



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

To: Erin Minor, Mercer County Prosecutor
Cc: SAS Scott A. Stranahan, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
From: SA Douglas Burke, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: February 27, 2025
Involves: Moses Alik
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - (L) 303 S. Main St., Celina, Ohio
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2024-4082
Crime Scene (CSU): 2024-4082
BCI Laboratory: 24-20039

Investigative Request

On December 31, 2024, Sheriff Jeff Grey of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) requested 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 Critical Incident (OICI). The incident reportedly occurred on December 31, 2024, in the area of 303 S. Main Street, Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, Celina, Ohio, and resulted in the death of Moses Alik (Moses).

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the December 31, 2024, Officer Involved Critical Incident in Celina, Mercer 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 is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order 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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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Douglas Burke (SA Burke) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Burke received assistance in the investigation from SA Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser), SA Jason Snyder (SA Snyder), and SA Tiffany Najmowski (SA Najmowski). BCI Special Agent Dave Hammond (SA Hammond) of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

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 of the one (1) officer who discharged their weapon
- Recorded interviews of three (3) officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Interviews of civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of first responders or medical personnel
- Interviews with family members or associates of Moses Alik.
- Obtained and reviewed post-mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subject, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- 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 videos which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include (if applicable):
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
 3. Chemistry (drug identification)
- 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
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Enhancement of audio/video recordings through the assistance of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission
- Reviewed medical records of those injured
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered
- Reviewed tips, social media posts, and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident

Incident Summary/Overview

Celina Police Department (CPD) was dispatched to Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, 303 S. Main Street, Celina, Ohio, to an unwanted male subject at the gas station who had entered a patron's car and attempted to steal the vehicle. [Through the course of this investigation, the male subject was identified as Moses Alik (Moses)]. There was a possible confrontation which had ensued, and Moses then left walking westbound on Warren Street. Deputy (Dep.) Spencer Heintl (Heintl) of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), CPD Patrolman (Ptl.) Kyle Balthis (Balthis), and Ptl. Patrick Crosby (Crosby) located Moses who was at the back parking lot outside of the gas station store. Moses was observed holding a knife to his neck.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

Officers approached Moses, who began stabbing himself in the neck area. Officers demanded Moses to drop the knife, which Moses did for a brief moment; however, Moses did not get away from the knife as ordered. Sgt. Cosby deployed his taser engaging Moses; however, the taser had little-to-no effect on Moses. Moses, against officers' orders not to pick the knife back up, ultimately picked the knife up, put the knife in his right hand above his head, and approached Dep. Heintz in an aggressive manner. Officers continuously told Moses to, "drop it" but Moses began closing the distance with Dep. Heintz. Dep. Heintz fired his service weapon five (5) times at Moses, striking Moses who fell to the ground. First Aid was administered to Moses, who later succumbed to his injuries at Coldwater Hospital in Coldwater, OH.

Decedent

Moses Alik had an arrest record with CPD for Disorderly Conduct by Fighting, Obstructing Official Business, Theft, Resisting Arrest, Offenses involving Underage Persons, and Persistent Disorderly Conduct with Alcohol.

Mercer County Jail records indicate Moses talked to himself in his cell, acted strangely and complained of hearing voices and being scared.

Computerized Criminal History (CCH) and/or Court Records show [REDACTED]

Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent Moses Alik was obtained from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area,

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

as well as the search for, documentation, and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

The scene was scanned with a Leica 360 scanner. Evidence was concentrated in the area north and west of the building. A search of the area located five (5) fired cartridge casings south of the east-west sidewalk located north of the business. A fixed blade knife was located approximately 17' west and south of the cartridge casings. The knife had a black plastic handle and a serrated blade. The overall length of the knife was nine inches. The blade was approximately four and a half inches. Examination of the knife's blade found areas of reddish staining, visually consistent with blood. To the west of this area, a Taser unit with fired cartridge was located.

