



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



2022-0498

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 34 E. Fulton Ave., Columbus, 43215

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: [REDACTED]

Activity Date: 5/18/2022

Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher

Authoring Agent: SA John Butterworth

Narrative:

On Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 1313 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Butterworth (SA Butterworth) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Detective (Det.) [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] who was accompanied by her attorney, Lathan Lipperman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Harshman and Wannemacher. The interview was audio recorded.

Det. [REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: Det. [REDACTED]	Rank: Detective (Det.)
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: N/A
Radio Call Sign: N/A	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Nate Smith / Sgt. [REDACTED]
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: N/A	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: N/A
Assignment: Investigations (SIU)	Normal Shift: 0800-1600
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Not Present	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident: 0800-1600	Duty Status: On-Duty

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Days Off: Saturday and Sunday	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Well rested	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 5 years 10 months	Length at Current Agency: 5 years 10 months
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): N/A	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Plainclothes	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: N/A
Ballistic Vest: Not Worn	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: N/A	Partner: N/A
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: N/A	OPOTC Certification: 06/25/2018 Eastland Police Academy
Military Experience/Training: US Army, 19 years.	Use-of-Force Training: Unknown
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: Unknown
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Unarmed	Model: N/A
Caliber/Gauge: Choose an item.	Serial: N/A
Type: Choose an item.	Method of Carry: N/A
Magazine Capacity: N/A	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): None
Extra Magazines: N/A	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident? Choose an item.	Primary or Backup Weapon: Choose an item.

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saw this male posture aggressively in a manner that she thought the man was going to attack Officer [REDACTED]. Det. [REDACTED] ran toward Officer [REDACTED] and saw Deputy Declan Feery running toward Officer [REDACTED] as well. At the time Det. [REDACTED] met with Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] was on the ground trying to subdue the "suspect." Det. [REDACTED] observed the suspect on his left side, facing Officer [REDACTED] thrashing and actively resisting. Det. [REDACTED] knelt behind the suspect near his legs. Sgt. [REDACTED] (Sgt. [REDACTED] was also involved in the altercation and knelt near the suspect's torso according to Det. [REDACTED]. The three officers attempted to put the suspect on his stomach in order to attempt to handcuff him, but he continued to resist. According to Det. [REDACTED] the suspect repeatedly tried to kick her and in response, she struck his hip about three times with her right hand. The suspect continued to resist.

Det. [REDACTED] advised that Sgt. [REDACTED] yelled "tase him" several times, and assumed that this direction was being told to Deputy Feery since he was in a patrol uniform and likely had the taser. Moments later, according to Det. [REDACTED] she heard what she believed was the taser being deployed, followed instantly by a loud pop. At first, Det. [REDACTED] did not know where or what made the sound, however, an instant later Officer [REDACTED] yelled "he shot himself in the head!" Det. [REDACTED] reported to have smelled gun powder. Det. [REDACTED] said she immediately checked the suspect's pockets and asked where the gun was. Officer [REDACTED] replied "he's got my gun, but I reholstered it."

After the gunshot, the suspect's body went limp and Det. [REDACTED] believed he was dead from a gunshot wound to the head. Det. [REDACTED] stated she did not see the wound, but saw some blood pooling near the suspect's head. As she stood up, Det. [REDACTED] recalled that she placed a phone call to FCSO Sgt. Nate Smith and told him that they needed assistance on the 7th floor of the parking garage and that a suspect had taken Officer [REDACTED] weapon and shot himself. Det. [REDACTED] also reported the female that had been attacked. At this point, someone realized that the suspect was still alive and she and Officer [REDACTED] began first aid on the suspect. They quickly turned him over and saw the entry and exit wounds near the front and back of his head.

At this time, other deputies arrived on scene and the involved officers were escorted back to the sheriff's office building at 410 South High Street.

Det. [REDACTED] estimated 30 to 60 seconds passed between the time she observed Officer [REDACTED] approaching the fighting males to when the suspect fired the weapon. Det. [REDACTED] does not know how the suspect gained control of Officer [REDACTED] weapon and she was not aware the suspect had the weapon until after the gunshot. Det. [REDACTED] said she was concentrating on the lower half of the suspect and controlling his legs. Det. [REDACTED] could not see the suspect's arms or hands as



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Officer [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] were blocking her view. Det. [REDACTED] did not recall hearing the suspect say anything during the incident.

