



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



2022-0535

Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-71 N. Mile Marker 123, Lewis Center, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Aaron Getzinger (S)
Date of Activity: 04/04/2022
Activity Location: Attorney's Office – 3360 Tremont Rd., Columbus, OH 43221, Franklin County
Author: SA Todd Fortner, #93

Narrative:

On April 4, 2022, at approximately 1300 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Todd Fortner (SA Fortner) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer Aaron Getzinger (Officer Getzinger) in response to an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred March 11, 2022, between Jonathon Myers (Myers) and law enforcement. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual. Also present for the interview was Officer Getzinger's FOP union attorney, Jaclyn Tipton.

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 Fortner provided Officer Getzinger with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" form. SA Fortner advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that CPD may be conducting. Officer Getzinger was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Officer Getzinger verbally confirmed he understood the contents of the form and signed the document further acknowledging his understanding. A copy of the signed Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) is attached to this report.

Attorney Jaclyn Tipton had previously provided SA Fortner with a written statement from Officer Getzinger regarding the OICI. Agent Fortner reviewed the statement upon receipt. Furthermore, SA Fortner provided a printed scene sketch of the OICI scene to reference throughout the interview. Officer Getzinger signed his statement provided to BCI, and he verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI incident. Please refer to Officer Getzinger's statement for further details. A copy of the signed written statement and the sketch was saved

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within the case file and is attached to this report.

SA Fortner asked Officer Getzinger a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he was at when shots were fired based on the printed scene sketch. Officer Getzinger's answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Officer Getzinger advised he was working patrol on March 11, 2022, in uniform, and was the passenger in a marked cruiser. He said a run was dispatched to I-71 in the area of Gemini Place on a subject shooting at vehicles. He said they received a description of the subject as a male black with dreds. He said at least two cruisers were responding ahead of him. Upon arrival, he noticed a car in the median with a male and female black standing near it. Officer Getzinger retrieved his patrol rifle and exited the cruiser. He began giving commands but the subjects were not complying. He advised they were using another cruiser for cover as the male subject began moving northbound on foot. He said another officer took control of the female subject.

Officer Getzinger said the male subject was walking away from them and did not comply with commands. He said the subject had his hand near his midsection as he sped up northbound. Officers Getzinger said he saw the subject turn with a gun in his hand, take a shooting stance, then fire multiple shots toward officers. He said he heard officers return fire. Officer Getzinger said he took up a position to the left side of the road and saw the subject still running with the gun in his hand. He said he took a kneeling stance and saw the subject turn toward officers again. Officer Getzinger said he fired one shot at the subject who then fell to the ground. Officer Getzinger said he provided cover as other officers approached and secured the subject.

The interview concluded at 1324 hours.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Officer Getzinger CIN
- Attachment # 02: Getzinger Statement
- Attachment # 03: Officer Aaron Getzinger Interview
- Attachment # 04: Officer Getzinger Diagram



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).

AARON GETZINGER
Printed Name of Interviewee

4/4/22 1:00P
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

Jacyn Tipton - FOP Atty
[Signature]

SA A Todd Foster
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF AARON GETZINGER NO. 2694

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Friday, March 11, 2022, between approximately 9:56 a.m. - 10:10 a.m., on interstate 71 North, approximately one-half mile north of Powell Road, in Delaware County, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD or the Division) in June 2011. I obtained my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification in December 2011. I do not have any other law enforcement experience before joining CPD. I do not have any military experience. I have never had a use of force that has been determined to be outside of policy.

My regular assignment is Z1D7. My regular duty hours are 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. My regular days off are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. At the time of this incident, I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform which consists of dark blue pants and a white shirt with dark blue police jacket over it that had police patches on both shoulders and "Columbus Police" across the back. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted below my sternum to the right side of my jacket. My BWC was activated during this incident. I was also wearing an internal ballistic vest. I was carrying my Division approved DDM4 V7 Rifle, loaded with division-issued Hornady T.A.P. rounds. I was also carrying my Division-issued Smith and Wesson 2.0 9mm pistol loaded with Division-issued ammunition. I carry that weapon with a full magazine (17 rounds) plus an additional round in the chamber. I am current on my qualifications with both weapons.

