



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



2023-1792
Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-70 at Mound Street,
Columbus, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Subject
Involves: Ofc. [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 08/03/2023
Activity Location: Harshman, Cathrine – Business – 4683 Winterset Dr, Columbus, OH 43220, Franklin County
Author: SA James A. Mulford, #39

Narrative:

On August 03, 2023 at approximately 0941 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] in response to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred between Abdisamad Mohamed Ismail (Ismail) and CPD Officers that occurred on I-70 at the Mound Street exit, Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). Ismail was fatally shot as a result of the incident. CPD Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] was also shot and transported to the hospital where he is recovering from his injuries. 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 [REDACTED]'s union attorney, 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 Mulford provided Officer [REDACTED] with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" form. SA Mulford advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that CPD may be conducting. Officer [REDACTED] was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Officer [REDACTED] 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 Kate Harshman provided SA Mulford with a written statement from Officer [REDACTED] regarding the OICI. Agent Mulford reviewed the statement upon receipt. Furthermore, SA Mulford provided a printed scene sketch of the OICI scene to reference throughout the

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interview. Officer ██████ 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 ██████ statement for further details. A copy of the signed written statement and the sketch was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

SA Mulford asked Officer ██████ a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he fired his weapon based on the printed scene sketch. Officer ██████'s answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Officer ██████ wrote in his statement, "I parked the cruiser in the leftmost lane somewhat behind the Porsche. There were two civilian cars in the middle lane to our right (south). A white sedan that was right behind the suspect vehicle in the middle lane, east and slightly south of our cruiser, and another vehicle, which was dark in color and almost directly to our right (south). We were both focused on the fleeing suspects. Officer ██████ exited the cruiser from the passenger side, which was closer to the location the running suspects had been seen going over the concrete barrier to the south. I exited the cruiser from the driver's side (northside of the vehicle) and quickly locked the door. I ran behind the cruiser toward the rear of the dark-colored civilian vehicle that was to the south of my location. I heard gun shots and drew my weapon, taking cover behind the dark-colored civilian vehicle. I heard Officer ██████ say something like, "I'm hit." I stood up from behind the dark-colored civilian vehicle to see that there was a third suspect, who I had not previously seen, who was firing at Officer ██████. Officer ██████ was now laying on the ground just north of the concrete barrier over which the first two (2) suspects had fled. This suspect was a male black wearing a dark colored hoodie, lighter khaki-colored pants, and a medical mask covering his face. The suspect was only a few feet (just to the north of) Officer ██████ who was bleeding on the ground. The suspect shot at Officer ██████ at point-blank range. I fired at the suspect. I would estimate that I shot at the suspect 3 to 4 times from this location. I believe the suspect shot at least once in my direction. He then moved north between the white civilian vehicle and the dark-colored civilian vehicle. The white vehicle was just north of the dark civilian vehicle (which I was still behind) in middle lane. I shifted to the passenger side rear of the dark civilian vehicle. I fired several more times at the suspect. I would estimate 3 to 4 more times. The suspect attempted to gain entry to our cruiser, which was locked, and then tried to gain entry to the white civilian car that was directly in front (east) of the car I was taking cover behind. That vehicle was also locked with civilians still inside. I fired over the dark-colored civilian car again at this point, but I am unsure how many rounds I fired- maybe 1 or 2 rounds. The suspect began to run east on I-70E on the right (south) berm. At the time, I believed he still had a weapon. I fired again from right-hand (south) side of dark-colored civilian vehicle- maybe 3 to 4 rounds. I could see and hear Officer ██████ continue to fire from his position on the ground right (southeast) of my location just to the north of the concrete barrier. After running maybe 60-70 feet, the suspect then abruptly turned and started walking back towards Officer ██████ and me in a strangely slow and purposeful manner. I moved east up to the white civilian car and told him to "get on the ground" several times. He did not comply and kept walking towards Officer ██████ and me. Multiple officers were shooting at him at this point. The suspect did not appear to react at all at first even though multiple officers were shooting at him. I was unsure whether he had a weapon at this point or not. At one point, he had moved his hands up towards his waist with his fists pointed towards us- he just continued to move forward seemingly unfazed by the firing."

