



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 1045 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 with CPD in 2010. On February 22nd ██████████ ██████████ was driving CPD Cruiser ██████████ (marked cruiser) and working without a partner and wearing an approved standard patrol uniform. On February 15, 2024, ██████████ ██████████ successfully completed one-year certification on the Taser 7.

EXCERPTS FROM WRITTEN STATEMENT:

“As I was driving, I was listening to the radio updates and they aired that the caller was outside

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the apartment complex. I reached the apartment complex in approximately 5 minutes. Due to the caller reporting the suspect was armed with the knife, this is a 2-officer run. I pulled into the parking lot and I parked the cruiser at the south end of the building. I knew that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would be just a few seconds behind me so I exited my cruiser and began walking north towards the main entrance. The apartment complex is 3 stories high and shaped like a wide "U". In the middle there is a covered patio/walkway that leads from the parking lot to the main entrance doors."

"I was about 10-15 feet from the main walkway that leads directly into the apartment building when a male black quickly exited the complex walking west towards the parking lot."

"Within a second or two I realized that he had a large knife in his right hand. I immediately stopped and quickly started moving backwards while drawing my firearm. I aired that the suspect had a knife in his hand."

"The suspect kept repeating "Shoot me! Shoot me!" He was quickly advancing south on the sidewalk towards me with a large knife raised up in his right hand. I heard [REDACTED] [REDACTED] give him verbal commands to drop the knife. He stated that he had lethal force and to get my taser out. I saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] out of the corner of my eye with his gun pointed at the suspect. As I continued stepping backwards, I holstered my firearm and drew my taser. The suspect was quickly closing the gap between us and I reached the end of the sidewalk that goes south and I turned west and continued to back up along the sidewalk that was directly next (south) to the parked SUV."

"I was just issued a new taser approximately a week earlier and it has two settings and two sets of pronged darts. The default is close range. When I initially pointed my taser (there is a red and green dot representing the two darts) at the suspect, I did not have a good spread due to the distance. I rotated my wrist while holding the taser to switch to the long-range deployment. As I did this, the suspect reached the front of the SUV that was separating us. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] yelled to backup and I took another step or two backwards (west). The suspect quickly rounded the front of the SUV and was approximately 10-15 feet in front of us. He had the knife raised in his right hand and continued advancing towards us. It was at that moment that I deployed my taser at the suspect."

"Simultaneously with firing the taser, I heard gunshots. The suspect dropped the knife while falling to the sidewalk. He was lying face down, with his head towards us. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] approached the suspect and kicked the knife away. I aired "shots fired" and for a medic. I assisted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] securing the suspect and then went to the cruiser to get first aid equipment. I put on gloves, as did [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and 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 deployed one set of pronged darts at the suspect. I fired using a two-handed grip and I used the red and green dot 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 taser deployment 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 deployed my taser. I did not have any cover or concealment when I deployed. It would generally not be

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03/15/2024

reasonable to use a taser when a suspect is armed with a knife, as a knife is a deadly weapon. However, because ██████████ ██████████ had lethal force backup and we initially had the SUV between us and the suspect (which provided the required barrier) the attempted use of the taser was reasonable. It did not appear that the taser was effective as the darts did not appear to fully penetrate the thick jacket he was wearing.”

“At the time I fired the taser at the suspect, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of ██████████ ██████████ Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had exited the apartment complex in an agitated and came directly towards me with a large knife raised in his hand, yelling “shoot me!” Despite backing up and trying to create distance, and ██████████ ██████████ giving commands to drop the knife, the suspect continued to quickly advance towards me with the knife raised in his hand. Immediately before I discharged the taser, the suspect had rounded the SUV—with the knife raised in his hand— and was within 10–12 feet of us. 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.”

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. ██████████ ██████████ called being told the “suspect” was a male/Black who had locked himself in a bathroom and that the caller, according to Dispatch, was a female and would be outside the apartment building.

