



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: Sgt. [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 08/03/2023
Activity Location: Lipperman, Lathan – Business – 4683 Winterset Dr, Columbus, OH
43220, Franklin County
Author: SA James A. Mulford, #39

Narrative:

On August 03, 2023 at approximately 1240 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Sergeant Fredrick [REDACTED] (Sgt. [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 Sgt. [REDACTED] union attorney, Lathan Lipperman.

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 Sgt. [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. Sgt. [REDACTED] was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Sgt. [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 Lathan Lipperman provided SA Mulford with a written statement from Sgt. [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. Sgt. [REDACTED] signed his statement provided to BCI, and he verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI incident. Please refer to Sgt. [REDACTED]'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 Sgt. [REDACTED] a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he fired his weapon based on the printed scene sketch. Sgt. [REDACTED]'s answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Sgt. [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "Initially, I did not see the suspect or officers. However, as I exited my cruiser, I saw the suspect to my east, near the right (south) side of the freeway. He was advancing west towards Officer [REDACTED] who was lying in the roadway several yards to my southeast. Officer [REDACTED] appeared to be bleeding, as I saw blood on the road around him. There was also an officer next to (north of) Officer [REDACTED]. I immediately drew my weapon and ran east along the concrete barrier on the north side of the interstate. I passed the driver's side of Cruiser [REDACTED] as shots were being fired. I took a position just northeast of [REDACTED] northwest of the Porsche). The suspect was just southeast of the Porsche and advancing towards Officer [REDACTED]. I heard another officer giving commands to the suspect (I do not recall exactly what he said) but the suspect continued to advance towards Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect's right side was bladed towards Officer [REDACTED]. And since the Porsche was between the suspect and me, I could not see the suspect's right hand and I continued to hear rounds being fired. I believed the suspect was firing at Officer [REDACTED] as he lay wounded in the road. I leveled my weapon and aimed at the suspect's center mass and fired several rounds in a controlled shot cadence. The suspect did not react to the multiple rounds being fired at him. I was concerned he may be wearing a bulletproof vest so I took a second and stopped firing to re-align my shot for his head. During that second, the suspect fell to the ground. I saw two other officers (one was Officer [REDACTED] who had been behind (west) me approaching the suspect. I took a position at the front driver's side of the Porsche and I provided cover until they had the suspect secured."

Sgt. [REDACTED] continued in his statement, "At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for the life of Officer [REDACTED] as well as the other officers and civilians in the area. Prior to firing my weapon, the suspect had committed an armed robbery of a car dealership, robbed a bank, shot and severely wounded Officer [REDACTED] and was advancing towards him. Despite multiple rounds being fired, the suspect continued to advance toward Officer [REDACTED] while he was laying with severe injuries and bleeding in the roadway. I believed he was coming back to try and execute Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect never put his hands up or gave any indication of surrendering. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect Officer [REDACTED]'s life, and the lives of the other officers and civilians in the area at the time I fired my weapon."

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

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Sgt. [REDACTED] Interview
- Attachment # 02: CIN-Sgt. [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 03: Signed Statement- Sgt. [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 04: Interview Sketch- Sgt. [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).

[Redacted Name]

Printed Name of Interviewee

8/3/23 12:41 PM

Date / Time

[Redacted Signature]

Jim Mulford #39

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF SERGEANT [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, from approximately 3:40 p.m. until 4:30 p.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 September 24, 1995. I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2016. Prior to joining CPD, I worked for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department, but I did not have my law enforcement certification. I received my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification upon my graduation from the police academy in 1996. I have never had a use of force that was determined to be outside of policy. I have approximately 3 ½ years in the Army Reserves. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from The Ohio State University and a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. I am state certified in Defense Tactics, and I am certified to operate the shotgun.

My regular assignment is CRT-3. CRT is the Community Response Team. My regular duty hours are from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., with Friday and Saturday off. I did not work any overtime or special duty in the 24-hour period prior to this incident. I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

I wear glasses and I was wearing them on the date 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 internal vest, a navy short-sleeved shirt which displayed my badge on the front and stated "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the back. I was also equipped with a body worn camera (BWC) which was activated during the entirety of this incident and was mounted to my chest. 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. I was in Cruiser [REDACTED] and I was not working with a partner.

At approximately 3:42 p.m., I was at 15 precinct substation when I was notified that there had been an armed robbery at the Byer's dealership on the east side and that a black Porsche had been stolen. The Porsche was equipped with a GPS which revealed that the vehicle was traveling towards Hilliard Rome Road. Whitehall Police Department was monitoring the GPS and had plain clothes/car officers following the stolen car. Whitehall officers were communicating with us on the backchannel and aired that the suspect had robbed a bank and fled in the stolen Porsche. Whitehall plain car officers aired that the suspect had fled on I-270 south and was approaching I-70. I exited the academy (the substation is in the Columbus Police Academy) and I got into my cruiser and continued monitoring the backchannels. As I was driving out of the academy, officers aired that they lost the suspect vehicle.

I knew the day before this that a suspect had stolen a corvette and robbed a bank and abandoned the stolen car in the campus area. Based on this information, I anticipated the suspect would get onto I-70 eastbound. I drove south on Hague Avenue and turned left (east) onto Fisher Road. I took the entrance ramp onto I-70 eastbound and entered the freeway. I then pulled over to the berm to monitor the radio traffic, as I expected the stolen car to eventually come east on I-70. I was on the berm for less than a minute when someone aired that the

suspect was on 70 eastbound. I aired asking where at on I-70 and that I was at I-70 and Hague Avenue. I believe Cruiser [REDACTED] then aired that the vehicle just flew past them at Wilson Road which was a little over a mile from my location. I looked behind me and saw the black Porsche approaching in the far-left lane. I activated my emergency beacons and siren and started accelerating to get onto I-70 from the berm but the Porsche flew by me. I could not catch up to the Porsche, but I aired its direction of travel (I-70E at the I-670 split and that it continued east) and continued driving on I-70 to try and keep a visual on the suspect vehicle. I was able to keep sight of the suspect vehicle until I reached Broad Street. Other officers aired that the suspect was still going east on I-70 and began radioing the mile markers.