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Officer █████ continued in his statement, "When I exited my cruiser, I heard gun fire and heard Officer █████ say that he had been hit. I saw the suspect shoot at Officer █████ at point-blank range in what I believed was an attempt to execute him. I saw Officer █████ bleeding on the ground. I believe the suspect also shot at me. The suspect then attempted to enter a police cruiser and then an occupied civilian vehicle. Finally, the suspect turned back towards Officer █████ and me. He was ordered repeatedly to the ground. He did not comply and continued to walk towards us. When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect Officer █████ the other officers who arrived, the civilians that remained in their vehicles, and myself, as our lives were in imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm as the suspect kept advancing upon the firing officers"

Officer █████ had no further information. The interview concluded.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Officer █████ Interview
- Attachment # 02: CIN-Officer █████
- Attachment # 03: Signed Statement-Officer █████
- Attachment # 04: Interview Sketch- Officer █████



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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

AUG 3, 2023 / 0944
Date / Time

[Redacted] _____

Jim Mulford #39
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] # [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, between the hours of 4:00pm and 4:30pm.

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police on June 27, 2022. I am still in my probationary period. I do not have any previous law enforcement experience. I was previously on active duty with the United States Marine Corps from 1985-2008. I am currently in the Illinois National Guard and have been since the end of USMC enlistment in 2008. At the time of this incident, I was assigned to Precinct GR19B. I have been in this assignment for approximately one (1) month. My regular duty hours are 3:00pm to 11:00pm with Tuesday and Wednesday off. On Thursday, July 6, I was on my regular assignment. My partner for the shift was Officer [REDACTED]. We were assigned to Cruiser [REDACTED] but driving Cruiser [REDACTED]. I was driving.

I was dressed in the patrol uniform of the day. I was armed with a department-issued Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm 2.0 with standard department-issued ammunition. My weapon has a TLR-1-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 am left-hand dominate. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I had not worked special duty for 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 contacts or glasses (except to read). I was not wearing my glasses during this incident. I was not taking any medication or drugs, whether prescribed or not, that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I had not consumed alcohol for at least sixteen (16) hours prior to coming on shift.

At just before 4:00pm on Thursday July 6, Officer [REDACTED] and I were at 24 N. Eureka Avenue on the west side of Columbus on a 34C (well-being check). No one answered at that address. Just after we left, we became aware that three (3) suspect had robbed a Fifth Third Bank. Officer [REDACTED] pulled up the run and it showed the robbery was northwest of our location. The car with the three (3) suspects had fled the scene. According to the Garmin in my cruiser, the bank location was approximately fifteen (15) minutes away. I turned left (east) onto West Broad Avenue and drove towards the I-70 interchange. It was aired that an officer had stationed himself on the Wilson Road exit of I-70E, which was just west of our location. Since we were unsure of where exactly the suspect vehicle was, we decided to go west in the direction of the robbery. I got into the turn lane for I-70W and the description of the vehicle was aired- a black Porsche SUV.

We decided to turn around to enter the on-ramp for I-70E, which was behind us, when it became evident that the Porsche was coming east. It was aired that the suspect vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed past the officer on the Wilson Road exit and was heading towards the I-70E/I-670E split. This was the exit immediately to our west. We waited on the berm with our lights on between the end of the Broad Street on-ramp and the interstate to see if we could intercept the vehicle. Soon thereafter, I saw a black Porsche SUV fly past our location. I followed with lights and sirens. I lost sight of him due to the high rate of speed- the vehicle was moving in and out of traffic. We continued east to see if we could get sight of him again. As we approached downtown, we caught a visual of the suspect vehicle ahead. Officer [REDACTED] radioed our location throughout.

After the Mound Street Exit and just west of the I-71S exit, the Porsche appeared to have crashed and sat cattywampus between the left most (north) and middle of the three (3) lanes with its front facing northeast. Upon our approach, I saw one suspect bail from the vehicle running south and over the concrete barrier. The second suspect, who was a male black with a black shirt

and gray pants (he appeared to not be wearing shoes), was jumping over the same concrete barrier to the south as we came to a stop. It appeared to take him more than one attempt to get over the barrier. Officer [REDACTED] radioed that a suspect was running south.