A "puffy" winter coat was found at the scene. The dark coat appeared to have damage consistent with emergency medical response. The coat was filled with water and blood. A cursory examination of the pockets found a vape pen and possible drug pipes (broken glass). The coat was placed into a bag and later stored in a drying chamber for examination after drying. Clothing collected at the hospital worn by Moses was also placed into evidence.

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 Glock Model 45 semi-automatic pistol fired by Dep. Spencer Heintz was found to be Operable. The Glock Model 45 fired by Dep. Heintz also was found to be the source firearm of items 1-5, as well as Item 7 recovered from the autopsy and Item 8 recovered from Coldwater Hospital.

- **Items 1-5**, 9mm Luger Fired Cartridge Cases
- **Item 6**, 1 Glock Model 45, 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, serial number [REDACTED] with 1 magazine and 13, 9 mm Luger cartridges.
- **Item 7**, 1 fired bullet taken from Moses Alik at autopsy.
- **Item 8**, 1 fired bullet obtained from Coldwater Hospital.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

Witnesses

Roselee and Jerrlynn Akilang, relatives of Moses, were interviewed. It was learned that in the past, Moses had been observed talking to himself for no particular reason. Moses was known to drink alcohol excessively. The family had only seen Moses with marijuana but heard rumors he may have been taking other kinds of drugs. Roselee said Moses was sober when Moses left her mother's apartment at midnight on December 30, 2024. Roselee stated Moses was even sober when he left her residence shortly after midnight. According to Roselee, Moses would not listen to them about staying inside the apartment.

Agents also spoke with Chad Mabry who explained he found his back door partially opened after he heard his dogs barking. He walked outside to see a man whom he described as an "Islander", standing by his car. Mabry did not approach the man because he thought the man was acting strange.

Agents interviewed Betwell Bellu Jr (Betwell), who was a friend of Moses. Betwell said Moses came to his house and started yelling he needed a "belt." Betwell explained to Agents, he had asked Moses why he needed a belt and Moses just said he needed help keeping the "people" away from him. Betwell stated Moses was not in his right state of mind at all. Moses left the residence and Betwell saw Moses getting into a neighbor's vehicle and buckle up like he was trying to get away.

Betwell explained he went back inside his house at this time and about ten (10) minutes after being inside the house, he heard gunshots, which were from Moses' altercation with the police.

Officer Interviews

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

Patrolman (Ptl.) Kyle Balthis (Balthis) from Celina Police Department (CPD) said he had been dispatched to Docksider's Marathon Gas Station at 303 S. Main St., Celina, OH on the early morning hours of December 31, 2024, on a report of a male who had attempted to steal a vehicle from the gas station parking lot. The male had been described as wearing a "puffer" style coat and wearing jeans. Throughout the investigation the male subject in the "puffer" style coat had been identified as Moses

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

Alik (Moses). The said victim of the attempted car theft was identified as Errin Johnson (Errin).

Ptl. Balthis spoke with Errin about what he had observed as Moses had gotten into his car. Errin told Ptl. Balthis, Moses was **"jacked out of his mind on something and is a danger to anyone he (Moses) comes across."** Errin also added, when he confronted Moses, Moses said, **"there are invisible people out here and if you smoke you can see them too."** Errin explained to Ptl. Balthis, it had been evident Moses was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Ptl. Balthis went inside the gas station to review the security footage and while looking at the live feed, Ptl. Balthis observed Moses in the parking lot with a knife to his neck. Ptl. Balthis notified Sgt. Crosby of this via radio. Ptl. Balthis went to Moses' location in the parking lot with his weapon drawn as Moses was continuously stabbing himself on the left side of the neck and orders had been given for Moses to drop the knife. Responding units were given this information about Moses' current actions.

Sgt. Crosby and Dep. Heintz arrived on scene, with continued orders for Moses to drop the knife. Moses had been tased by Sgt. Crosby, which had little-to-no effect on Moses. Moses dropped the knife briefly but picked the knife back up against officer's orders. Ptl. Balthis stated when Moses picked the knife back up, he raised the knife over his head and advanced towards Dep. Heintz. Dep. Heintz then discharged his weapon at Moses three (3) to four (4) times Ptl. Balthis thought and Moses fell to the ground.