In follow up questions with Det. [REDACTED] SA Butterworth asked if Det. [REDACTED] recalled anything in Meeks' hands. Det. [REDACTED] did not have any other information regarding Meeks' hands other than before they went to the ground, his hands were up in a fighting stance. SA Butterworth asked Det. [REDACTED] if, while Meeks was on the ground, she saw Meeks' hands and she reported she did not. SA Butterworth asked Det. [REDACTED] if she had any part of her shoes missing, as a sole of a shoe was found at the scene. Det. [REDACTED] said she was wearing the same shoes at the time of this interview and not missing the soles. SA Butterworth questioned Det. [REDACTED] if she heard Meeks say anything. Det. [REDACTED] told agents that there was a lot of yelling, but she didn't know who was yelling what. She did recall Sgt. [REDACTED] asking for the taser. SA Butterworth inquired if Det. [REDACTED] had her sheriff's office identification on her and she stated she had her sheriff's office lanyard, but as she ended up putting the lanyard and id card in her pocket. SA Butterworth asked if there was any follow up conversation between those that were involved. Det. [REDACTED] said they all talked after the incident to make sure everyone was ok, but there wasn't anything said while on the parking garage floor that she could recall other than when Officer [REDACTED] said he reholstered his gun.

SA Collins clarified with Det. [REDACTED] any conversations between the involved officers right after the gunshot and when she smelled gunpowder. Det. [REDACTED] again stated she did not recall any conversation between them. Det. [REDACTED] clarified that she did not see any gun, but that Officer [REDACTED] said it was his gun and he reholstered his gun. SA Collins also asked Det. [REDACTED] to clarify her statement regarding Meeks having possession of the gun. Det. [REDACTED] said she heard the gunshot and she wondered where the gun came from. She recalled Officer [REDACTED] saying it was his gun and that she never saw Meeks with the gun or the gun being involved in the incident.

Det. [REDACTED] reported that she later found out the suspect's name to be Rayshawn Meeks and that she has not met nor have had any prior encounters with Meeks.

The interview concluded at approximately 1330 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.



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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

5/18/2022 1313

Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

SA JOHN BUTTERWORTH #35
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

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

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, March 7, 2022, at about 9:40 a.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) on May 31, 2016. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience, but I was enlisted in the Army for about 19 years. My regular assignment is the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). My regular duty hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday off.

At the time of this incident, I was wearing plainclothes as part of my undercover assignment: a gray Cleveland Browns hoodie, jeans, and white tennis shoes. I was not wearing any tactical vest carrier. Since this event occurred during a break, I was not carrying my FCSO-issued weapon, a Springfield 9mm handgun. Though I did not have that weapon on me, I was current in my range qualifications. I was not carrying any other firearm or weapon (mace, taser, etc.).

I was not working with a partner. But FCSO Deputy Declan Feery and FCSO Sgt.

[REDACTED] were present during this incident, as well as Clinton Township Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (who was assigned to the FCSO as part of a special taskforce). Officer [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] were in plainclothes, and Deputy Feery was wearing the patrol uniform.

I do not suffer from any disabilities. I also have good hearing and eyesight and do not need hearing aids or glasses/contacts. I did not consume any alcohol in the 48 hours before this incident, nor did I consume any medication that could impair the performance of my duties. I did not work any special duty or overtime in the 24 hours before this incident. I arrived at my 8:00 a.m. shift well-rested.

As part of my undercover assignment, I regularly report to the FCSO building at 410 South High Street. I arrived at that location around 8:00 a.m. and parked in the garage attached to that building, specifically on the seventh floor. For the first hour and a half, I worked on impounding seized drugs. Just after 9:30 a.m., Officer [REDACTED] texted me and asked if I wanted to meet in the parking garage for a smoke break. I replied and said I would meet him after I ran to the bathroom.

A few minutes later, Officer [REDACTED] texted that he was at his vehicle parked on the seventh floor, near the far east wall. I got to the parking garage but did not see Officer [REDACTED] which I relayed to him by text. He replied and told me to come east to the other side of the garage. Since the elevator exits on the eighth floor, I started walking east towards the split in the middle of the garage that leads to the seventh floor. As I did so, I saw Sgt. [REDACTED] talking to a few other deputies on the far east wall of the eighth floor.