I parked the cruiser in the leftmost lane somewhat behind the Porsche. There were two (2) civilian cars in the middle lane to our right (south). A white sedan that was right behind the suspect vehicle in the middle lane, east and slightly south of our cruiser, and another vehicle, which was dark in color and almost directly to our right (south). We were both focused on the fleeing suspects. Officer [REDACTED] exited the cruiser from the passenger side, which was closer to the location the running suspects had been seen going over the concrete barrier to the south. I exited the cruiser from the driver's side (northside of the vehicle) and quickly locked the door. I ran behind the cruiser toward the rear of the dark-colored civilian vehicle that was to the south of my location. I heard gun shots and drew my weapon, taking cover behind the dark-colored civilian vehicle. I heard Officer [REDACTED] say something like, "I'm hit."

I stood up from behind the dark-colored civilian vehicle to see that there was a third suspect, who I had not previously seen, who was firing at Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] was now laying on the ground just north of the concrete barrier over which the first two (2) suspects had fled. This suspect was a male black wearing a dark colored hoodie, lighter khaki-colored pants, and a medical mask covering his face. The suspect was only a few feet (just to the north of) Officer [REDACTED] who was bleeding on the ground. The suspect shot at Officer [REDACTED] at point-blank range.

I fired at the suspect. I would estimate that I shot at the suspect 3 to 4 times from this location. I believe the suspect shot at least once in my direction. He then moved north between the white civilian vehicle and the dark-colored civilian vehicle. The white vehicle was just north of

the dark civilian vehicle (which I was still behind) in middle lane. I shifted to the passenger side rear of the dark civilian vehicle. I fired several more times at the suspect. I would estimate 3 to 4 more times.

The suspect attempted to gain entry to our cruiser, which was locked, and then tried to gain entry to the white civilian car that was directly in front (east) of the car I was taking cover behind. That vehicle was also locked with civilians still inside. I fired over the dark-colored civilian car again at this point, but I am unsure how many rounds I fired- maybe 1 or 2 rounds. The suspect began to run east on I-70E on the right (south) berm. At the time, I believed he still had a weapon. I fired again from right-hand (south) side of dark-colored civilian vehicle- maybe 3 to 4 rounds. I could see and hear Officer [REDACTED] continue to fire from his position on the ground right (southeast) of my location just to the north of the concrete barrier.

After running maybe 60-70 feet, the suspect then abruptly turned and started walking back towards Officer [REDACTED] and me in a strangely slow and purposeful manner. I moved east up to the white civilian car and told him to "get on the ground" several times. He did not comply and kept walking towards Officer [REDACTED] and me. Multiple officers were shooting at him at this point. The suspect did not appear to react at all at first even though multiple officers were shooting at him. I was unsure whether he had a weapon at this point or not. At one point, he had moved his hands up towards his waist with his fists pointed towards us- he just continued to move forward seemingly unfazed by the firing.

I was shooting from the right side (south) of the white civilian vehicle. As he got closer, I moved back to the rear of the white civilian vehicle. Again, I am unsure at this point how many times I fired- maybe 4 to 5 additional rounds. I do know that I had not reloaded. The suspect finally showed some signs of being hit- his body jerked to the side like he may have been shot. I took

cover behind the white civilian vehicle to reload, knowing that I must be close to out of ammunition. By the time I reloaded and attempted to reengage, the suspect was on the ground.

I went directly to Officer [REDACTED] to see how he was doing and holstered my weapon. His right leg was bleeding and he told me it was broken. Other officers began to use a tourniquet. An Officer stated that Officer [REDACTED] wouldn't make it if we waited and to get the cruiser that was closest. I went to get my cruiser, so that we could drive Officer [REDACTED] to the hospital. On my way back to the cruiser, I saw a black pistol lying on the ground. I assumed it was a CPD gun. Because the scene was not yet secure, I picked up the gun. When I went to put the gun in my cruiser, I noticed it had an extended magazine. I placed the gun in the passenger's seat.

