



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



2024-1219  
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4632 East Main Street,  
 Whitehall

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** ██████████ (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 04/30/2024  
**Activity Location:** – 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220  
**Author:** SA James Poole

**Narrative:**

On April 30, 2024 at 1428 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole) and Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) interviewed Whitehall Police (WPD) ██████████ (██████████). The interview took place at the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Attorney's office. ██████████ was identified as being a police officer who was involved in an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which involved William Villatoro and the now deceased Santiago Alfaramunoz (Alfaramunoz). The purpose of the interview is to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

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 Poole provided ██████████ with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" (CIN) form. SA Poole advised that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that Whitehall Police Department (WPD) may be conducting and read him the Criminal Investigation Notification Form. ██████████ was told his interview was voluntary and he could stop answering questions at any time. ██████████ verbally confirmed he understood and signed the CIN, validating he understood his rights.

Attorney Kate Harshman provided SA Poole with a written statement from ██████████ regarding the OICI. SA Poole reviewed the statement upon receipt. ██████████ signed his statement provided to BCI, and verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI. Please refer to ██████████'s statement for further details. A copy of the signed written statement was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

██████████ stated, *"Once I got near the location, I recognized what I believed to be Deputy*

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on  
 05/29/2024

Chief Wilder's (#74) unmarked police car (Jeep Patriot or Compass) in the parking lot of Rose's to the south of its entrance. I radioed to ask if it was him. He affirmed it was and that there was a car pointed in my direction (south) with its lights on. I made a U-turn on E Main (west) then entered the Long John Silver's parking lot (north) and drove through the parking lot to where the vehicle was parked.

I parked my cruiser facing the vehicle, which was pointed southwest, on the front driver's side. My cruiser was facing northeast. [REDACTED]'s cruiser was directly behind the vehicle pointed at its rear with its lights on towards the south. When I got out of my cruiser, [REDACTED] had already approached the driver's side door of a light-colored SUV. There were two occupants inside the vehicle, so I moved towards the passenger side with my flashlight on. As I approached the vehicle, I turned on my body worn camera. The occupants were both Hispanic males in their mid-30s. The passenger was wearing a ball cap and a casual shirt. He was eating chicken nuggets and drinking a Budweiser. The window was approximately a third of the way down. The passenger looked familiar, but I could not place him. This was just after 2:00am.

I gestured at the passenger to hand me the beer and in Spanish said "aqui." I speak very little Spanish, but I know basic commands like here ("aqui"), hands ("manos"), hands up ("manos arriba"), drugs ("drogas"), guns ("pistola") that are useful in my police work. The passenger handed me the beer. I dumped it out, crushed the can, and placed it back in the car. I asked the occupants if they had guns or drugs (in Spanish) and they said no. I looked in the back of the car and near the feet of the passenger for shell casings in case they were responsible for the earlier gun fire. [REDACTED] then indicated that there was a "33" in the car, our 10 code for gun. I asked [REDACTED] "where?" and he pointed his light through the window towards the back of the center console. I could not see the weapon from where I was.

[REDACTED] then began to try and get the driver out of the vehicle. I aired that there was a "33" in the car and told the passenger to put his hands up in Spanish ("manos arriba"). At this point we had probable cause to search the vehicle due to the open container and the failure to report the gun when directly asked. My plan was to remove the occupants from the vehicle so that it could eventually be searched.

The driver and passenger were speaking to one another in Spanish while they were being ordered from the vehicle. I could not understand what they were saying. The driver then began to comply with [REDACTED]'s orders and got out of the vehicle. I ordered the passenger to put his hands up in Spanish several times. The passenger responded "huh?" and "what?" to my repeated commands. When he continued to not comply, I pulled my gun out at low ready and backed away slightly from the vehicle so he could see the gun. I told him to "put his fucking hands up" in English. He continued to not comply and faced his body towards the driver's side. The driver had been secured by [REDACTED] at this time and had been taken towards the rear driver's side of the vehicle.

I opened the passenger car door with my left hand. The suspect then turned his body with his right arm crossing the front of his body towards the back of the center console of the vehicle where [REDACTED] had previously indicated that there was a firearm. I backed away to the north, raising my weapon. I kept ordering the suspect to "manos arriba." Then, the suspect suddenly spun back in my direction with his right elbow slightly bent in a manner I would consider consistent with bringing around a weapon to a target. He continued to turn toward

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me with his right arm/elbow up. I believed at the time that he was bringing a gun around to shoot at me, though I do not remember seeing a weapon. I fired once while continuing to back away and yelling at him to stop. I remember hearing a scream, which I thought at the time was the suspect. The suspect tensed up and fell back into the car's seat. I did not fire any further as it appeared the suspect had been hit. During this same period of time, I saw/heard [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was to my left to the left/rear of the vehicle, shoot twice towards the vehicle. I aired that shots were fired. I kept my gun at the ready and continued to order the suspect to put his hands up.

I could hear sirens. Officer Bruce Stephens and Officer Spencer Grace eventually responded. Deputy Chief Wilder told us to wait for a shield prior to approaching the vehicle. Once we were able to approach with the shield, we ascertained that the suspect was no longer a threat."

SA Poole asked what alerted [REDACTED] to Alfaramunoz's vehicle. [REDACTED] explained that Deputy Chief Chad Wilder (Deputy Chief Wilder) was in the area and aired that there was a vehicle parked in the parking lot with its hazards on in the same area where Shot Spotter identified where shots were fired.

SA Poole asked if [REDACTED] was fluent in Spanish.

[REDACTED] said, "No," but that he took Spanish in college as part of his requirement. [REDACTED] stated he knew basic commands and could understand a little, but could not read or write in Spanish.

SA Poole asked if [REDACTED] believed Alfaramunoz and Villatoro understood what [REDACTED] was communicating to them and what made him believe that. [REDACTED] stated, "Yes," and explained that the driver, Villatoro, had no issues getting out of the vehicle, putting his hands up, and turning around when given commands. [REDACTED] stated he observed Alfaramunoz not comply with commands as the driver Villatoro did, but prior to identifying the gun, [REDACTED] stated "aquí" to Alfaramunoz where he complied and handed [REDACTED] his beer can.

SA Poole asked if [REDACTED] ever saw a firearm. [REDACTED] stated, he did not.

SA Poole asked if [REDACTED] feared for his life or others. [REDACTED] explained that [REDACTED] advised he saw a gun behind the center console. [REDACTED] stated he was opening the door to get Alfaramunoz out when Alfaramunoz quickly lifted his right hand reaching to his left side where the gun was identified as being located. [REDACTED] stated Alfaramunoz then quickly moved back toward him where he then fired his weapon one time while backing away from the vehicle.

SA Poole asked if Villatoro or Alfaramunoz had made any statements. [REDACTED] explained that while they were trying to get them out of the vehicle they were both speaking Spanish to one another and [REDACTED] did not understand what they were saying to each other

SA Poole asked if [REDACTED] had ever had any prior encounters with Alfaramunoz. [REDACTED] stated, "Yes," and explained that a month prior he conducted a traffic stop where

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Alfaromunoz was in the car and had possession of cocaine and a black bb gun under his seat. During that encounter [REDACTED] stated Alfaromunoz did not have any problems complying and understanding [REDACTED] when he gave him commands.

SA Poole asked if [REDACTED] believed [REDACTED] and himself conducted themselves out of policy and procedures of their department. [REDACTED] stated, "No."

The interview concluded at 1441 hours.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: [REDACTED]  
Attachment # 02: [REDACTED] Statement

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