I heard yelling as I neared the seventh floor, but I could not make out what was being said. Moments later, I saw Officer [REDACTED] briskly walking north down the seventh-floor garage ramp and saw a female black yelling "I was just robbed!" repeatedly. That woman was bleeding profusely from her head/face. She saw me and ran towards me just as I got to the seventh floor. At that time, I saw two male blacks down (north of) the garage preparing to fight. I recall one of those men wearing dark pants and a gray hoodie/jacket. I also heard Officer [REDACTED] repeatedly yelling "law enforcement!" I tried to guide the woman away from the scene, but I heard a scuffle, looked north, and saw Officer [REDACTED] head recoiling backwards from what I believed was a strike from the male wearing the gray jacket. That same male then postured aggressively such that he was going to continue his attack on Officer [REDACTED]

I lost sight of the injured woman and the other male and ran north to help Officer [REDACTED]. I believe at that time Deputy Feery appeared and ran north with me as well. By the time I approached, Officer [REDACTED] was on the ground trying to subdue the suspect. The suspect was on his (I believe) left side, facing Officer [REDACTED]. He was thrashing about, actively resisting. I quickly knelt behind the suspect, near his legs. Sgt. [REDACTED] appeared and knelt near the suspect's torso. We three tried to put the suspect onto his stomach so that he could be handcuffed, but he was violently resisting. He repeatedly tried to kick me. In response, I struck his hip about three times with my right hand, but the suspect kept resisting.

Sgt. [REDACTED] yelled "tase him!" several times. I assumed that statement was directed at Deputy Feery since he was in the patrol uniform and likely had a taser, but I did not know for sure. Moments later, I heard what I believed was a taser deploying followed instantly by the sound of a loud pop. At first, I did not know from where or what made that sound. But an instant later, Officer [REDACTED] yelled "he shot himself in the head!" and I smelled gun powder. I immediately checked the suspect's pockets and asked where the gun was. Officer [REDACTED] replied that, "He's got my gun, but I just reholstered it!"

The suspect's body went limp after the gunshot. At that time, I believed the suspect had died from his gunshot wound to the head. I did not see the wound, but I saw some blood pooling near the suspect's head. I stood up and called FCSO SIU Sgt. Nate Smith. I told him we needed assistance on the seventh floor of the parking garage and that a suspect had taken Officer [REDACTED] weapon and shot himself. I also told him that a female had been attacked. After I hung up, someone realized that the suspect was still alive. Officer [REDACTED] quickly ran to his vehicle and grabbed a medical kit. He returned, and he and I quickly put on gloves and assessed the suspect's injuries: We quickly turned the suspect onto his side and saw the entry and exit wounds

near the front and back his head. I held his head while Officer [REDACTED] and I wrapped the injuries with gauze to stem the bleeding.

About that time, other deputies arrived on scene. One of those deputies gloved up and relieved me. Another deputy announced that anyone involved needed to leave the scene. I was then taken with Officer [REDACTED] back to the 410 building. I waited there until investigators with BCI arrived to collect evidence. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I would estimate that about 30-60 seconds passed between when I first saw Officer [REDACTED] approaching the males to when the suspect fired the weapon. Before I approached the suspect, I knew that a female had been assaulted and was bleeding profusely from her head/face. I also heard Officer [REDACTED] repeatedly announce himself as law enforcement as he approached the two males scuffling. Instead of surrendering, one of those males attacked Officer [REDACTED] then continued violently resisting, which required Officer [REDACTED] to take him to the ground. Again instead of giving up, the suspect tried kicking me several times once on the ground. At no time did the suspect indicate that he was going to surrender.

I do not know how the suspect gained access to Officer [REDACTED] weapon. I was not aware the suspect had the weapon until after he fired. Before the suspect fired, I was focused on the lower half of his body and controlling his legs. Even from my peripheral vision, I could not see the suspect's arms or hands since Officer [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] were largely blocking my view. I do not recall the suspect saying anything during this incident.

After this incident, I learned the suspect's name is Rayshawn Meeks. I have never met Mr. Meeks, nor have I had any previous encounters with him. I also had the chance to review the footage of the event captured from a garage surveillance camera. From my review of that footage, it appears that I ran (north) down the garage ramp towards the injured female a moment

before the suspect struck Officer [REDACTED] I had previously recalled the injured woman running towards me. The suspect's assault on Officer [REDACTED] drew my attention away from the female, and I quickly moved north to help Officer [REDACTED] Moments later, the suspect appeared to lunge at Officer [REDACTED] who in turn took the suspect to the ground with the help of Sgt. [REDACTED]. I then quickly got onto the ground behind the suspect to help subdue him as I recalled.

This concludes my statement.

[REDACTED]
Detective [REDACTED], Badge No. [REDACTED]