



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: Ofc. [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 1111 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [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 Officer [REDACTED]'s 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 Officer [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. Officer [REDACTED] was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Officer [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 Officer [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. Officer ██████ signed his statement provided to BCI, and he verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI incident. Please refer to Officer ██████'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 Officer ██████ a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he fired his weapon based on the printed scene sketch. Officer ██████'s answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Officer ██████ wrote in his statement, "Moments after we got onto 70E, I saw the black Porsche SUV traveling at high rates of speed pursued by multiple CPD cruisers. I told Officer ██████ to let those cruisers pass and then join the pursuit. Just as those cruisers passed us, though, suddenly traffic in front of us slowed. I could not see the Porsche at that time, but I believed it was stopping. As we neared a stop an officer aired "10-3, shots fired," and that an officer had been shot. Officer ██████ also exclaimed "He's shot! He's shot! Officer hit!" I could not see the suspect or officer that was shot (who I later learned was ██████ since we were behind several cruisers and civilian vehicles, but I heard multiple rounds being fired. Officer ██████ quickly drove around several stopped civilian vehicles and parked behind another CPD cruiser in a middle lane. I exited and unholstered my weapon. For a fleeting moment, up ahead near the Porsche I saw a male black wearing black clothing and a surgical mask run between vehicles. I believed that individual was the suspect as he was near the Porsche and there were multiple rounds being shot from that location. There were no other civilians out of their vehicles, either. I moved east along the right (south) side of the highway toward the sound of shots. I ran about 10-15 yards then saw Officer ██████ shot on the ground about 10 yards ahead. I briefly also caught a glimpse of the suspect: He was on the right shoulder of the highway about 30-40 yards ahead, and he appeared to be walking west towards Officer ██████. But multiple rounds were still being exchanged, so I quickly cut left and continued east, taking cover behind parked vehicles. I moved about 5-10 more yards east behind the driver's side fender of a cruiser. I trained my weapon on the suspect as shots continued being fired: He was about twenty yards away and still moving towards Officer ██████. The instant after I took aim, he reached with his right hand towards the back of his waistband. I believed he was going to pull a weapon and that he intended to shoot and kill Officer ██████ and/or me or the many other officers surrounding him. It was then I fired at the suspect. I stopped firing when the suspect went to the ground."

Officer ██████ continued in his statement, "I was in fear for my life, the lives of the other officers on scene—especially Officer ██████—and the numerous civilians in the vicinity. This incident happened very quickly. Cruisers and traffic began slowing only moments after we spotted the suspect and joined the pursuit. And only seconds later, the stolen Porsche came to a stop, and the suspect immediately opened fire, striking and grievously injuring Officer ██████. I fired my weapon seconds later. At the time I fired my weapon, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect Officer ██████'s life, my life, any of the multiple other officers' lives, or the lives of the many civilians in the immediate vicinity who could have been struck by the suspect's rounds."

Officer ██████ had no further information. The interview concluded.

Attachments:

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Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Officer [REDACTED] Interview
Attachment # 02: CIN-Officer [REDACTED]
Attachment # 03: Signed Statement- Officer [REDACTED]
Attachment # 04: Interview Sketch-Officer [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 11:2A

Date / Time

[Redacted Signature]

Jim Mulford # 39

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED], BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, from approximately 4:00 p.m. until 4:20 p.m. I am providing this voluntary 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 June 24, 2013. Before I joined CPD, I was an officer with Clinton Township Police Department from April 2011 until May 2013. I received my OPOTA certification after I graduated from the Apollo Career Center Police Academy on August 10, 2010. I do not have any military experience.

My regular assignment was 8B10 when this incident happened; however, I had accepted a new assignment that day set to take effect July 25, 2023. My duty hours in my 8B10 assignment were from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., with Monday and Tuesday off. I did not work any special duty or overtime on the day before or day of this incident.

I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants, an internal vest, a navy short-sleeved shirt which had 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 in the center of my chest. I was not wearing a hat.

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

I was working with a partner: CPD Officer [REDACTED]. I was in Cruiser [REDACTED], and Officer [REDACTED] was driving. There were also multiple other CPD officers present when this incident occurred.

I am in good health. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I do not wear glasses/contacts or need hearing aids as I have good vision and hearing. I did not drink any alcohol in the 24 hours before this incident, nor had I taken any medication that could impair the performance of my duties. I arrived at my shift well rested and in good spirits.

