



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 197 West 8th Ave., Columbus,
Ohio 43201 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness

Involves: Officer Deann Trionfante (W)

Date of Activity: 09/10/2024

Activity Location: Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman – 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220

Author: SA James H Gore, #168

Narrative:

On the afternoon of September 10, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Kyle Douglass and James Gore interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer Deann Trionfante at the law office of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman. Present with Ofc. Trionfante was her legal counsel, Nicole Wannemacher. Ofc. Trionfante was identified as a witness to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident which occurred on August 11, 2024, in which a male subject, Asante Miller, was mortally wounded. The incident took place at 197 W. 8th Avenue in Columbus, and it was preceded by a foot chase and area search by officers from CPD and the Ohio State University Police Department (OSUPD). The purpose of the interview was to obtain an account of the events from Ofc. Trionfante's perspective.

Ofc. Trionfante stated that she has been employed with CPD since December 12, 1999, and her badge number is 1484. Her regular shift is Day Midwatch on Zone 4, and her normal days off are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Ofc. Trionfante said she is also a hostage negotiator.

Ofc. Trionfante said that on August 11, 2024, she was working her normal shift on Zone 4, assigned to Car 9170. She explained that she was wearing the regular patrol uniform, and she was armed with her Taser, chemical spray, and duty handgun.

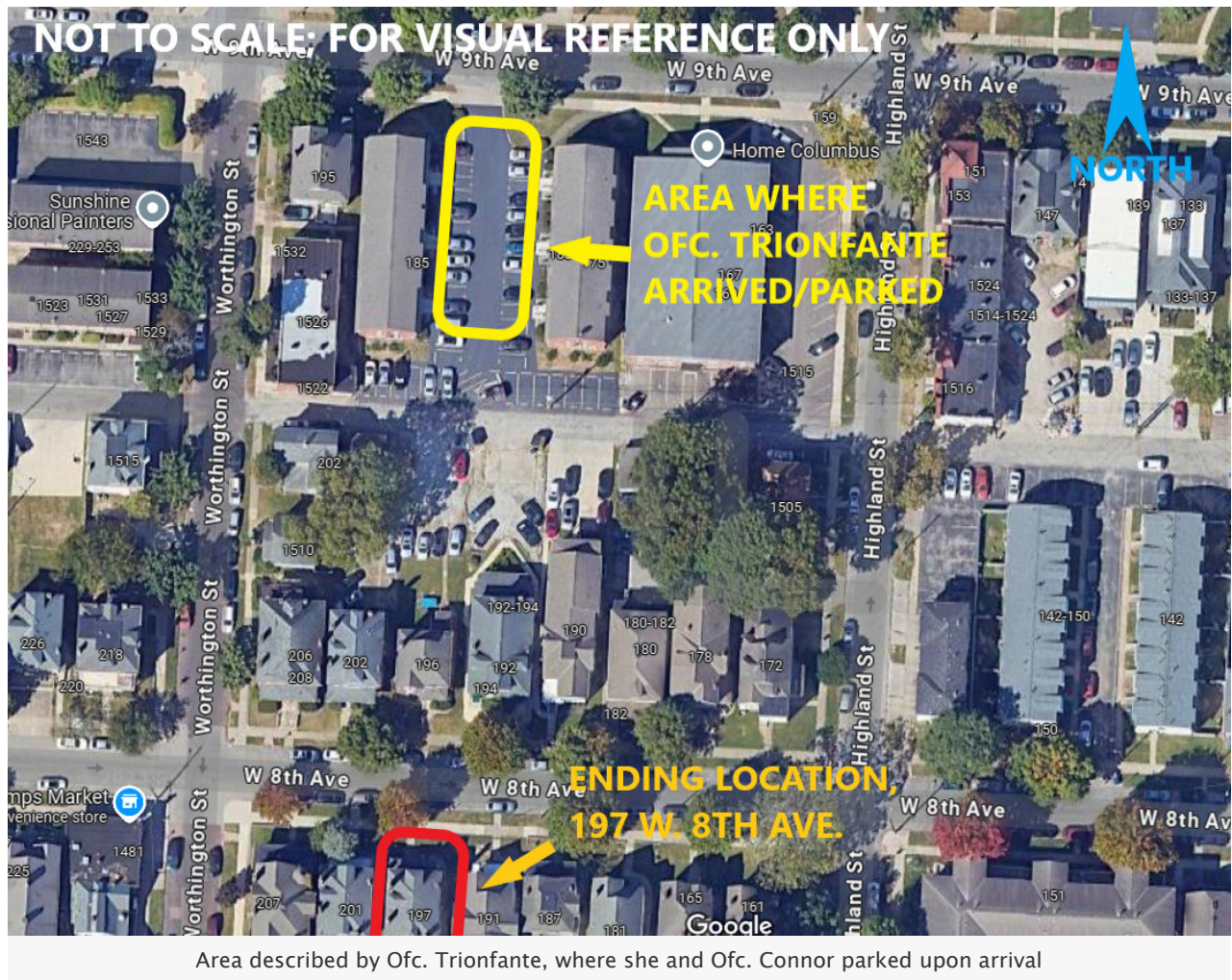
Ofc. Trionfante recalled that she was on 17 Precinct when a burglary call was broadcast. She recalled the details being that an ex-roommate had forced entry into a dwelling, and he was barricaded in one of the rooms with a weapon, refusing to leave. Ofc. Trionfante said she proactively responded to the scene, citing that at the time, only one other car had been dispatched.

