



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 1147 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 ██████ 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, "Sgt. ██████ and I slowed our cruisers and began to stop shortly before the 70/71 split. Just then, I heard several shots being fired. Officer Rhoebek aired "10-3" (officer in trouble) and "shots fired." Seconds later he aired that an officer was hit. I could not yet see the suspect(s) or the injured officer. I navigated around several civilian vehicles and parked behind Sgt. ██████ in the far left lane. As I came to a stop, I saw a male black suspect wearing a black hoodie, surgical mask and baseball cap running toward the driver's side of a cruiser parked in front of Sgt. ██████'s cruiser. It appeared that suspect was trying to get into that cruiser to flee, but the driver's door was locked. I lost sight of the suspect a moment later as I exited my cruiser. I got out and quickly ran around the back of my cruiser and unholstered my weapon. I heard multiple shots being fired as I did so. I ran to the right (south) side of the highway, around a parked pickup truck, and moved east toward the sound of shots. I saw an officer on the ground (who I later learned was ██████ in the far right (southern) lane that appeared to have been shot about ten yards ahead. The suspect was about 20-30 yards ahead of Officer ██████ on the right (southern) part of the highway. I believe at the moment I saw him he was walking east but was turning around to walk (west) in the opposite direction, towards me and Officer ██████. I aimed my weapon at the suspect as I continued east towards Officer ██████. I did not immediately fire as my attention was diverted towards Officer ██████ and the suspect did not appear to be firing his weapon. But an instant later, it looked as though the suspect was reaching towards his waistband. I believed he was reaching for a weapon to again fire at officers, and it was then I fired at the suspect."

Officer ██████ continued in his statement, "I was in fear for my life, the surrounding civilians' lives, and other officers' lives especially for the life of Officer ██████ at the time I fired my weapon. Before arriving on scene, I knew that the suspect(s) inside the Porsche had reportedly stolen it at gunpoint only hours earlier. I was also aware that afterwards the same suspect(s) had gone on to rob a bank and flee the police at dangerously high speeds during rush hour traffic. Once the Porsche stopped on 70E, instead of surrendering the suspect in the surgical mask immediately shot at Officer ██████ grievously injuring him before attempting to steal a cruiser. The suspect then apparently ran (east) from the scene, though I could not see him at that point. Once I rounded the pickup truck and started moving east, I saw the suspect turn around and start walking west directly towards Officer ██████ and by extension, me. It appeared the suspect's hands were empty at that time, but I could not tell for certain. He gave no indication of surrender. Instead, he kept his hands near his waist as he moved towards us. Multiple officers were firing at the suspect by that time, but I did not immediately fire as I momentarily glanced down at Officer ██████ to assess his injuries. But when I looked back up the suspect was still moving towards us, and instead of putting his hands into the air or giving any indication of compliance, he appeared to reach near his waistband. I thought he was reaching for his weapon and that he intended to shoot Officer ██████ me, and/or one of the

many other officers on scene and it was then I fired. I was also concerned since there were numerous civilians inside their vehicles within the immediate vicinity, and I feared any one of them could be inadvertently struck by the suspect's rounds. At the time I fired at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect Officer [REDACTED] life, my life, or the lives of the other officers and civilians in the immediate area."

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

Attachments:

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 11:49 AM

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 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 December 18, 2017. I received my OPOTA certificate about six months later after I graduated from the CPD academy. I have never enlisted in the military, and I have never worked at another law enforcement agency.

My regular assignment is Z3E1-8, an evening midwatch position. My hours in that assignment are 7:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. I worked overtime on the day of this incident, scheduled from 2:00 p.m. until the beginning of my 7:00 p.m. shift. My regular days off are Sunday – Tuesday.

When this incident occurred, I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants, a navy short-sleeved shirt, and a navy external vest that stated “COLUMBUS POLICE” on the back and displayed my badge on the front. I also had a body worn camera (“BWC”) mounted to my vest. My BWC was activated during this event.

I was carrying my Division-issued Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm handgun loaded with Division-issued ammunition. That weapon was also equipped with a light. My range qualifications were current. I was not equipped with any backup firearm.

I was not working with a partner, but there were numerous other members of CPD present at this incident. I was assigned to Cruiser [REDACTED]

I have good vision and hearing and do not need corrective lenses or hearing aids. I am in good health and do not suffer from any disabilities. I did not drink any alcohol in the 24 hours before my shift started. I was not under the influence of any medications that could impair the performance of my duties. I was well rested at the start of my shift.

Shortly before 4:00 p.m. on the day of this incident, an officer (who I believe was Officer [REDACTED]) aired that Whitehall Police had the black Porsche SUV at a bank on Hilliard Rome. A few hours earlier, I had recalled hearing radio traffic about a black Porsche SUV that had been stolen at gunpoint in east Columbus. I believed this run was about that same stolen Porsche.