I do not wear eyeglasses or contacts and my vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I had not taken any medication, over the counter or prescription, that would impair my abilities as a police officer. I did not consume any alcohol in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to this incident. I did not work any special duty in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to this incident and I arrived at the start of my shift well rested.

On March 11, 2022, I was assigned to Cruiser 9171. My unit number was 9182. I was acting as field training officer for CPD Officer Hunter Rennie. Officer Rennie was driving; I was in the passenger seat. Shortly before 10:00 a.m. we were in a church parking lot on Karl Road, South of SR 161 when dispatch aired a report of a male black with dreads firing a gun on Interstate 71 near Gemini Road. Officer Rennie turned on the cruiser's lights and sirens and started driving toward Interstate 71.

Officer Rennie drove north on Karl Road, west on SR 161 and then north on Interstate 71. Cruisers 180 and R181 were in front of us. While Officer Rennie was driving, I retrieved my rifle from the front seat compartment, between the driver and front passenger seat of the cruiser. As Officer Rennie drove north on Interstate 71, dispatch continued to give updated information as to the suspect and his location. As multiple cruisers were in front of us, I discussed the potentiality of needing to stop northbound traffic with Officer Rennie. However, approximately one half mile, or slightly more, north of Powell Road, I saw multiple stopped cruisers, a gray four door sedan in the median, facing north near the cable/metal fence and a man matching the description of the suspect.

The sedan was parked and had visible body damage. I did not know if the damage was recent or had occurred prior to this incident. I instructed Officer Rennie to park to the right (east)

of one of the other cruisers on scene. We were behind (south) of cruiser R181. Once the cruiser was parked, I opened my door, raised my rifle, and stood in my door jam for cover. I aimed my rifle at the suspect and yelled commands to the effect of "Get on the ground!" and "Show me your hands". The suspect did not follow commands and continued to stand/walk in the median.

There was a black female standing in the median near the suspect. I could see that she was talking, and based on her body language it appeared that she was arguing with the suspect, but I was unable to hear what she was saying due to the noise on the interstate. The suspect began walking northbound. I walked north toward the driver's side of cruiser R181. Officer Valiski was standing in the door jam of the driver's door. I began yelling commands for the female to come back to us. Initially, the female did not move. I noticed that Officer Carter was behind me and told him to secure the female.

Cruiser R181 began to drive northbound to follow the suspect, who continued to walk northbound. I walked approximately 25-35 feet north to catch up to the cruiser. I used the open driver's side door for cover. Officer Valiski was driving the cruiser. I believe Officer Rippey was in the passenger seat. I was aware that other officers, including Officer Rennie, were behind (south of) me. I continued to walk alongside the cruiser for about 10-20 feet, at which time the suspect began running faster and Officer Valiski began driving faster to catch up. At that point, I could no longer keep pace with Cruiser R181.

I saw the suspect turn around to face officers and saw the muzzle flash as the suspect fired a small, black, handgun toward cruiser R181. I heard return fire from the cruiser. I immediately ran north, toward the suspect. I simultaneously began to move to my left (west) so that backdrop would be clear of both southbound traffic and all other officers. I saw the suspect running with the gun in his hand northeast across the northbound lanes Interstate 71. I saw the

suspect turn to face back towards officers. I believed he was going to fire his weapon at Cruiser R181, or the nearby officers, again. I dropped to my left knee and placed my rifle on my left shoulder. I used my optic sight and fired one round at the suspect.

I immediately saw the suspect fall near the berm on the right (east) side of the interstate. I saw Officer Valiski, Officer Rippey, Officer Rennie, and other officers approaching the suspect. I kept my rifle raised as I approached behind them. I heard someone air for a medic. I saw Officer Rippey and other Officers rendering aid. It appeared that the suspect was hit in the upper thigh/hip area. After some discussion, it was decided that the wound was too high to apply a tourniquet. I asked other officers where the suspect's gun was. I then saw the suspect's gun 5-7 feet north of where the suspect was laying. Lt. Kuykendoll radioed inquiring as to whether or not officers had fired. I replied confirming that I had. I looked at the suspect's torso for any additional wounds; I did not see any. I asked the suspect his name, but he did not reply.

Sgt. Ferencz arrived as the supervisor on scene. I informed him that I had fired my rifle. I then left the scene and with Columbus Police Officer Support Team Member Haller and Officer Rennie.