Ofc. Trionfante recalled arriving in the area at the same time as Ofc. Keith Connor. Ofc.

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Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on
10/14/2024

Trionfante remembered parking at an apartment complex in the area of 9th Ave. and Worthington St. She was shown a map of the area for clarification.



Ofc. Trionfante said she joined other officers in attempting to set up a perimeter around the area where the suspect was last observed. She remembered hearing officers yelling, 'He's got the gun!' or 'Drop the gun!' or similar words of that nature. She recalled hearing gunshots, then going toward that area, which she described as the end of a multi-level apartment building. Ofc. Trionfante said she did not see the suspect at that time, and she did not see who fired.

Ofc. Trionfante stated that she and other officers were searching in the vicinity behind 197 W. 8th Ave., when she heard [REDACTED] yell that there was an open door at location. She said she then met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on the side of the building. Upon closer inspection, she said, they observed that the door had been forced open.

Ofc. Trionfante stated that the three of them decided to make entry to the building. Once

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inside, Ofc. Trionfante called for another officer, which is when OSUPD [REDACTED] entered. Ofc. Trionfante said she and [REDACTED] went one direction, while [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went in another.

Ofc. Trionfante explained, while she and [REDACTED] were searching their area, they heard gunshots from another area of the structure. She said [REDACTED] was the first to get to a doorway through which gunfire was exchanged, and she believed [REDACTED] may have been trapped in an adjacent room or hallway.

Ofc. Trionfante said she could not see around [REDACTED] into the room where the suspect was located. She said she believed that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shot into the room, because she (Ofc. Trionfante) was getting hit by ejected brass from one or both of them.

According to Ofc. Trionfante, during a lull in the gunfire, [REDACTED] called out to [REDACTED] to get out of the area where she was possibly trapped. Ofc. Trionfante said she told the other officers to reload their weapons. She also said she was trying to get [REDACTED] to leave the building, but she insisted on staying.

Ofc. Trionfante said the officers decided to extract themselves from the building, and as they were doing so, she recalled hearing at least one gunshot, and it was not fired by officers.

Upon backing out of the structure, Ofc. Trionfante recalled, the officers set up a close perimeter around the building, but then they backed up a little further so that they were clear of the windows. Ofc. Trionfante said she requested SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics team), and a bullhorn. She said no one had a bullhorn, so she went to a nearby police vehicle and used its public address system to make announcements to the barricaded suspect.