Around 4:00 p.m. on the day of this incident, Officer [REDACTED] and I had just dropped off a juvenile at Nationwide Children's Hospital in southeast downtown Columbus. Around that time, a radio transmission went out about a bank robbery on Hilliard Rome and that officers with Whitehall Police were pursuing the suspect(s) eastbound on Roberts Road. We were currently several miles away from the pursuit, but I believed the suspect(s) might get onto 270 since Roberts Road leads to that highway. And within about a minute, an officer aired the suspect(s) was getting onto 270S travelling towards 70.

I told Officer [REDACTED] to travel 70W towards the West Broad Street exit since I thought the suspect might exit there. Officer [REDACTED] turned on lights and sirens and got onto 70W from East Fulton and South 3rd Street. Around that time, Officer [REDACTED] aired that he was waiting at the 70E onramp from Wilson Road. He also added that the suspect-vehicle was a black Porsche SUV. A brief time later Officer [REDACTED] reported the Porsche drove past him on 70E traveling towards the 70/670 split. I told Officer [REDACTED] to exit 70W at South Central Avenue. We exited, travelled south, turned east onto Mound Street, then got onto the 70E onramp.

Moments after we got onto 70E, I saw the black Porsche SUV traveling at high rates of speed pursued by multiple CPD cruisers. I told Officer [REDACTED] to let those cruisers pass and then join the pursuit. Just as those cruisers passed us, though, suddenly traffic in front of us slowed. I could not see the Porsche at that time, but I believed it was stopping. As we neared a stop an officer aired "10-3, shots fired," and that an officer had been shot. Officer [REDACTED] also exclaimed

“He’s shot! He’s shot! Officer hit!” I could not see the suspect or officer that was shot (who I later learned was [REDACTED]), since we were behind several cruisers and civilian vehicles, but I heard multiple rounds being fired.

Officer [REDACTED] quickly drove around several stopped civilian vehicles and parked behind another CPD cruiser in a middle lane. I exited and unholstered my weapon. For a fleeting moment, up ahead near the Porsche I saw a male black wearing black clothing and a surgical mask run between vehicles. I believed that individual was the suspect as he was near the Porsche and there were multiple rounds being shot from that location. There were no other civilians out of their vehicles, either.

I moved east along the right (south) side of the highway toward the sound of shots. I ran about 10-15 yards then saw Officer [REDACTED] shot on the ground about 10 yards ahead. I briefly also caught a glimpse of the suspect: He was on the right shoulder of the highway about 30-40 yards ahead, and he appeared to be walking west towards Officer [REDACTED]. But multiple rounds were still being exchanged, so I quickly cut left and continued east, taking cover behind parked vehicles. I moved about 5-10 more yards east behind the driver’s side fender of a cruiser. I trained my weapon on the suspect as shots continued being fired: He was about twenty yards away and still moving towards Officer [REDACTED]. The instant after I took aim, he reached with his right hand towards the back of his waistband. I believed he was going to pull a weapon and that he intended to shoot and kill Officer [REDACTED] and/or me or the many other officers surrounding him. It was then I fired at the suspect.

I stopped firing when the suspect went to the ground. Other officers did the same. I moved forward while several officers covered me. Other officers rushed to the aid of Officer [REDACTED]. I ordered the suspect to keep his hands out and not to move. He did not appear to be

moving and seemed unresponsive. Officers provided cover while another officer helped me put the suspect onto his stomach and handcuff him. After he was cuffed, I quickly gloved up and assessed the suspect's injuries: Though his clothes were bloodied in spots, I did not see any open or actively bleeding wounds. I performed chest compressions for about 1-2 minutes then I was relieved by another officer.

I notified a supervisor I had fired my weapon. Then I went to my cruiser to get sanitizer since I had gotten blood on my hands and arms while cuffing the suspect. While sanitizing, I also noticed a few cuts on my arm and hand. I am not sure how I got those injuries. I remained at the scene for a brief time while supervisors got Officer Support for those that fired. I learned during that time that two other suspects had apparently been in the Porsche and escaped. I believe officers were currently searching for those individuals south of the highway. Once Officer Support was arranged, I was transported from the scene to the 8/16 Substation. This ended my involvement with this incident.

Because of my wounds and exposure to the suspect's blood, I underwent treatment at Riverside Hospital shortly after this incident. But I returned to the substation immediately after and met with investigators from BCI who collected my weapon as evidence and took photographs.