After a white civilian car was moved out of the way, officers loaded Officer [REDACTED] into the back seat of our cruiser. Before I left, I told a lieutenant through the open cruiser window, I now know this was Lieutenant [REDACTED] a description of one of the suspects (black shirt, grey pants). Officer [REDACTED] was accompanied by two (2) other CPD officers that I did not know at the time, but now know are Officers [REDACTED] and Muscaro. I now know that Officer Muscaro was an Army Medic. Officer [REDACTED] gave me directions to Grant Hospital, because I was still rather unfamiliar with the geography of downtown. Once I pulled into the ambulance bay, Officer [REDACTED] was unloaded by a group of CPD Officers waiting for us.

Once I was assured that Officer [REDACTED] got inside the hospital, I secured my vehicle in a parking place outside the emergency entrance that CPD regularly uses. I went back inside the hospital. When I remembered that the gun from the scene was in my car approximately fifteen (15) minutes later, I reported to a Sergeant (I am not sure on the name). I had no further involvement with the incident. I was met at the hospital by Officer Support Sergeant Frank Lemak and my FOP Representation. I was eventually transported to 8/16 Substation.

I estimate that I fired a total of 15 to 18 times with my service weapon. I had my light on my weapon, but it was not on. It was a sunny day, and the area was well lit. I fired all of my rounds from a standing position using both hands- at times I may have bent down to keep myself covered. I used my sights whenever possible. The first time I fired, I fired over the dark-colored civilian vehicle. At the time, the suspect was making his way from the suspect vehicle towards Officer [REDACTED], who was already on the ground. He shot at Officer [REDACTED] at point-blank range. I fired from cover, as my body was behind the driver's side rear of the vehicle. I fired east and slightly to the south at the subject. I believe I fired 3 to 4 rounds. I was approximately 10-15 feet from the suspect. I fired at the suspect's center of mass, though he was moving and was partially presenting the side of his body. My backdrop was the concrete barrier along the south side of the road.

The second time I fired, I was still firing from cover from behind the dark-colored civilian vehicle- this time on passenger side rear. I fired east- this time slightly to the north. The suspect had moved between the white and dark civilian vehicles moving towards our cruiser. I believe I shot 3 to 4 rounds. I again fired at the suspect's center of mass, but at times that was not the front of his body due to his movement. My backdrop was the black Porsche and the north side concrete barrier.

When I fired as the suspect initially ran east from the scene and then abruptly turned around to walk back towards us, I did not fire from cover. I was south of the civilian vehicles. I am not sure how many times I fired, but in total I would estimate 8 to 10 rounds in an easterly direction. I fired at the suspect's center of mass. My backdrop was either the interstate behind the suspect or the southern concrete barrier.

When I exited my cruiser, I heard gun fire and heard Officer [REDACTED] say that he had been hit. I saw the suspect shoot at Officer [REDACTED] at point-blank range in what I believed was an

attempt to execute him. I saw Officer [REDACTED] bleeding on the ground. I believe the suspect also shot at me. The suspect then attempted to enter a police cruiser and then an occupied civilian vehicle. Finally, the suspect turned back towards Officer [REDACTED] and me. He was ordered repeatedly to the ground. He did not comply and continued to walk towards us. When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect Officer [REDACTED], the other officers who arrived, the civilians that remained in their vehicles, and myself, as our lives were in imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm as the suspect kept advancing upon the firing officers.

I now know the suspect's name was Abdisamad Ismail. I do not recall having any prior interactions with him, either professional or personal.

I have now reviewed my body worn camera and it has not materially changed my recollection of events.

This statement consists of seven (7) pages.

[REDACTED]

8/3/2023

2023-1792

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

July 6, 2023

Crime Scene Technician Amy Gill

Interstate 70 near Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

- = Firearms/Magazines
- = Blazer cartridge casings
- = Speer cartridge casings
- = Projectiles



Not to Scale

I-70 Eastbound

Mile 98.8

Porsche (dealer plate)



Chevy Malibu (HDG6364)



Body of Ismail

CPD Cruiser



Porta Kleen

