



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



2024-0590
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 500 N. Nelson Road,
 Columbus, Ohio 43219

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: ██████████ ██████████
Date of Activity: 03/13/2024
Activity Location: Harshman, Wannamacher, Tipton & Lipperman – 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220
Author: SA Ryan D. Scheiderer, #89

Narrative:

On March 13, 2024 at approximately 1008 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Ryan Scheiderer (SA Scheiderer) and Special Matt Collins (SA Collins) obtained written and recorded audio statements from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ regarding a February 22, 2024 shooting incident between CPD officers and Colin Jennings (Jennings) that occurred at 500 N. Nelson Road, Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). Jennings was fatally shot by ██████████ ██████████ during that encounter. ██████████ ██████████ Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Nicole Wannemacher (Attorney Wannemacher) was present and ██████████ ██████████ signed a BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form affirming his decision to provide a voluntary statement to BCI regarding the incident. The following is a summation of the contact with ██████████ ██████████ and additional details can be found in the attached audio recording and ██████████ ██████████ signed written statement. (*It should be noted that the officer referred to Colin Jennings as “Suspect” and that verbiage may have been used throughout the interview, but it was understood by all parties that “suspect” and “subject” referenced Jennings.*)

██████████ ██████████ (Badge # ██████████ regular assignment is ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ started his law enforcement career in 2008 at the North Hampton Police Department followed by being a police officer for the Grandview Hospital. ██████████ ██████████ joined CPD in ██████████. On February 22nd ██████████ ██████████ was driving CPD Cruiser ██████████ (marked cruiser) and working without a partner and wearing an approved standard patrol uniform. ██████████ ██████████ is current on his firearms qualification and was not carrying a “backup” firearm.

EXCERPTS FROM WRITTEN STATEMENT:

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"Since the information relayed over the radio involved a knife, I drew my firearm as I walked toward the building. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was approximately 15–20 feet ahead of me. I saw a male black walking west down the main pathway with the cover roof that led into the apartment complex. Just as he was reaching the parking lot at the end of the pathway and turned left (south) towards [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that he had a knife in his hand and I responded that I had lethal force. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was walking backwards to create space between himself and the suspect. There was a small SUV parked in the last parking space (south) and I took a position at the passenger side door, with my weapon pointed over the vehicle towards the suspect."

"I yelled at the suspect to "Drop the knife!" I believe the suspect was repeatedly yelling "Shoot me!" He was quickly advancing south on the sidewalk towards us with a large knife raised up in his right hand. I told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to get out his taser and tase him while I provided lethal cover. I saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the taser in his hand the one of the dots on the suspect. The suspect was quickly closing the gap between us and I took a couple steps back(west). As I stepped backwards, I saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] flip/rotate his wrist with the taser in it. My weapon was still pointed at the suspect and he continued advancing towards us. I repeated "tase him" to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The suspect reached the front corner (driver's side) of the SUV. I said, "back up" and I stepped back a couple feet. I was now a couple feet behind and slightly south off the rear passenger side of the small SUV."

"The suspect quickly went around the front of the SUV—advancing towards us —with the knife raised in his right hand. It is at that moment that I fired my weapon at the suspect, He went down onto the sidewalk and dropped the knife. He was laying on his stomach with his head towards us. I approached him with my weapon still drawn and kicked the knife away. I then holstered my weapon and secured him while [REDACTED] [REDACTED] went to get first aid equipment. I put on gloves and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I rendered aid until medics arrived. I left the scene with Officer Support and went to the Wellness Center where I waited for BCI Agents to arrive. This ended my involvement in this incident."

"I believe I fired 3 shots during this incident. I fired in rapid succession and I would estimate that I fired all 3 rounds in approximately 1 second, I fired using a two-handed grip and I believe I utilized my sights. I fired from a standing position a couple feet southwest of the rear passenger corner of the SUV. My target was the suspect's center mass. The direction of my shots was east to slightly southeast. My backdrop was the exterior brick wall. I would estimate that I was approximately 10–12 feet from the suspect when I fired. I did not have any cover or concealment when I fired."

