



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



2024-3996
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 780 Taylor Road,
 Gahanna, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness Officer
Involves: ██████████ Gahanna Police Department
Activity Date: 01/17/2025
Activity Location: Gahanna Police Department – 460 Rocky Fork Blvd,
 Gahanna OH 43230
Authoring Agent: SA Kyle Douglass

Narrative:

On Friday, January 17, 2025, at 1224 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and SA James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Gahanna Police Department (Gahanna PD) ██████████ who was accompanied by his attorney, Kate Harshman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Gahanna Police station. The interview was audio recorded.

██████████ was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the December 19, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 780 Taylor Road in Gahanna, Ohio. Reportedly, ██████████ 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 this officer.

██████████ stated his badge number/radio call sign on December 19, 2024, was ██████████. ██████████ has been employed by Gahanna PD since ██████████ and has no prior law enforcement experience. ██████████ current assignment is ██████████ patrol, and will be switching to ██████████ in one week. ██████████ is currently in a ██████████ phase. ██████████ explained he was working ██████████ on the date of the incident. ██████████ was wearing his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He was also wearing a ballistic vest and duty belt. ██████████ was working with Gahanna PD ██████████ and assigned to a Gahanna PD cruiser together, which was marked with Gahanna PD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. ██████████ was carrying his department issued Glock 17 9mm handgun, as well as a taser and OC spray.

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On December 19, 2024, [REDACTED] was dispatched to respond to a call for service at SpringHill Suites for an alleged fraudulent use of a credit card and/or stolen identity. Also responding were Gahanna PD Officers Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh (Sgt. Millenbaugh) [REDACTED]. Gahanna PD officers met with the hotel manager, who explained a hotel guest had used another person's credit card to pay for the room. Gahanna PD officers knocked on the hotel room door and attempted to make contact with the occupant. Sgt. Millenbaugh knocked several times and received no response. The hotel manager provided a key to unlock the room, and the door only opened several inches due to the security latch being utilized. A male occupant inside responded but did not come to the door. [REDACTED] heard "a lot of shuffling" and believed the occupant may have escaped via the hotel room window. [REDACTED] immediately ran to an exit door on the eastern side of the hotel to pursue the subject. The hotel room occupant was later identified as Alex Russell (Russell).

[REDACTED] located and identified the hotel room occupant, Russell, outside of the hotel in an adjacent parking lot. [REDACTED] identified himself as a police officer and gave verbal commands to Russell to stop, but he "kept running," away from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reported Russell was holding a gun in his hand. [REDACTED] announced on the radio "code 40" (person with gun) and "code 44" (officer in trouble). [REDACTED] explained Russell did not comply and continued to walk away from him, periodically looking around. [REDACTED] stated Russell did not point the gun at him while he followed Russell through the parking lots.

[REDACTED] and other Gahanna PD officers pursued Russell to the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road. [REDACTED] observed Russell stopped and pointed his gun at himself. [REDACTED] attempted to de-escalate Russell and made numerous attempts to convince him to put his gun down. [REDACTED] believed Russell stated, "It's over," as [REDACTED] continued to try to reason with Russell.

[REDACTED] believed [REDACTED] deployed a less lethal shotgun round at Russell. [REDACTED] then heard "another shot" and Russell fell to the ground. [REDACTED] was moving behind [REDACTED] when he believed Russell raised his gun towards Gahanna PD officers. [REDACTED] recalled hearing other Gahanna PD officers fire their weapons at Russell. [REDACTED] described having "tunnel vision" during the shooting incident. After Russell appeared to no longer be a threat, [REDACTED] participated in rendering first aid to Russell. [REDACTED] assisted with the administration of the AED device. [REDACTED] explained that medics eventually took over medical aid to Russell. [REDACTED] checked on the residents of a nearby house

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whose window had been struck by a projectile, and confirmed nobody inside was injured.

██████████ estimated maybe five minutes had passed between him first encountering Russell outside of the hotel and the shooting incident at 780 Taylor Road. ██████████ discussed Russell manipulating his gun, stating, "It looked like he was trying to rack....it looked like he was racking it." ██████████ confirmed Russell had pointed his gun at himself and made statements which could have been interpreted as suicidal.

██████████ reported he had viewed his body-worn camera (BWC) video footage from the incident. ██████████ observed Russell pointing his gun at Gahanna PD officers in the video footage, but did not recall seeing Russell point his gun at them during the incident as it happened. ██████████ indicated his visual attention was elsewhere at the time gunfire occurred, as he was trying to move and find a better position.

██████████ did not fire his weapon during this incident. ██████████ confirmed he had unholstered his duty weapon but never fired it.