I immediately left the 10 Substation, told dispatch I was enroute, and drove towards Hilliard Rome. At that time, I did not yet have a suspect description or know whether there were multiple suspects. I also did not initially activate my lights or sirens since I did not know whether the suspect(s) was aware officers were watching the vehicle. But a few minutes later, an officer aired that the black Porsche was fleeing the bank, travelling east on Roberts Road. At that time, I was northbound on Phillipi Road and activated my lights and sirens. I turned right (east) onto Fisher Road and marked on the run around that time. An officer aired that the suspect was getting onto 270S.

I continued to Wilson Road, turned left (north), and drove towards 70. As I neared that highway, though, Officer [REDACTED] relayed the suspect was travelling on 270 approaching 70. It was also about that time Officer [REDACTED] aired that the suspect(s) in the Porsche had robbed a Chase bank. I quickly did a U-turn from Wilson Road and drove onto the 70E onramp. About then Officer [REDACTED] aired that he lost sight of the suspect on 270, but that he thought the suspect got onto 70E. I stopped on the 70E ramp, and aired my location and that I

was watching and waiting for the Porsche to drive by. I aired the suspect vehicle description a moment later. A brief time later, the black Porsche SUV drove by me on 70E travelling at high rates of speed. I immediately pursued the suspect with beacons and sirens activated. I did not see any other cruisers pursuing at that time.

The Porsche continued travelling at very high rates of speed as I tried catching up. Moments later, Sgt. [REDACTED] aired that he was getting onto 70E from Fisher Road. I saw him ahead get onto the highway seconds later, and I followed behind him in the far left lane. We continued pursuing, but Sgt. [REDACTED] aired that he lost sight of the SUV just as we passed the Broad Street onramp. Within moments, though, another officer aired that he had eyes on the suspect's vehicle and was following behind. I continued east behind Sgt. [REDACTED] but I could not see the suspect's vehicle. But seconds later, around Sullivant Avenue, I saw numerous vehicles braking ahead, and I believed the suspect may have crashed or otherwise come to a stop.

Sgt. [REDACTED] and I slowed our cruisers and began to stop shortly before the 70/71 split. Just then, I heard several shots being fired. Officer Rhoebek aired "10-3" (officer in trouble) and "shots fired." Seconds later he aired that an officer was hit. I could not yet see the suspect(s) or the injured officer. I navigated around several civilian vehicles and parked behind Sgt. [REDACTED] in the far left lane. As I came to a stop, I saw a male black suspect wearing a black hoodie, surgical mask and baseball cap running toward the driver's side of a cruiser parked in front of Sgt. [REDACTED]'s cruiser. It appeared that suspect was trying to get into that cruiser to flee, but the driver's door was locked. I lost sight of the suspect a moment later as I exited my cruiser.

I got out and quickly ran around the back of my cruiser and unholstered my weapon. I heard multiple shots being fired as I did so. I ran to the right (south) side of the highway, around a parked pickup truck, and moved east toward the sound of shots. I saw an officer on the ground

(who I later learned was [REDACTED] in the far right (southern) lane that appeared to have been shot about ten yards ahead. The suspect was about 20-30 yards ahead of Officer [REDACTED] on the right (southern) part of the highway. I believe at the moment I saw him he was walking east but was turning around to walk (west) in the opposite direction, towards me and Officer [REDACTED]

I aimed my weapon at the suspect as I continued east towards Officer [REDACTED]. I did not immediately fire as my attention was diverted towards Officer [REDACTED] and the suspect did not appear to be firing his weapon. But an instant later, it looked as though the suspect was reaching towards his waistband. I believed he was reaching for a weapon to again fire at officers, and it was then I fired at the suspect.

I believe I fired fifteen rounds during this incident. I fired those rounds in rapid succession in what I would estimate was less than 3 seconds. I fired those rounds in an easterly direction from a standing position. I do not think I was moving. I used my gun's sights and fired with a two (right strong) grip. Almost all my shots were aimed at the suspect's center mass; but those rounds (as well as the rounds fired by other officers) did not seem effective as the suspect continued moving towards Officer [REDACTED]. So I believe I quickly adjusted my aim upwards for the last shot. My backdrop consisted of an open/vacant highway and an unoccupied field. I did not see any civilians or vehicles in my backdrop. I was aware Sgt. [REDACTED] was northeast of me near the stolen SUV. And though I knew other officers were present, and some were firing, I was not sure of their exact location except that none were in my line of fire or backdrop. I would estimate that I was about twenty yards from the suspect when I started firing; but the suspect closed that gap as he continued moving in my direction as I fired. I believe I was only a few feet west of Officer [REDACTED]. This incident occurred outside in broad daylight. I had no cover or

concealment when I fired. Officer [REDACTED] was also entirely exposed on the ground in the far right lane.