██████████ ██████████ clarified that the first time he observed Jennings, was when he observed the front entrance door “fling open” and Jennings exited. At that time, ██████████ ██████████ had not identified the subject as Jennings, but based on how the subject exited “forcibly”, he believed it was the subject the call was about. ██████████ ██████████ immediately noticed the subject had a “large” knife in his hand. ██████████ ██████████ did not observe Jennings standing inside the building waiting at the front door entrance prior to the door opening.

██████████ ██████████ explained how the Taser X7 works regarding the two separate cartridges and how one is for close quarters deployment and the other for extended ranges. ██████████ ██████████ explained that due to the way the Taser’s laser dot sight appeared on Jennings, he decided to use the extended range cartridge. ██████████ ██████████ stated that for it to be reasonable for him to use a Taser against Jennings, he needed lethal force “backup”, which he did by ██████████ ██████████ having his pistol aimed at Jennings.

██████████ ██████████ was asked about the comment in his written statement regarding an officer who had just been stabbed. ██████████ ██████████ clarified that a couple days prior to his encounter with Jennings, he saw a story on the news about a local township officer who had been stabbed in the head during a non-adversarial call for service.

██████████ ██████████ was asked if there was anything, other than deploying his Taser at Jennings, he could have done to resolve the situation. ██████████ ██████████ responded “I don’t believe

so". [REDACTED] [REDACTED] commented he couldn't believe how fast the incident occurred. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] believed that from the time he first observed Jennings with a knife until shots were fired, only approximately ten (10) seconds had elapsed. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] clarified that he initially drew his pistol after seeing Jennings with the knife and transitioned to his Taser after retreating behind the parked vehicle where [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was located.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] wasn't sure if the Taser was effective against Jennings due to everything happening so quickly and the gunshot happening almost simultaneous to him deploying the Taser. However, once [REDACTED] [REDACTED] began evaluating Jennings' injuries, he observed that it didn't appear that the Taser's probes ever fully penetrated Jennings' thick jacket.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] was asked about the comments in his written statement "In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal" and he clarified that officers are trained that if someone is willing to kill themselves, they are willing to kill someone else.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] was asked if he had any training involving subjects armed with a knife. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] confirmed he had been trained regarding that and that what occurred with Jennings was almost identical to many scenarios used in their training. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] further explained that a subject with a knife acting in an aggressive manner is considered a "deadly force" situation. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that had he been alone when he encountered Jennings, he would not have retrieved his Taser, because it was a deadly force situation, and he would have drawn his pistol. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] confirmed him hearing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stating he had lethal force was the determining factor on him transitioning to his Taser. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] confirmed none of the training he had received indicated a knife was not a deadly weapon.

Throughout the contact with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he made several comments about how fast or quickly everything occurred. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] denied anyone telling him what to say or asking him to lie or fabricate information regarding his statement.

When asked if he had anything he wished to add to his statement, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] responded *"I just think it was an unfortunate incident. You know, for Mr. Jennings, but umm... he created that situation and it just happened so fast, we weren't left with any other options for our own safety."*

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: CPD [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Interview Audio 3.13.2024

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Attachment # 02: CPD [REDACTED] Signed Statement 3.13.2024
Attachment # 03: 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 was in the [REDACTED] I was a [REDACTED] and I also served as [REDACTED] I received [REDACTED] experience is my only law enforcement experience outside of CPD. I have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and psychology from the University of Dayton. 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 or overtime in the 24-hour period prior to my shift. I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

I wear contacts, which were in at the time of this incident, and 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 that would impair my abilities as a police officer 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 and a baseball cap. 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 grab something to eat. Since my workday starts 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. Radio aired 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.

Initially, [REDACTED] was directly behind me. However, I believe I lost him around Mt. Vernon Avenue and Taylor Avenue. As I was driving, I was listening to the radio updates and they aired that the caller was outside the apartment complex. I reached the apartment complex in approximately 5 minutes. Due to the caller reporting the suspect was armed with the knife, this is a 2-officer run. I pulled into the parking lot and I parked the cruiser at the south end of the building. I knew that [REDACTED] would be just a few seconds behind me so I exited my cruiser and began walking north towards the main entrance. The apartment complex is 3 stories high and shaped like a wide "U". In the middle there is a covered patio/walkway that leads from the parking lot to the main entrance doors.