"At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had exited the apartment complex with a large knife in his hand and came directly towards [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I were the only officers on scene and we were both at the south end of building. The suspect came directly towards us, with the knife raised, yelling at us to shoot him, Initially, I told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to tase him as we had time, distance, barrier, lethal force backup and it was reasonable. However, once the suspect came around the front of the SUV and was directly in front of us, we no longer had time, distance, or barrier and therefore it was no longer reasonable. Before I fired my weapon, I saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] flipping/rotating his wrist with

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
03/15/2024

the taser in his hand. We had just received these tasers approximately a week earlier and they are different from our prior tasers. The new tasers have two sets of pronged darts: one for short range and one for longer range. The way you switch between the two distances is by flipping/rotating the taser. I thought that potentially the taser was malfunctioning. I did not know he discharged the taser until after I had fired my weapon and I saw the wires.”

“Immediately before I discharged my firearm, the suspect had rounded the front of the SUV and was within 10–12 feet of us. We had already attempted to deescalate by stepping back to create more distance but the suspect continued to aggressively come towards us with the knife raised in his hand yelling to shoot him. In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal and just two days before this incident an officer was seriously injured and almost killed when he was stabbed by a suspect. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of ██████████ from the suspect’s deadly threat at the time I fired my weapon.”

“I now know that the suspect is Colin Jennings. I do not recognize this person as anyone I have ever had any prior encounters with, professionally nor personally. I had the opportunity to review the footage of this incident after this event. After doing so, I realized that when I fired ██████████ was south and east of me when I fired. I thought he was directly beside me. Also, at some point, I thought the suspect had the knife in his left hand as well but from the video it appears that it was always in his right hand.”

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

Agents asked a series of clarifying questions– after receiving ██████████ ██████████ official written statement. The following is a summation of the information obtained from those questions.

██████████ ██████████ has not attended Crisis Intervention Training. ██████████ ██████████ stated he received a “brief” description of Jennings while responding to the incident location but couldn’t remember if the description came from the radio or the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) in his cruiser. ██████████ ██████████ remembered the description given was male/Black wearing a blue shirt that had locked himself in a bathroom inside the apartment and had changed clothing.

██████████ ██████████ explained that ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ was armed with a Taser X7 which has two cartridges. One cartridge is for close quarters (6ft – 10ft) deployment and the second is for greater distances (10ft to 25ft) (*distances were approximated*). Officers can switch between which cartridge they intend to deploy by “canting” the Taser and then “flipping” it back up. The Taser X7 is set up so that when it is first turned on, the close quarters cartridge is the default. ██████████ ██████████ was not aware ██████████ ██████████ deployed a Taser when he discharged his firearm. ██████████ ██████████ ever observed any behaviors from Jennings consistent with him being affected by a successful Taser deployment. ██████████ ██████████ was asked if there was anything other than using deadly force he could have done to resolve the situation with Jennings. ██████████ ██████████ answered, “In hindsight, I feel like I could have given more verbal commands.” ██████████ ██████████ clarified he issued Jennings commands on February

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22nd, but Jennings didn't comply.

██████████ was asked about two notations in his CPD Internal Affairs Bureau Employee Report (██████████ dated 3/28/2013 and ██████████ dated 6/01/2013) that documented the allegations "Violation of Policy, Injury to prisoner" with dispositions "Outside of Policy". ██████████ stated he wasn't certain about those notations but believed the one involved him transporting a prisoner and when they had to unload the prisoner, there was a use of force. ██████████ stated the use of force was found to be within policy, but he hadn't activated the backseat camera and that was found to be outside policy. ██████████ believed the other incident involved another prisoner transport where an officer used a Taser, but he didn't recall anyone being found outside policy regarding that incident. *(It should be noted that SA Scheiderer had previously asked CPD for the records regarding both notations and due to retention policies, neither had any available records to review.)*

██████████ was asked about the comment "In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal and just two days before this incident an officer was seriously injured and almost killed when he was stabbed by a suspect" found in his written statement. ██████████ explained that in the academy, officers are taught that suicidal suspects are very frequently homicidal, and if they are willing to take their own life, they could take the life of another. ██████████ clarified that regarding an officer being stabbed, he had heard a news report on the radio that another local jurisdiction's officer had been stabbed in the head by a suspect. ██████████ was aware of that incident prior to encountering Jennings on February 22nd.