Ofc. Trionfante said she was then directed to report to the 4 Precinct Substation, where she sketched a diagram of the barricade location for the SWAT team. A photo of the diagram was later provided by Atty. Wannemacher:

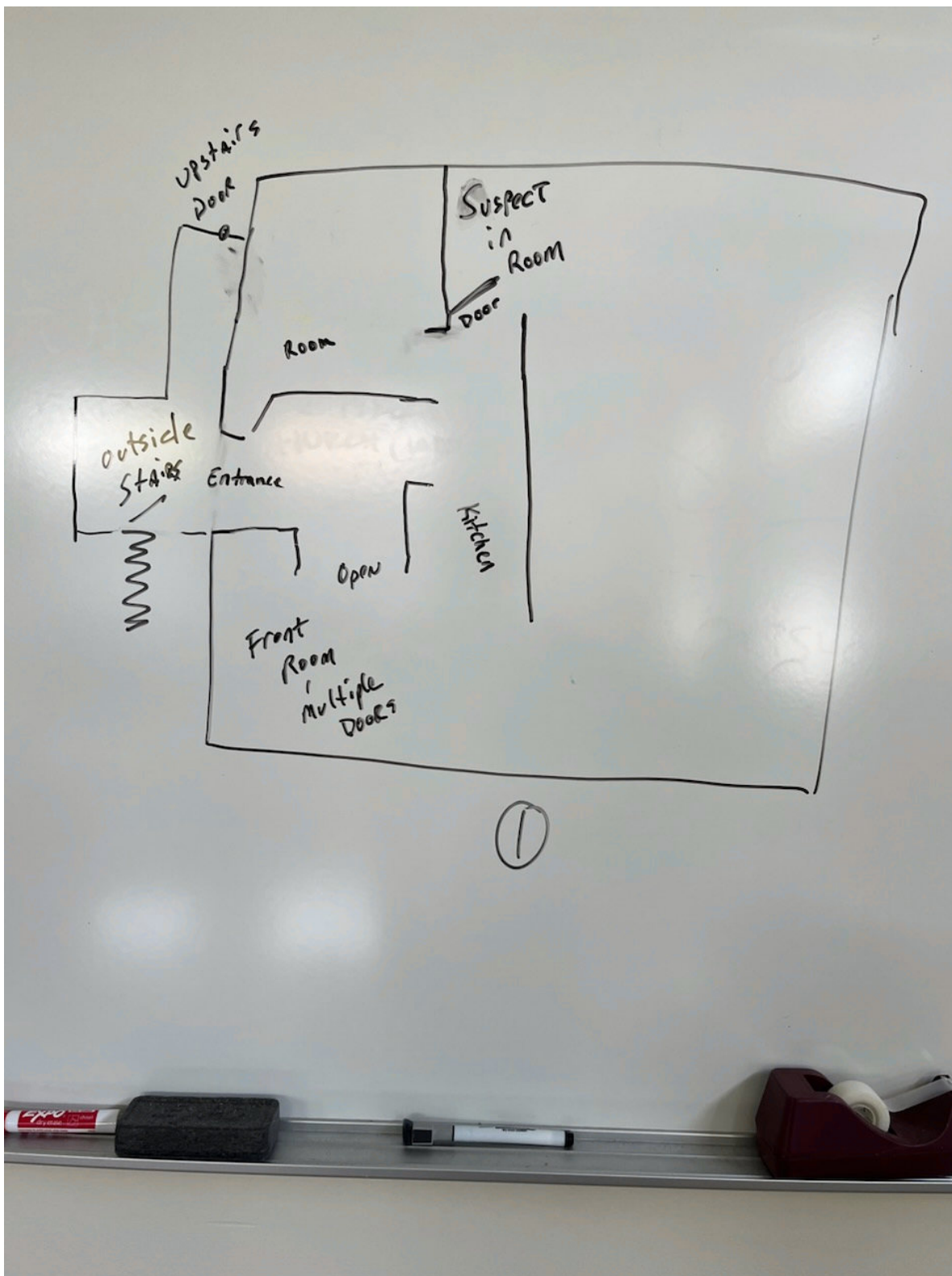


Diagram of floor plan, sketched by Ofc. Trionfante

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An audio recording of Ofc. Trionfante's interview is available for further review as an attachment to this report.

References:

No references

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Audio Interview – CPD Officer Deann Trionfante 09.10.2024

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