██████████ was provided with printed overhead maps of the incident area, which he used during the interview to explain his location and path of travel during the incident.

The interview concluded at approximately 1248 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

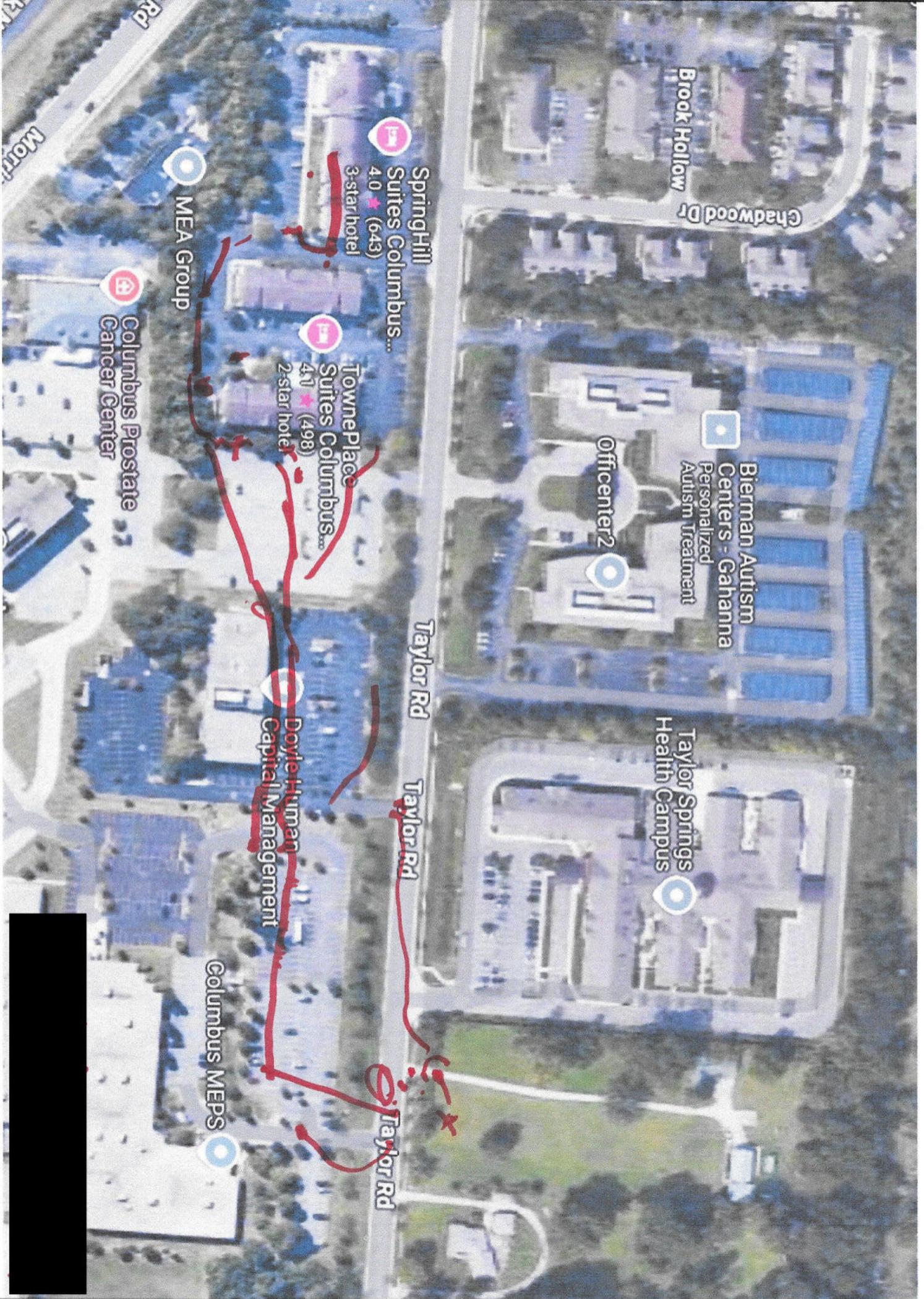
References:

No references

Attachments:

1. 2025-01-17 ██████████ Interview Audio
2. ██████████ - Signed Map

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Brook Hollow
Chadwood Dr

Bierman Autism
Centers - Gahanna
Personalized
Autism Treatment

Offcenter 2

Taylor Springs
Health Campus

Taylor Rd

Taylor Rd

Taylor Rd

SpringHill
Suites Columbus...
4.0 ★ (643)
3-star hotel

TownePlace
Suites Columbus...
4.1 ★ (498)
2-star hotel

Doyle Human
Capital Management

Columbus MEPS

MEA Group

Columbus Prostate
Cancer Center

Morris Rd