Officers then secured Moses, by handcuffing him and Ptl. Balthis grabbed and "threw" the knife out of reach of Moses. Ptl. Balthis asked Dep. Heintz to retrieve his medical kit from his cruiser and officers started to administer life saving measures to Moses as it had been apparent, Moses had been struck by gunfire. As life saving measures were being administered to Moses and Moses had been placed into the squad from the Celina Fire Department (CFD), Ptl. Balthis remained in the squad due to Moses resisting medical attention being administered by medical personnel. **Ptl. Balthis said Moses made the statement, "I want to die" or "kill me" while being treated by medical personnel.**

Due to Moses being of the Marshallese decent, SA Burke asked Ptl. Balthis if he knew if Moses understood the English language. Ptl. Balthis said Moses understood the English language and could speak English well, based on prior interactions CPD had with Moses.

SA Burke asked Ptl. Balthis if he discharged his firearm during the incident and he said he did not.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

Sergeant (Sgt.) Patrick Crosby (Crosby) from Celina Police Department (CPD) said he had been dispatched to Dockside's Marathon Gas Station at 303 S. Main St., Celina, OH. in the early morning hours of December 31, 2024, on a report of a male who had attempted to steal a vehicle from the gas station parking lot. The male had been described as wearing a "puffer" style coat and jeans. Throughout the investigation the male subject in the "puffer" style coat had been identified as Moses Alik (Moses). The said victim of the attempted car theft was identified as Errin Johnson (Errin).

Sgt. Crosby patrolled the immediate area looking for Moses along with Dep. Heintz from the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). According to Sgt. Crosby, Ptl. Balthis did his initial investigation and then noticed Moses, wearing his "puffer-style" coat, in the back parking lot of the gas station and radioed to units indicating as such. Sgt. Crosby was notified of Moses being in possession of a knife and "stabbing" himself in the neck. Sgt. Crosby, Ptl. Balthis, and Dep. Heintz had all ordered Moses to "drop the knife." Sgt. Crosby said he "drew" his taser, while Ptl. Balthis and Dep. Heintz had their weapons drawn.

Due to Moses not complying with orders to "drop the knife", Sgt. Crosby deployed his taser striking Moses; however, the taser had little-to-no effect on Moses. Moses did for a moment drop the knife, and officers ordered Moses to get away from the knife. Moses again, did not comply with orders and Sgt. Crosby said Moses picked the knife back up. Sgt. Crosby stated with the taser having little effect, he dropped his taser and transitioned to his handgun.

Moses picked the knife back up, raised the knife over his head, and proceeded to approach Dep. Heintz. Sgt. Crosby said Dep. Heintz discharged his firearm at Moses, striking him and Moses fell to the ground. Officers approached Moses on the ground and handcuffed him. Ptl. Balthis removed the knife from Moses.

Sgt. Crosby said he asked Dep. Heintz to retrieve his medical kit from his cruiser so life saving measures could be administered to Moses. As life saving measures were being administered to Moses, **Sgt. Crosby said Moses made the statement, "I wanna die."** Celina Fire Department (CFD) arrived on scene with their squad and as squad members were continuing life saving measures, **Moses made further statements of, "kill me."**

SA Emahiser asked Sgt. Crosby due to Moses being of Marshallese decent, would Sgt. Crosby know Moses to speak very good English. Sgt. Crosby stated he knew Moses to be able to speak fluent English and understood the English language.

SA Burke asked Sgt. Crosby, besides deploying his taser, did he discharge his firearm during the incident and Sgt. Crosby said he did not.