██████████ was asked about his comment heard on his Body Worn Camera (BWC) video regarding him telling ██████████ he had lethal coverage and for ██████████ to use a Taser. ██████████ explained the five-prong assessment officers utilize when considering the use of a Taser and because he was able to cover Jennings with his firearm, there was distance between officers and Jennings, and the fact ██████████ had a barrier (parked vehicle) between him and Jennings, he felt ██████████ may be able to utilize a Taser to immobilize Jennings. ██████████ stated that due to Jennings quickly closing the distance between himself and officers, Jennings moving around the barrier (parked vehicle) between him and officers, and the fact that he had a knife, that changed and caused ██████████ to utilize his firearm.

██████████ was not aware of the February 04, 2024 (Jennings taking pills and making comments that officer would have to shoot him) and February 14, 2024 (well-being check) calls for service involving Jennings at 500 N. Nelson Road prior to his contact with Jennings on February 22nd but did learn of them after the shooting incident.

██████████ stated that his actions on February 22nd were consistent with the training he received from CPD and his experiences as a police officer at CPD. ██████████ denied anyone telling him what to say or asking him to lie or fabricate information regarding his statement.

Attachments:

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Attachment # 02: CPD [REDACTED] Interview Audio 3.13.2024
Attachment # 03: CPD [REDACTED] Signed Statement 3.13.2024
Attachment # 04: CPD [REDACTED] CIN 3.13.2024

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STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, February 22, 2024, from approximately 9:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police (“CPD” or the “Division”) is [REDACTED]. I attended Sinclair Community College and graduated with my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification in [REDACTED]. After graduation I worked for the North Hampton Police Department in Clark County and I also worked for Grandview Hospital as a police officer. I did this until I joined CPD in [REDACTED]. Even though I already had an OPOTA certification, I was required to graduate CPD’s academy, which I did approximately 6 months later. I do not have any military experience. I do not currently have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy.

My regular assignment is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I did not work any special duty in the 24-hour period prior to my shift. I worked an overtime assignment the day [REDACTED] I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

I wear contacts and I had them in at the time of this incident. My corrected vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I had not consumed alcohol in the 24-hour period prior to this incident. I did not consume any prescription or over-the-counter medication in the 24-hour period prior to this incident.

On the day of this incident, I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants, an external vest, a navy short-sleeved shirt which displayed my badge on the front and

stated "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the back. I also had on a CPD baseball hat. I was also equipped with a body worn camera (BWC) which mounted to my chest and activated during this incident. I was not working with a partner. I was in cruiser [REDACTED]

I was equipped with my Division-issued Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm handgun, which was loaded with Division-issued ammunition. I was current in my range qualifications with that weapon. I was not carrying any backup firearm.

Immediately before this incident, I was at the 7-precinct substation to get my lunch. Since I start work at 6:00 a.m., I tend to eat early. While I was there, radio dispatched [REDACTED] and I on a run at 500 N. Nelson Road. I am familiar with this location, as I have been there several times and knew that it was just a couple minutes from the substation. Dispatch stated that there was a male who was cutting himself. Radio also stated that the male had locked himself in the bathroom. I exited the substation and got into my cruiser. [REDACTED] left at the same time and I was behind him.

I would estimate it took approximately 5 minutes to reach the apartment complex. The apartment complex is shaped like a wide "U" and is 3 stories high. In the middle there is a covered patio that leads from the parking lot to the doors. While I was driving to the location, radio aired that the caller was waiting outside. [REDACTED] pulled into the parking lot of the apartment complex and parked at the south end. I pulled in a few seconds after him and parked behind him. [REDACTED] exited his cruiser and was walking north on the sidewalk towards the main entrance. I exited my cruiser and also began walking that way.