I stopped firing when the suspect went to the ground and was no longer moving. Officers covered the suspect, and I rushed to Officer [REDACTED]: He had been shot at least once in the leg and was covered in blood. I started to apply a tourniquet but realized his leg was badly broken. Another officer took over, and I instructed a civilian in a white car to move so Officer [REDACTED] could be transported. Officer [REDACTED] was loaded into the back of a cruiser. I stood at the front passenger door of that cruiser as he was put inside, and it was then I saw a black semiautomatic handgun with an extended magazine on the front passenger seat of that cruiser. I assumed that the weapon belonged to the suspect, but I did not see who put it there. Officer [REDACTED] was transported to the hospital moments later.

It was around that time I heard officers announce that two other suspects had fled the scene. Before that, I was only aware of the suspect with the mask that had shot at officers. Officers believed the suspects might be hiding in some brush just south of the highway. I grabbed a rifle from my cruiser and joined other officers in that area. But a brief time later a supervisor told me to go back to the highway and meet with Officer Support with the other officers that had fired. I returned to my cruiser, cleared my rifle, and secured it in my vehicle. I stayed at the scene for a few more minutes until I was transported by Officer Support to the 8/16 substation nearby. This ended my involvement with this incident. I later met with investigators from BCI who took photos and collected evidence as part of their investigation.

I was in fear for my life, the surrounding civilians' lives, and other officers' lives—especially for the life of Officer [REDACTED]—at the time I fired my weapon. Before arriving on scene, I knew that the suspect(s) inside the Porsche had reportedly stolen it at gunpoint only

hours earlier. I was also aware that afterwards the same suspect(s) had gone on to rob a bank and flee the police at dangerously high speeds during rush hour traffic.

Once the Porsche stopped on 70E, instead of surrendering the suspect in the surgical mask immediately shot at Officer [REDACTED] grievously injuring him before attempting to steal a cruiser. The suspect then apparently ran (east) from the scene, though I could not see him at that point. Once I rounded the pickup truck and started moving east, I saw the suspect turn around and start walking west directly towards Officer [REDACTED], and by extension, me. It appeared the suspect's hands were empty at that time, but I could not tell for certain. He gave no indication of surrender. Instead, he kept his hands near his waist as he moved towards us. Multiple officers were firing at the suspect by that time, but I did not immediately fire as I momentarily glanced down at Officer [REDACTED] to assess his injuries. But when I looked back up the suspect was still moving towards us, and instead of putting his hands into the air or giving any indication of compliance, he appeared to reach near his waistband. I thought he was reaching for his weapon and that he intended to shoot Officer [REDACTED] me, and/or one of the many other officers on scene and it was then I fired. I was also concerned since there were numerous civilians inside their vehicles within the immediate vicinity, and I feared any one of them could be inadvertently struck by the suspect's rounds.

At the time I fired at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect Officer [REDACTED]'s life, my life, or the lives of the other officers and civilians in the immediate area.

After the incident, I learned the suspect's name is Abdisamad Ismail. I do not know that individual, and I do not think I have ever previously encountered him. I never encountered, or

even saw, the other two suspects that fled. But I learned their names are Aden Jama and Faisal Darod. I also do not know either of those individuals.

I have now had the opportunity to review BWC and cruiser footage of this incident. That footage shows two suspects running south from the black Porsche off the highway moments after the SUV stops. An officer also airs that information. As I mentioned above, I did not see the other two suspects during this incident, nor do I recall hearing that radio transmission.

The footage also shows the third suspect (the male black in the surgical mask) exit and wait near the Porsche with a gun in a low ready position. The instant Officer [REDACTED] approaches to chase the other two suspects, the third suspect ambushes him by firing several rounds in close distance. Once Officer [REDACTED] is struck and on the ground, the suspect runs by and tries to kill Officer [REDACTED] by firing multiple rounds from only feet away. While I knew the suspect had shot Officer [REDACTED] at the time of this incident, from my location I could not see the suspect immediately try to kill Officer [REDACTED] a moment later.

Finally, after trying to kill Officer [REDACTED], the footage appears to show the suspect pitch his black semi-automatic handgun; but I did not see that in real time from my vantage point. I believed the suspect still had a weapon at the time I fired and that he intended to shoot and kill Officer [REDACTED] and/or me and the multiple other officers on scene.

This concludes my statement.

Off [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



Portia Kleen

