



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:** Lt. [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 1041 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Lieutenant [REDACTED] (Lt. [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 Lt. [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 Lt. [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. Lt. [REDACTED] was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Lt. [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 Lt. [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. Lt. ██████ signed his statement provided to BCI, and he verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI incident. Please refer to Lt. ██████'s 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 Lt. ██████ a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he fired his weapon based on the printed scene sketch. Lt. ██████'s answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Lt. ██████ wrote in his statement, "Traffic was stopped as I approached close to the 1-7IS interchange after I had passed the Mound Street exit. I had to weave my way through several stopped vehicles that were attempting to get out of my way. I could see several cruisers up ahead. Just before I could get to the scene, "shots fired" 10-3 was announced on the radio. I pulled up behind another CPD cruiser on the leftmost (north) lane. I got out of the driver's side door and drew my weapon. I proceeded forward (east) around the cruiser that was in front of me on its left hand (north) side. I could hear shots being fired. There were several civilian vehicles and more cruisers as I continued east but I could not see the suspect. I saw the black Porsche that was sitting between the leftmost (north) and middle lanes at an angle with the front pointed to the northeast. There were no cars, either civilian or cruiser, east of the suspect vehicle. I could see Sergeant ██████ in front of me (east) still in the leftmost lane, pointing his weapon to the southeast towards the other side of the suspect vehicle. To my right (south), I could see an officer, who I now know was Officer ██████, on the ground on the right berm close to the concrete barrier. Directly behind the black Porsche was a white sedan, which still had civilians inside. As I approached Sergeant ██████ I was able to see the suspect over top of the black Porsche. The suspect was a male black wearing a black hoodie, lighter colored pants, and had a mask over his face. The suspect was advancing west toward several officers, including Officer ██████ that were firing at him. At the time, I believed the suspect had a weapon. He had his hands up near his waist in a manner consistent with holding a weapon with his elbows at a 90-degree angle with his fist pointed towards the officers. As he continued to move towards the officers, I fired at the suspect twice from this location over the top of the suspect vehicle. When I realized I was too close to Sergeant ██████ who was also firing, I moved back and to my right (southwest). I fired twice from this location. I saw the suspect fall to the ground. I along with other officers stated that the suspect was down, and all shooting stopped. I aired that the suspect was down. I approached the suspect with other officers."

Lt. ██████ continued in his statement, "At the time I fired, I knew that the suspect had been involved in an armed robbery just before this incident and had likely been one of the perpetrators of other armed robberies before July 6th as this crime had been similar to other crimes in the area. I knew' that the suspect had previously shot, as a 10-3 had been aired over the radio. I had seen Officer ██████ on the ground. I observed the suspect move west directly towards Officer ██████ and other officers that were continuing to fire at him. He just kept coming. At the time, the suspect had his arm up near his waist in at a 90-degree angle in a manner consistent with holding a weapon. When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my fellow officers, as their lives were in imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm as the suspect kept advancing upon the firing officers. When I fired, I also did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect the civilians in their vehicles in the middle of the scene and those

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in vehicles behind us on I-70E.”

Lt. [REDACTED] had no further information. The interview concluded.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Lt. [REDACTED] Interview

Attachment # 02: CIN-Lt. [REDACTED]

Attachment # 03: Signed Statement-Lt. [REDACTED]

Attachment # 04: Interview Sketch-Lt. [REDACTED]



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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).

  
Printed Name of Interviewee

8/3/23 10:40AM  
Date / Time

  
Signature of Interviewee

Jim Mulford #39  
BCI Agent (Printed)

  
BCI Agent (Signature)

**STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT [REDACTED] # [REDACTED]**

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, between approximately 3:45pm and 4:30pm.

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police on July 6, 2015. I was promoted to the position of Lieutenant on February 24, 2023. My regular assignment at the Division is L3B. I have been in that assignment since I was promoted- approximately five (5) months. My regular duty hours are 3:00pm to 11:00pm with Friday and Saturday off. On Thursday, July 6, I was in my regular assignment.

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 my light. I was not carrying any backup weapons.

I am right-hand dominant. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I was not taking any medication that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I had not consumed alcohol or drugs in the twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to 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), nor do I have any problems with my vision.

