTED] and myself. I believed for a time that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had been shot until she was pulled back to safety. I saw the suspect with a gun raised at me and the suspect had fired a round in my direction when I fired. He had repeatedly been told to come out, to show his hands, but had refused all orders from police. He gave no indication that he intended to leave peacefully. I was unable to deploy a taser because the suspect was actively shooting at us and I didn't have the time or distance necessary to successfully deploy less than lethal force.

At the time I fired, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my own life, the lives of the other officers around me, and the public from death or imminent bodily harm.

I now know the suspect's name was Asante Miller. I do not remember having any prior interactions with the suspect either personal or professional.

Upon review of the video of the incident, I can see that I shot with my right hand and not both hands, as I previously believed. I also took cover in the entry room before shooting and I previously believed that I had shot at the suspect prior to taking cover. My directions of movement, streets, and addresses prior to the shooting were not known to me at the time and are the result of review the video and the use of google maps. Otherwise, the video did not materially alter my recollection of events.

This statement consists of six (6) pages.