Since the information relayed over the radio involved a knife, I drew my firearm as I walked toward the building. [REDACTED] was approximately 15-20 feet ahead of me. I saw a male black walking west down the main pathway with the cover roof that led into the

apartment complex. Just as he was reaching the parking lot at the end of the pathway and turned left (south) towards [REDACTED], [REDACTED] aired that he had a knife in his hand and I responded that I had lethal force. [REDACTED] was walking backwards to create space between himself and the suspect. There was a small SUV parked in the last parking space (south) and I took a position at the passenger side door, with my weapon pointed over the vehicle towards the suspect.

I yelled at the suspect to “Drop the knife!” I believe the suspect was repeatedly yelling “Shoot me!” He was quickly advancing south on the sidewalk towards us with a large knife raised up in his right hand. I told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to get out his taser and tase him while I provided lethal cover. I saw [REDACTED] with the taser in his hand the one of the dots on the suspect. The suspect was quickly closing the gap between us and I took a couple steps back (west). As I stepped backwards, I saw [REDACTED] flip/rotate his wrist with the taser in it. My weapon was still pointed at the suspect and he continued advancing towards us. I repeated “tase him” to [REDACTED]. The suspect reached the front corner (driver’s side) of the SUV. I said, “back up” and I stepped back a couple feet. I was now a couple feet behind and slightly south off the rear passenger side of the small SUV.

The suspect quickly went around the front of the SUV—advancing towards us—with the knife raised in his right hand. It is at that moment that I fired my weapon at the suspect. He went down onto the sidewalk and dropped the knife. He was laying on his stomach with his head towards us. I approached him with my weapon still drawn and kicked the knife away. I then holstered my weapon and secured him while [REDACTED] [REDACTED] went to get first aid equipment. I put on gloves and [REDACTED] and I rendered aid until medics arrived. I left the scene

with Officer Support and went to the Wellness Center where I waited for BCI Agents to arrive. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I believe I fired 3 shots during this incident. I fired in rapid succession and I would estimate that I fired all 3 rounds in approximately 1 second. I fired using a two-handed grip and I believe I utilized my sights. I fired from a standing position a couple feet southwest of the rear passenger corner of the SUV. My target was the suspect's center mass. The direction of my shots was east to slightly southeast. My backdrop was the exterior brick wall. I would estimate that I was approximately 10-12 feet from the suspect when I fired. I did not have any cover or concealment when I fired.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of [REDACTED]. Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had exited the apartment complex with a large knife in his hand and came directly towards [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I were the only officers on scene and we were both at the south end of building. The suspect came directly towards us, with the knife raised, yelling at us to shoot him. Initially, I told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to tase him as we had time, distance, barrier, lethal force backup and it was reasonable. However, once the suspect came around the front of the SUV and was directly in front of us, we no longer had time, distance, or barrier and therefore it was no longer reasonable. Before I fired my weapon, I saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] flipping/rotating his wrist with the taser in his hand. We had just received these tasers approximately a week earlier and they are different from our prior tasers. The new tasers have two sets of pronged darts: one for short range and one for longer range. The way you switch between the two distances is by flipping/rotating the taser. I thought that potentially the taser was malfunctioning. I did not know he discharged the taser until after I had fired my weapon and I saw the wires.

Immediately before I discharged my firearm, the suspect had rounded the front of the SUV and was within 10-12 feet of us. We had already attempted to deescalate by stepping back to create more distance but the suspect continued to aggressively come towards us with the knife raised in his hand yelling to shoot him. In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal and just two days before this incident an officer was seriously injured and almost killed when he was stabbed by a suspect. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of [REDACTED] from the suspect's deadly threat at the time I fired my weapon.

I now know that the suspect is Colin Jennings. I do not recognize this person as anyone I have ever had any prior encounters with, professionally nor personally.

I had the opportunity to review the footage of this incident after this event. After doing so, I realized that when I fired [REDACTED] was south and east of me when I fired. I thought he was directly beside me. Also, at some point, I thought the suspect had the knife in his left hand as well but from the video it appears that it was always in his right hand.

This concludes my statement and I will now answer any follow-up questions you may have at this time.

[REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED]



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
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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 Name]

Printed Name of Interviewee

3/13/24

Date / Time

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

Ryan Scheidesser

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature] #89

BCI Agent (Signature)