



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



2024-1219  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Officer Bruce Stephen (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 04/30/2024  
**Activity Location:** Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman –  
4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220  
**Author:** SA Chad Holcomb, #61

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 1502 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and SA Jimmy Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Whitehall Police Department (WPD) Officer Bruce Stephen (Ofc. Stephen), who was accompanied by his attorney, Kate Harshman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Stephen was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the April 19, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 4632 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Stephen 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.

Ofc. Stephen stated his badge number was 107. He has been employed by the Whitehall Police Department for about 4 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 7.5 years. During the incident, Ofc. Stephen wore his standard police uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove WPD cruiser #5, marked with WPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. Ofc. Stephen has his EMT card and is a SWAT officer.

Ofc. Stephen stated that [REDACTED] ( [REDACTED] ) was at a traffic stop and heard gunshots in the area. ShotSpotter then gave an approximate location of the gunshots.

Ofc. Stephen heard on the radio that there were two individuals in the vehicle and there was a firearm also in the vehicle. About 10 seconds after an officer asked fellow officers to 'step it up' on their response, he heard 'shots fired' aired over the radio. He was walking to his cruiser when he heard 'shots fired' over the radio. Ofc. Stephen responded to the area from the WPD

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headquarters which would take approximately 30–60 seconds.

When Ofc. Stephen got to the scene; he saw [REDACTED] ( [REDACTED] ) using a wall as cover. Deputy Chief Chad Wilder (DC Wilder) and [REDACTED] were behind a cruiser. DC Wilder got a ballistic shield from his vehicle and Ofc. Stephen retrieved his long gun. At the time, he was only aware that [REDACTED] discharged his firearm.

Officers approached the subject's vehicle from the rear passenger side of the vehicle. He saw a male, later identified as Santiago Alfaramunoz (Alfaramunoz) sitting in the front passenger seat unresponsive. A medical bag was retrieved and Ofc. Stephens began to render aid to Alfaramunoz. Ofc. Stephen observed a gunshot wound to Alfaramunoz's head. Ofc. Stephen attempted to protect Alfaramunoz's airway and breathing. There was no profuse or active bleeding anywhere else that he observed.

Ofc. Stephen did not observe any firearms in the vehicle. After Alfaramunoz was transported to the hospital, Ofc. Stephens then assisted in scene security.

Ofc. Stephen was asked at the point of his arrival and during his involvement if he or any of his fellow officers violated any WPD policies or procedures; he replied no.

The interview concluded at approximately 1510 hours.

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

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-04-30 – Ofc. Bruce Stephen Interview (2024-1219)