



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



2023-2080  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 45 Great Southern Blvd.,  
Columbus, OH 43207

To: Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor  
Cc: Jim Mulford, Acting Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI  
From: Chad Holcomb, Special Agent, Ohio Bureau of Criminal  
Investigation  
Date: January 5, 2024  
Involves: CPD Officer [REDACTED] & Officer [REDACTED]  
BCI Case Numbers: 2023-2080  
BCI Laboratory: 23-17665

### **Investigative Request**

On Wednesday, August 09, 2023, Sergeant Terry McConnell of the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident occurred on August 9, 2023, around 45 Great Southern Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43207, and resulted in the death of Austin Huntzinger.

#### *Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the August 9, 2023, officer-involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

*This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.*

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**Investigative Team**

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA Chad Holcomb

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Matt Collins
- SA Jimmy Poole
- SA Craig Call
- SA John Butterworth

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- CST Amy Gill (lead)
- SA Sarah Taylor
- SA Mathew Austin

BCI Criminal Intelligence Analyst Personnel:

- Analyst Emily Kreager

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Special Agent Jim Mulford

**Summary of Process**

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of the two officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of three officers/deputies who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of subjects directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of four civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of five first responders or medical personnel
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Special agent attendance to postmortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased

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- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
  2. Firearm operability testing
  3. Fingerprint analysis
  4. DNA
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Obtained medical records for Ofc. [REDACTED]
- Obtained subpoenas for medical records for Austin Huntzinger
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through patient consent
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

### **Incident Summary/Overview**

On August 9, 2023, Columbus Police Department (CPD) Officers were dispatched to Deible's Hardwood Floors located at 4000 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio on the report of a male, later identified as Austin Huntzinger (Huntzinger) brandishing a firearm at

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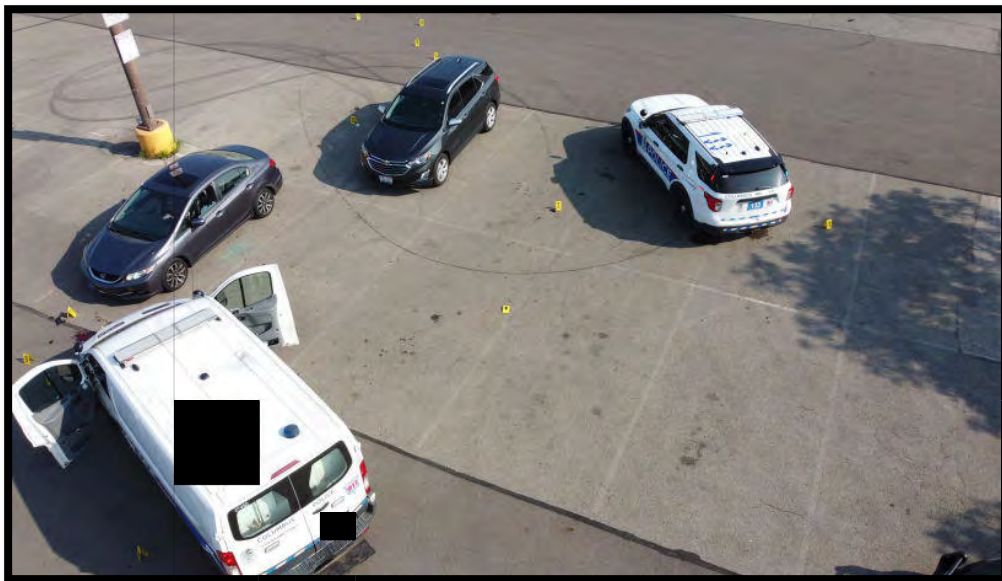


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employees. Surveillance video shows Huntzinger with a firearm in his right hand. Huntzinger leaves the parking lot and walks across the street to a Lowes.

CPD Officers [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] contacted the Deible's employees to gain more information. As the officers were talking to the employees, Ofc. Seth Casto arrived at Deible's and stated he saw a male, later identified as Huntzinger, in the Lowes parking lot. The officers left Deible's and traveled to the area of Lowes.

Shortly thereafter, 911 dispatch radioed a call stating a male, Huntzinger, was robbing a male at gunpoint and attempting to take his car. Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] arrived on scene approximately 36 seconds after receiving the radio dispatch. As they approached Huntzinger in the parking lot, Huntzinger exited the vehicle brandishing and discharging a firearm. Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] returned fire striking Huntzinger. Huntzinger was transported to Grant Hospital where he did not survive his injuries. Ofc. [REDACTED] was also shot in the right leg during the exchange of gunfire. He was also transported to Grant Hospital and was released a few days later.



*(DJI\_0343 drone photograph of scene)*

### **Subsequent Investigation**

Due to the details of the altercation, it was decided that CPD detectives would investigate Huntzinger for his role in the officer involved shooting. BCI would handle everything related to the officers.