I passed the former Columbus Clippers Stadium and was near Mound Street when I heard over the radio "10-3" (officer in trouble call) and "shots fired!" I could not see the suspects or the officers. I continued east on I-70 and a second or two later, I saw a cruiser with its lights on and the black Porsche sideways in the road, approximately 100-125 yards ahead of me, just east of the signs for the I-70/71 interchange. I drove between several civilian vehicles and parked my cruiser. Specifically, I parked behind Cruiser [REDACTED] in the far-left lane. That Cruiser was parked directly behind the black Porsche and a couple civilian vehicles in the next (right) lane over.

Initially, I did not see the suspect or officers. However, as I exited my cruiser, I saw the suspect to my east, near the right (south) side of the freeway. He was advancing west towards Officer [REDACTED], who was lying in the roadway several yards to my southeast. Officer [REDACTED] appeared to be bleeding, as I saw blood on the road around him. There was also an officer next to (north of) Officer [REDACTED]. I immediately drew my weapon and ran east along the concrete barrier on the north side of the interstate. I passed the driver's side of Cruiser [REDACTED] as shots were being fired.

I took a position just northeast of [REDACTED] (northwest of the Porsche). The suspect was just southeast of the Porsche and advancing towards Officer [REDACTED]. I heard another officer giving commands to the suspect (I do not recall exactly what he said) but the suspect continued to advance towards Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect's right side was bladed towards Officer [REDACTED]. And since the Porsche was between the suspect and me, I could not see the suspect's right hand and I continued to hear rounds being fired. I believed the suspect was firing at Officer [REDACTED] as he lay wounded in the road. I leveled my weapon and aimed at the suspect's center mass and fired several rounds in a controlled shot cadence.

The suspect did not react to the multiple rounds being fired at him. I was concerned he may be wearing a bulletproof vest so I took a second and stopped firing to re-align my shot for his head. During that second, the suspect fell to the ground. I saw two other officers (one was Officer [REDACTED]) who had been behind (west) me approaching the suspect. I took a position at the front driver's side of the Porsche and I provided cover until they had the suspect secured. There were a large number of officers on scene who began closing the freeway and rendering aid to the suspect and wounded officer. I radioed to make sure there was an ambulance on the way for the suspect, put on gloves, and assisted in the rotation of performing CPR on the suspect until medics arrived.

Medics arrived on scene and took over rendering aid on the suspect. Officer Support arrived and I returned to the 8/16 substation. I waited at the substation until BCI Agents arrived to photograph me and take my weapon. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I now know I fired 10 rounds during this incident. I fired in controlled succession, and I would estimate that I fired all my rounds in 4-5 seconds. I fired using a two-handed grip and I utilized my sights. I fired from a standing position several feet east of [REDACTED] and northeast of the

driver's side of the Porsche. I tried to utilize the Porsche for some concealment/cover. My target was the suspect's center mass. The direction of my shots was east to slightly southeast. My backdrop was an empty highway and the concrete barrier on the south side of the freeway. I would estimate that I was approximately 25-30 yards from the suspect when I fired. The suspect was advancing west, towards Officer [REDACTED] who was in front of me (east) when I fired at him. The suspect continued to advance towards Officer [REDACTED] despite multiple rounds being fired at him. The bullets did nothing to stop the suspect and he continued advancing towards Officer [REDACTED]

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for the life of Officer [REDACTED] as well as the other officers and civilians in the area. Prior to firing my weapon, the suspect had committed an armed robbery of a car dealership, robbed a bank, shot and severely wounded Officer [REDACTED] and was advancing towards him. Despite multiple rounds being fired, the suspect continued to advance toward Officer [REDACTED] while he was laying with severe injuries and bleeding in the roadway. I believed he was coming back to try and execute Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect never put his hands up or gave any indication of surrendering. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect Officer [REDACTED]'s life, and the lives of the other officers and civilians in the area at the time I fired my weapon.

I now know that the suspect is Abdisamad Ismail. I do not recognize this person as anyone I have ever had any prior encounters with, either professionally or personally. I also subsequently learned that there were two suspects who escaped, Aden Jama and Faisal Darod. I do not recognize those two individuals as anyone who I have previously encountered, either professionally or personally.

I had the opportunity to review the footage of this incident after this event. After doing so, it appears that the suspect waited by the Porsche to ambush Officer [REDACTED] and after shooting him in the leg, the suspect ran up to Officer [REDACTED] while he was laying injured in the road and fired several more rounds at Officer [REDACTED] at point blank range. After repeatedly shooting Officer [REDACTED] it appears the suspect tossed/dropped his gun onto the road; however, at the time of the incident I did not know this. Although I did not see the suspect with a gun in his hand, I heard multiple rounds being fired, saw him advancing towards an immobile and seriously injured Officer [REDACTED], and I truly believed he intended to kill Officer [REDACTED].

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

Sgt
Sergeant [REDACTED]

2023-1792

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

July 6, 2023

Crime Scene Technician Amy Gill

Interstate 70 near Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

- ☉ = Firearms/Magazines
- = Blazer cartridge casings
- = Spear cartridge casings
- = Projectiles



Not to Scale

I-70 Eastbound

Mile 98.8

Porsche (dealer plate)



Chevy Malibu (HDG6364)



CPD Cruiser



Body of Ismail



Portia Klean



SCS