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

Deputy (Dep.) Spencer Heintl (Heintl) from the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) said he overheard radio traffic about Celina Police Department (CPD) being dispatched to Docksider's Marathon Gas Station at 303 S. Main St., Celina, OH. for a male subject who was in a patron's vehicle at the gas station. Upon arriving in the area of the gas station, Dep. Heintl said he met up with Sgt. Crosby and the two (2) decided to patrol the area in attempt to locate the suspect, later identified as Moses Alik (Moses).

Dep. Heintl said after patrolling the area for a short time, he overheard Ptl. Balthis' radio traffic of locating Moses in the back parking lot of the gas station with a knife around someone else's neck or Moses' own neck. Dep. Heintl then responded directly to the area where Ptl. Balthis had located Moses and saw Ptl. Balthis along with Sgt. Crosby giving Moses orders to drop the knife without compliance.

Dep. Heintl had his weapon drawn initially due to Moses being in possession of the knife and Moses not complying with officers. Sgt. Crosby had his taser drawn and Ptl. Balthis had his firearm drawn. Numerous orders had been given for Moses to drop the knife. Dep. Heintl said he remembered at some point, Moses "dropped the knife" and Sgt. Crosby had deployed his taser at Moses. Dep. Heintl re-holstered his firearm because he was going to attempt to go "hands-on" with Moses since he dropped the knife.

According to Dep. Heintl, Moses was still not fully cooperative with officers and would not step away from the knife as the taser had little-to-no effect on Moses. Moses picked the knife back up, and officers continued to yell at him, "put the knife down." At this point, Moses regained possession of the knife and Dep. Heintl re-drew his weapon from the holster. Dep. Heintl said he too ordered Moses to "drop the knife."

At this point, Moses had the knife in his right hand, raised above his head, and Moses "closed" the distance between himself and Dep. Heintl. SA Emahiser asked Dep. Heintl if he felt his life or any other officer's life were in danger as Alik had the knife in his hand and had not complied to commands of the officer's. Dep. Heintl said he did, especially when Alik put the knife in his right hand, turned (left) towards Dep. Heintl and started to approach him. Dep. Heintl told Agents he felt Alik was going to stab him. Dep. Heintl felt it was, "me or him" when Dep. Heintl pulled the trigger due to Alik closing the gap on Dep. Heintl with the knife. Heintl. Dep. Heintl said it felt like Moses had only been four (4) feet from him, but knew the distance was a little further than that. Dep. Heintl said he believed he discharged his firearm at Moses three (3) to five (5) times and Moses fell to the ground. Moses was secured after falling and Dep. Heintl went to his patrol car and obtained a medical kit so first aid could be administered to Moses.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

SA Burke asked Dep. Heintz if he recalled Moses making any comments after the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) had occurred. **Dep. Heintz said Moses said more than once, "let me die."** SA Burke asked Dep. Heintz if he had ever dealt with Moses in a law enforcement setting prior to this OICI and Dep. Heintz said he believed indirectly as he had backed CPD in a bar fight in Celina, OH months prior. Moses was not directly involved in the fight but was a bystander who had been uncooperative with law enforcement officers.

Video Recordings

Through the investigation of the Mercer OICI, BCI obtained video footage from Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, CPD and MCSO Body-Worn Camera (BWC) and cruiser camera.

The video footage showed Moses getting into a patron's car at Dockside's Marathon Gas Station at 303 S. Main St., Celina, OH and the patron, Errin Johnson (Errin) making contact with Moses telling him "get the fuck outta my car." CPD had been notified of the attempted possible car theft and Ptl. Balthis arrived on scene to begin his investigation.

While conducting his investigation, Ptl. Balthis observed Moses in the back parking lot of the gas station and went to speak with Moses. Moses had a knife in his possession and was "stabbing himself" on the left side of the neck upon Ptl. Balthis' initial contact with Moses. Numerous orders were given for Moses to "drop the knife" by Ptl. Balthis, along with Sgt. Crosby and Dep. Heintz upon their arrival. Sgt. Crosby had his taser drawn, giving orders for Moses to drop the knife. Ptl. Balthis and Dep. Heintz had their service weapons drawn.