Just before 4:00pm on Thursday July 6, I was in my assigned office at the Columbus Police Academy located at 1000 N. Hague Ave, Columbus, OH 43204. I was approached by Sergeant [REDACTED] and Sergeant Joel Westbrook regarding a high-end vehicle that had been stolen from the City of Whitehall and was now on the westside of Columbus. Similar crimes had previously

occurred in which suspects would steal a high dollar/high speed vehicles and then rob banks in other parts of the County. In this case, the suspects had stolen a black Porsche Cayenne SUV. We assumed that this matter would follow the same pattern and that bank robbery was imminent. Right after Sergeant Westbrook walked out of my office, it was aired that the suspect vehicle was at a Fifth Third Bank on Hilliard-Rome Road near Hilliard, but within CPD's jurisdiction. The officers then aired that the suspects had fled from Whitehall Police Department and had "rammed" one of them in order to escape. The officers aired that the suspect vehicle fled onto I-70, but they were unsure which direction.

Because I was the Lieutenant responsible for investigating pursuits on the westside of the Columbus, I got my vest from my office and proceeded out the parking lot in case there was a pursuit of the suspects. As I left the parking lot and approached the intersection, an officer at I-70E and Wilson Road aired that he had seen the Porsche drive passed his location. Once I knew that the suspect vehicle was I-70E bound and coming my direction, I got onto I-70E at the Hague Avenue exchange. I was driving Cruiser [REDACTED] and had no partner.

By the time I got the bottom of the ramp, I could see the black Porsche fairly far ahead of me, almost to the I-670E/70E split. The vehicle was moving at a high rate of speed and swerving in and out of traffic. Sergeant [REDACTED] aired that he had lost sight of the suspect vehicle near at I-70E and West Broad, which was east of my location. I continued to respond on I-70E with lights and sirens.

Traffic was stopped as I approached close to the I-71S interchange after I had passed the Mound Street exit. I had to weave my way through several stopped vehicles that were attempting to get out of my way. I could see several cruisers up ahead. Just before I could get to the scene, "shots fired" 10-3 was announced on the radio. I pulled up behind another CPD cruiser on the

leftmost (north) lane. I got out of the driver's side door and drew my weapon. I proceeded forward (east) around the cruiser that was in front of me on its lefthand (north) side. I could hear shots being fired. There were several civilian vehicles and more cruisers as I continued east but I could not see the suspect. I saw the black Porsche that was sitting between the leftmost (north) and middle lanes at an angle with the front pointed to the northeast. There were no cars, either civilian or cruiser, east of the suspect vehicle. I could see Sergeant [REDACTED] in front of me (east) still in the leftmost lane, pointing his weapon to the southeast towards the other side of the suspect vehicle. To my right (south), I could see an officer, who I now know was Officer [REDACTED], on the ground on the right berm close to the concrete barrier. Directly behind the black Porsche was a white sedan, which still had civilians inside.

As I approached Sergeant [REDACTED], I was able to see the suspect over top of the black Porsche. The suspect was a male black wearing a black hoodie, lighter colored pants, and had a mask over his face. The suspect was advancing west toward several officers, including Officer [REDACTED], that were firing at him. At the time, I believed the suspect had a weapon. He had his hands up near his waist in a manner consistent with holding a weapon with his elbows at a 90-degree angle with his fist pointed towards the officers. As he continued to move towards the officers, I fired at the suspect twice from this location over the top of the suspect vehicle. When I realized I was too close to Sergeant [REDACTED], who was also firing, I moved back and to my right (southwest). I fired twice from this location. I saw the suspect fall to the ground. I along with other officers stated that the suspect was down, and all shooting stopped. I aired that the suspect was down. I approached the suspect with other officers.

Once it became apparent to me that the suspect was secured and no longer a threat, I approached Officer [REDACTED] and saw that he had been hit. Officer [REDACTED] was being treated by

other officers. He was on his back, aware, and bleeding from his right leg. An officer informed me that his leg had been broken. They began to administer a tourniquet.