I went to the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge and waited to be escorted by CPD Chain of Command to a local hospital to conduct a urine sample and an alcohol breath test. Upon completion I was escorted back to Fraternal Order of Police Lodge until agents with BCI arrived to take my firearm and photographs. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I fired one round at the suspect. I believe that I was approximately 70-90 feet from the suspect when I fired my rifle. I fired from a kneeling position. I believe my left knee was on the ground. I used my Division-approved optic sight. The direction of my shot was northeast. I believe I fired 8-10 seconds after the suspect initially fired his weapon at cruiser R181. It was a

sunny day and visibility was good. My target was the suspect's center mass. My backdrop was the wooded area/concrete sound barrier wall east of the right berm. I did not have any cover or concealment when I fired my rifle. I stopped firing because the suspect fell to the ground and did not appear to be actively shooting.

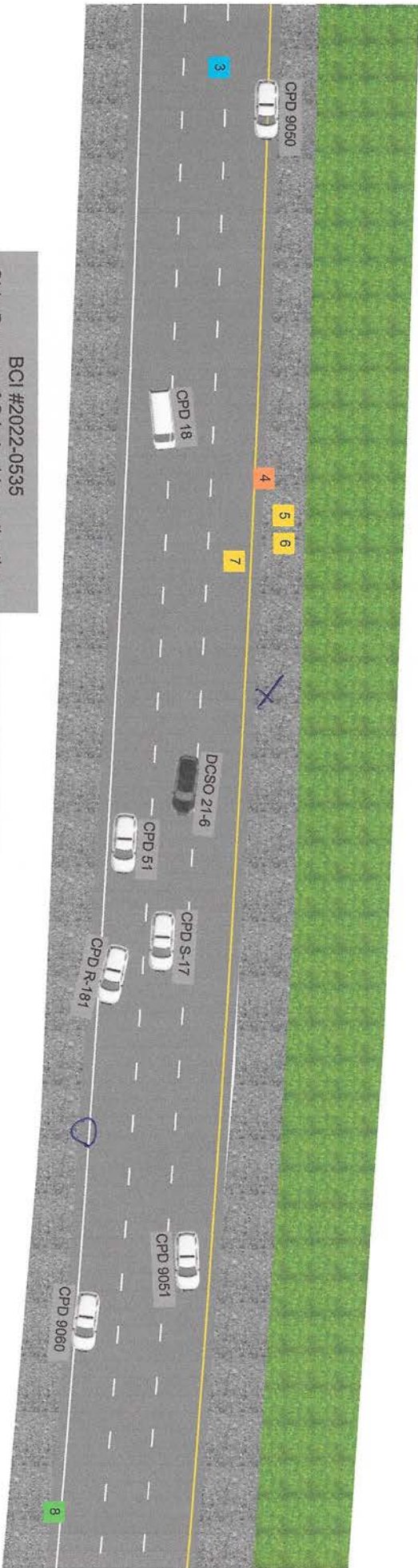
At the time I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life and the lives of the officers around me as well as civilians in the southbound lanes on Interstate 71. The suspect had already fired his weapon at officers and I believed he was trying to kill me and/or other CPD Officers. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life or the lives of other officers and civilians in the area at the time I fired my rifle.

I have now had an opportunity to watch the Body Worn Camera video and cruiser video footage of this incident. After reviewing the BWC and cruiser footage, it appears Officer Rippey was on foot on the passenger side of Officer Valiski's cruiser, not in the passenger side as I had initially thought. It also appears that I fired with my right knee on the ground, not my left knee as I initially believed.

I know now that the suspect's name is Jonathan Myers. I believe I was at Jonathan Myers' parents' house on Aqua Drive as part of investigation into a crime when Jonathan Myers was a juvenile. I have not had any personal contact with Jonathan Myers. I do not believe I have had any direct professional contact with Jonathan Myers.

This concludes my statement. I am prepared to answer any follow-up questions you may have at this time.


Officer Aaron Getzinger, Badge #2694



BCI #2022-0535
 Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 SA C. Holcomb, #61
 Interstate 71 Northbound
 Near Mile Marker 123
 Lewis Center, OH 43035
 March 11, 2022



Not to Scale

- am #3 = Bullet
- am #4 = .223 casing
- ams #5-7 = 9mm casings
- am #8 = Glock 19 handgun

Handwritten signature and date: 3/22/22