Moses very briefly dropped the knife and was ordered to get to the ground. Not complying with officer's commands, Sgt. Crosby tased Moses and that had very little effect on Moses. Moses bent down and regained possession of the knife as officers said, "don't pick it up." Again, further orders were given for Moses to "drop the knife" without success.

Dep. Heintz ordered Moses to "drop it now" as Moses turned towards Dep. Heintz's direction. Moses had the knife in his right hand, above his head and Moses started to approach Dep. Heintz. As Moses continued to approach Dep. Heintz failing to comply with orders to "drop the knife," Dep. Heintz discharged his service weapon five (5) times at Moses. Life saving measures were administered to Moses by officers on scene until medics arrived.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

In reviewing all video footage, Moses was not heard making any intelligible communication with the involved officers prior to the OICI. After the OICI, during the process of officers and medics rendering aid to Moses, Moses could be heard saying, "let me die," "I wanna die," "kill me," and "I want to die." As Moses had been making these comments while the officers and medics had been rendering first aid to him, Moses made those comments in the English language.

Conclusion

Based on the facts and circumstances gathered in this case, Moses posed a serious threat of physical harm or death throughout the incident leading up to the OICI. Moses attempted to steal a car from the parking lot of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, 303 S. Main St., Celina, OH until Moses had been confronted by the owner of the car. This prompted a response by CPD, along with MCSO, and an attempt to locate Moses.

During the initial investigation, Ptl. Balthis from CPD went inside the gas station to try to identify Moses. Ptl. Balthis also wanted to see what Moses' actions were in attempting to steal Errin Johnson's (Errin) car by re-playing security footage the workers of the gas station had on their security camera's. In attempting to look at the security footage, Ptl. Balthis noticed Moses on the security camera walking in the back parking lot of the gas station as Moses had on a "puffer" style jacket and jeans as described by Errin during the initial investigation.

Ptl. Balthis walked out to the parking lot where Moses had been located on security camera. Upon contacting Moses, Ptl. Balthis observed Moses "stabbing" himself on the left side of the neck. With Ptl. Balthis' service weapon drawn, Ptl. Balthis gave numerous orders for Moses to "drop the knife" without success. Sgt. Crosby from CPD and Dep. Heintz from MCSO arrived on scene, and they had been advised by Ptl. Balthis of Moses' actions with the knife he possessed. Due to Moses stabbing himself in the neck with the knife and failing to comply with officers' orders, Moses created a substantial risk of serious physical harm to himself and officers at this point.

Sgt. Crosby had his taser drawn and Dep. Heintz had his service weapon drawn. Further orders had been given to Moses by all officers for Moses to "drop the knife." For a moment, Moses dropped the knife. Sgt. Crosby ordered Moses to "get on the ground" or Sgt. Crosby was going to tase Moses. Moses failed to comply with those orders and Sgt. Crosby deployed his taser which had little-to-no effect on Moses.

Moses then bent down to pick the knife back up and re-gained possession of the knife against officer's orders. Officers further ordered Moses to "drop it" or "drop the knife" without success. Moses now had the knife in his right hand, above his head, and

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main Street,
Celina, Ohio 45822

turned towards Dep. Heint. Dep. Heint had his service weapon drawn and continued to tell Moses to "drop it." Moses failed to comply with orders to "drop the knife" and Moses approached Dep. Heint in an aggressive manner with the knife in his right hand, raised above his head, which would cause Dep. Heint to believe Moses posed a serious threat of physical harm to Dep. Heint.



Dep. Heint discharged his service weapon five (5) times at Moses. Moses fell to the ground, officers approached Moses, and secured Moses by handcuffing him. Ptl. Balthis removed the knife which Moses had in his possession, away from the immediate area. Life saving measures were administered to Moses by all involved officers prior to medics arriving from CFD.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical 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 Douglas Burke. SA Burke can be reached via email at Douglas.Burke@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-216-2988.

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Prosecutor Summary



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