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Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent (Austin Huntzinger) was obtained from the Franklin County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

The laboratory report confirmed that all submitted firearms were operable. Furthermore, two (2) fired 9mm casings recovered were source identified to the non-law enforcement Taurus, G2c (slide), PT111 Gc A (frame) with serial number ADC045839. The Taurus firearm was recovered on the ground near Huntzinger.

Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsized below.

CPD Officer [REDACTED]

Ofc. [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "The car was parked facing the Auto Title (southwest). The suspect was looking down, like he was trying to start the car. There was a black SUV northeast of the suspect. I quickly accelerated through the parking lot.

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I pulled the police wagon up to within about 10 feet southeast of the gray car, so that the front of the wagon was diagonal towards the suspect's driver's side door. Immediately after stopping and putting the police wagon into park, I was exiting it while simultaneously drawing my weapon".

Ofc. [REDACTED] also wrote, "As I was exiting the police wagon, the suspect got out of the car with a gun raised in his right hand. I ran from the driver's seat, around to the front of the police wagon. He backpedaled (still facing us) with the gun in his hand. I yelled at him to drop the gun and I believe that Officer [REDACTED] was also yelling at him to drop it. He fell backwards onto the ground and immediately got back up. He was very erratic (flailing his arms/shuffling his feet). Suddenly, I saw the top of the barrel of his gun coming up and I started firing my weapon. The suspect fired at me and I was struck in the right thigh/femur. I fell to the ground and yelled that I was hit. I heard multiple gunshots still being fired and I rolled to my left side and maneuvered a little to the west to try and see around the gray sedan and I saw the suspect 30-40 feet to my north. He was advancing north and would fall and get back up. I believed the suspect was still armed and firing at Officer [REDACTED] because I knew Officer [REDACTED] had gone to my right (east), so I began firing at the suspect again".

Ofc. [REDACTED] stated in his statement, "I stopped firing when I did not see the suspect moving anymore." Ofc. [REDACTED] also stated, "At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for my life and the life of Officer [REDACTED]. Prior to me firing my weapon, I knew the suspect had a firearm and that he had committed an armed robbery. Immediately before I discharged my firearm, I saw the top of the barrel of the suspect's gun, and he was raising it towards me". Ofc. [REDACTED] continued to state, "I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of Officer [REDACTED] from the suspect's deadly threat at the time I fired my weapon".

CPD Officer [REDACTED]

Ofc. [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "As soon as he [Ofc. [REDACTED]] stopped the police wagon, I exited the passenger's side with my weapon in my right hand. As I was exiting the police wagon, the suspect opened the driver's side door and got out with a gun in his right hand. I immediately yelled at him to 'Drop it!'. Ofc. [REDACTED] continued to state, "Suddenly, I heard rounds being fired and I saw the suspect on the ground, half sitting up with his shoulders hunched up and the gun in his hands with the barrel of it pointed towards Officer [REDACTED] and I believed he was shooting at Officer [REDACTED]. I immediately started firing my weapon at the suspect".

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(09:15 into the recording: Ofc. ██████'s BWC view of Huntzinger pointing a firearm at Ofc. ██████)

Ofc. ██████ further stated, "At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for the life of Officer ██████. Prior to me firing my weapons, I knew the suspect had a firearm and that he had committed an armed robbery. Immediately before I discharged my firearm, I heard rounds being fired and I saw the suspect sitting up on the ground, with his gun pointed at Officer ██████ and it was at that moment I began firing my weapon. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the life of Officer ██████ from the suspect's deadly threat at the time I fired my weapon."

Xayla Scheurell:

Scheurell, Huntzinger's girlfriend, stated that Huntzinger and her started fighting around 0500 hours that morning. Scheurell stated in her interview, "He was telling me that he was tired of this, he couldn't handle it no more. He doesn't know what to do, what to think anymore. He doesn't know who to trust anymore. He'd rather just die. He'd rather just shoot himself. He'd rather just jump in front of the cars".

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Scheurell said that Huntzinger started seeing things that weren't there and that he had been awake for three days straight. Scheurell said that Huntzinger used crack right before his mental breakdown the morning of the shooting.

*Next of Kin Interview with Tracy Huntzinger & Alan Satterfield*

Tracy Huntzinger, Austin's mother, stated in her interview, "He [Austin] always told me if he had to go to jail again, he was going to make sure the cops took him out. That's exactly what he said". Alan Satterfield (Tracy's boyfriend) stated during the interview, "He already said he wasn't going back to jail. He said he'd make a cop shoot him. He said I'll make them shoot me before I go back to jail. I don't care if I've got to pull a knife whatever I got to do".

**Summary**

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this officer-involved critical incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

**Contact Information**

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Chad Holcomb. SA Holcomb can be reached via email at [Chadwick.Holcomb@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Chadwick.Holcomb@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone, at (614) 813-8496.

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