Because I was the highest-ranking officer at the scene at the time, I asked whether there were other suspects as officers began to establish a perimeter. When I approached the scene, I had only seen the one (1) suspect, who was now incapacitated. Due to the severity of his injury, Officer [REDACTED] was placed in the back of the cruiser that identified itself as Cruiser [REDACTED], though the vehicle was marked as [REDACTED]. The white civilian vehicle that I referred to previously was directed out of the way, so that the cruiser could load Officer [REDACTED] and make its way to Grant Hospital, which was only a few miles from our location. Before the cruiser left, the driver, Officer [REDACTED] told me that there was a second suspect that had on a black hoodie and gray pants. I aired that Officer [REDACTED] was on his way to the hospital in a police cruiser.

Some officers began to search to the south of the scene to attempt to find the other suspect (I was only aware of one other suspect at that time, though I thereafter learned that there were three total) and other officers continued to administer CPR to the suspect. I heard another officer air for a medic. I called my supervisor, Commander Erik Babcock, to inform him about the situation. I made sure a medic was on the way, as I had heard the medic request be aired but it had not arrived yet.

DC Tim Myers arrived on the scene. Once he became aware that I had been involved in shooting, my involvement on the scene was limited. Medics arrived and pronounced that the suspect's death at 16:20. Sergeant Matt Jenkins arrived at the scene as my Officer support. I then turned off my body worn camera. Sergeant Jenkins drove me in his cruiser to 8/16 Substation located at 333 W. Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215 where I awaited my FOP representation. I had no further involvement in the incident.



I fired a total of four (4) times. I fired two (2) times from a standing position to the right (northwest) of Sergeant [REDACTED] who was also firing at the time. The suspect was walking west towards Officer [REDACTED] and other officers that were firing at him. I fired south and slightly east. My target was the suspect's center of mass, though his body was partially pointed away from me showing his right side. I fired from a standing position with both hands. I fired with cover from the stolen black Porsche SUV that was between the suspect and myself. I fired over top of the SUV. I used my sights. It was daylight and though my gun had a light, it was not in use when I shot. My backdrop was the concrete construction barrier on the south side of the road. I was approximately 50 to 60 feet from the suspect when I shot.

When I moved to the southeast about 10-12 feet away from Sergeant [REDACTED], the suspect had moved further to the west continuing towards officers that were continuing to fire at him. I fired another two (2) times in a southeast direction. I could see him between the Porsche and a civilian vehicle. Again, I was standing and shot with both hands. I used my sights. During portions of this time, I believe I had the rear of the Porsche between myself and the suspect, but there could be period of time when I did not have cover. I fired at the suspect's center of mass and the concrete barrier remained as my backdrop. I was approximately 40 to 50 feet from the suspect when I shot.

At the time I fired, I knew that the suspect had been involved in an armed robbery just before this incident and had likely been one of the perpetrators of other armed robberies before July 6<sup>th</sup> as this crime had been similar to other crimes in the area. I knew that the suspect had previously shot, as a 10-3 had been aired over the radio. I had seen Officer [REDACTED] on the ground. I observed the suspect move west directly towards Officer [REDACTED] and other officers that were continuing to fire at him. He just kept coming. At the time, the suspect had his arm up near his waist in at a 90-degree angle in a manner consistent with holding a weapon.

When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my fellow officers, as their lives were in imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm as the suspect kept advancing upon the firing officers. When I fired, I also did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect the civilians in their vehicles in the middle of the scene and those in vehicles behind us on I-70E.

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 video footage of the incident. Upon review of a cruiser camera on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] it appears to me that the suspect did not have a weapon in his hand at the time I fired, though I believed he did at the time. Additionally, I can hear on the video that an officer or officers were ordering the suspect to get on the ground. The footage does not materially change my recollections of what occurred at the time of my shooting.

This statement consists of six (6) pages

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 8/3/23  
**Lieutenant** [REDACTED]

Mile 98.8

# I-70 Eastbound

Chevy Malibu (HDG6364)



Porsche (dealer plate)



Body of (small)



CPD Cruiser



2023-1792  
 Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
 July 6, 2023  
 Crime Scene Technician Amy Gill  
 Interstate 70 near Stearns Street  
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

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

\*\*\*Not to Scale\*\*\*

Porta Kleen

01/3/23