I now know I fired five shots during this incident. I would estimate less than two seconds passed between my first and last shot. I used a two (left strong) handed grip. I recall using my gun's iron sights. My target was the suspect's center mass. I fired in an easterly (and slightly southern) direction. My backdrop was the vacant highway and an open piece of land south of the highway. I did not see any civilians, vehicles, or buildings in my backdrop. I knew there were several officers surrounding me, but no officers were in my backdrop or line of fire. I would

estimate that I was approximately 15-20 yards from the suspect when I fired (though the suspect was closing the gap). This incident happened in the middle of the day with plentiful natural light. I may have been moving when I started to fire, but I believe I was still by the time I stopped firing. I had little cover or concealment as the top half of my body was completely exposed.

I was in fear for my life, the lives of the other officers on scene—especially Officer [REDACTED]—and the numerous civilians in the vicinity. This incident happened very quickly. Cruisers and traffic began slowing only moments after we spotted the suspect and joined the pursuit. And only seconds later, the stolen Porsche came to a stop, and the suspect immediately opened fire, striking and grievously injuring Officer [REDACTED]. I fired my weapon seconds later.

Before engaging the suspect, I knew he had just reportedly robbed a bank and fled from multiple officers from Whitehall and Columbus. I do not recall getting a suspect description, or whether the number of suspects was given, but I knew the bank robbery suspect(s) was in a black Porsche SUV. That is not a common vehicle and was the same make and model being pursued by officers when Officer [REDACTED] and I got onto 70E.

Once the Porsche stopped, the suspect shot Officer [REDACTED] instead of surrendering. And after Officer [REDACTED] exclaimed an officer was shot, I heard multiple additional rounds being fired that I believed were coming from the suspect. When I exited my cruiser, I saw a male black in dark colored clothing wearing a mask up ahead near the Porsche. Because I only saw him for a fraction of a second, I could not see his hands at that time. But I believed that was the suspect since he was the only civilian outside of his car on the highway; he was near the Porsche; the shots were coming from that direction; and I believed he was likely using the mask to hide his face.

When I got to the right (southern) shoulder of the highway, I saw Officer [REDACTED] injured on the ground ahead. I also saw the same male black that I believed was the suspect about thirty or forty yards ahead moving west towards Officer [REDACTED]. Multiple shots were ringing out in quick succession, some fired by officers. But I only saw the suspect for a flash since I was entirely exposed in the open and quickly needed to take cover.

As I neared the cruiser that I took cover behind, the suspect was continuing to advance west specifically towards Officer [REDACTED]. I believed he might be wearing a bulletproof vest as multiple officers were firing, but he appeared unaffected and continued advancing towards Officer [REDACTED]. And the instant after I trained my weapon on the suspect his right hand reached towards the back of his waistband. I believed he was reaching for a weapon and because he was walking towards Officer [REDACTED] that he intended to shoot and kill that officer as well as myself and other officers surrounding him, and it was then I fired.

At the time I fired my weapon, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect Officer [REDACTED]'s life, my life, any of the multiple other officers' lives, or the lives of the many civilians in the immediate vicinity who could have been struck by the suspect's rounds.

After this incident, I learned the suspect's name is Abdisamad Ismail. I do not know that person, and I do not think I have ever previously encountered him. And though I did not encounter the two suspects that escaped, Aden Jama and Faisal Darod, I also do not know those individuals.

I have now had the opportunity to review the footage of this incident. After doing so, it appears that in the moment before I fire, I take cover behind a civilian's dark colored sedan and not a CPD cruiser as I had recalled. The footage also shows the suspect shoot Officer [REDACTED] before running by and immediately shooting several additional rounds at him from point blank

range; however, while Officer [REDACTED] had exclaimed seeing an officer (Officer [REDACTED]) get shot, I could not see the initial shooting or follow-up shooting from my location. Finally, it appears the suspect drops his handgun right after he tries to kill Officer [REDACTED]; but I could not see that in real time as I was behind multiple vehicles. When I fired, I believed the suspect had a weapon that he intended to use to shoot and kill Officer [REDACTED], me, and/or the other officers on scene.

This concludes my statement.

[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
- = Speer cartridge casings
- = Projectiles



Not to Scale

I-70 Eastbound

Mile 98.8

Porsche (dealer plate)



Chevy Malibu (HDG6364)



CPD Cruiser

Body of Ismail

Porta Kleen