I was about 10-15 feet from the main walkway that leads directly into the apartment building when a male black quickly exited the complex walking west towards the parking lot.

Within a second or two I realized that he had a large knife in his right hand. I immediately stopped and quickly started moving backwards while drawing my firearm. I aired that the suspect had a knife in his hand.

The suspect kept repeating "Shoot me! Shoot me!" He was quickly advancing south on the sidewalk towards me with a large knife raised up in his right hand. I heard [REDACTED] gave him verbal commands to drop the knife. He stated that he had lethal force and to get my taser out. I saw [REDACTED] out of the corner of my eye with his gun pointed at the suspect. As I continued stepping backwards, I holstered my firearm and drew my taser. The suspect was quickly closing the gap between us and I reached the end of the sidewalk that goes south and I turned west and continued to back up along the sidewalk that was directly next (south) to the parked SUV.

I was just issued a new taser approximately a week earlier and it has two settings and two sets of pronged darts. The default is close range. When I initially pointed my taser (there is a red and green dot representing the two darts) at the suspect, I did not have a good spread due to the distance. I rotated my wrist while holding the taser to switch to the long-range deployment. As I did this, the suspect reached the front of the SUV that was separating us. [REDACTED] yelled to backup and I took another step or two backwards (west). The suspect quickly rounded the front of the SUV and was approximately 10-15 feet in front of us. He had the knife raised in his right hand and continued advancing towards us. It was at that moment that I deployed my taser at the suspect.

Simultaneously with firing the taser, I heard gunshots. The suspect dropped the knife while falling to the sidewalk. He was lying face down, with his head towards us. [REDACTED] approached the suspect and kicked the knife away. I aired "shots fired" and for a medic. I

assisted [REDACTED] in securing the suspect and then went to the cruiser to get first aid equipment. I put on gloves, as did [REDACTED] and 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 deployed one set of pronged darts at the suspect. I fired using a two-handed grip and I used the red and green dot 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 taser deployment 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 deployed my taser. I did not have any cover or concealment when I deployed. It would generally not be reasonable to use a taser when a suspect is armed with a knife, as a knife is a deadly weapon. However, because [REDACTED] had lethal force backup and we initially had the SUV between us and the suspect (which provided the required barrier) the attempted use of the taser was reasonable. It did not appear that the taser was effective as the darts did not appear to fully penetrate the thick jacket he was wearing.

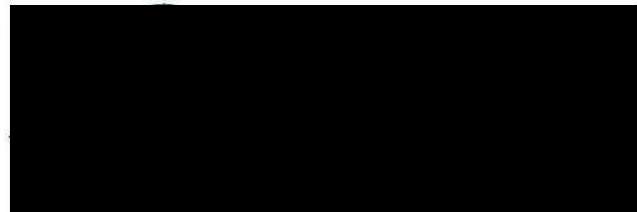
At the time I fired the taser at the suspect, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of [REDACTED]. Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had exited the apartment complex in an agitated and came directly towards me with a large knife raised in his hand, yelling "shoot me!" Despite backing up and trying to create distance, and [REDACTED] giving commands to drop the knife, the suspect continued to quickly advance towards me with the knife raised in his hand. Immediately before I discharged the taser, the suspect had rounded the SUV—with the knife raised in his hand— and was within 10-12 feet of us. 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 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 [REDACTED] may have fired a split second before I deployed the taser but I recall it happening simultaneously. The entire incident was rapidly evolving and occurred in a matter of seconds. From the time the suspect exited the apartment complex until shots were fired was approximately 10 seconds. Also, in the footage, as soon as the suspect exits the building and sees me he says get away from me which is odd as he was the one he turned and walked towards me. I do not recall hearing that at the time of the incident. I only recall hearing him say shoot me and kill me.

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





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 SCHETZLER

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature] #89

BCI Agent (Signature)