



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



2025-3290
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3810 Louise Ct., Grove City,
OH 43123 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 10/24/2025
Activity Location: Grove City Police Department Annex – 444 Broadway, Grove City,
OH 43123
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Friday, October 24, 2025 at 0955 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Richard Ward and James Gore met with Grove City Police [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the purpose of an interview. Also present was [REDACTED] union attorney, Nicole Wannamaker. The interview took place the Grove City Police Department annex, 444 Broadway, Grove City, Ohio.

[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 Demographical Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number:
Radio Call Sign:	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Richard Forney
Radio Channel Utilized: Main Grove City Police channel	Mobile Data Terminal: N/A
Cruiser Description: unmarked personal	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: 1
Assignment: Investigations	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: N/A	Spotlight: Choose an item.

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Emergency Lights: N/A	Siren: N/A
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On Duty Call in
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: N/A
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Well Rested	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: None
Uniform Worn: SWAT uniform w/ police markings	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: None
Ballistic Vest: Yes / exterior	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: BWC damage
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED]	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
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: N/A
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?: None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: N/A

Officer's Firearm(s):

Firearm # 1:

Make: Daniel Defense	Model: AR 15
Caliber/Gauge: .223	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Slung
Magazine Capacity: 30	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 28
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 21
Discharged During Incident?: Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 21	Number of Rounds Fired: 7
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: Police Department
Last Qualification Date:	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

[REDACTED] provided a typed statement, which he read into the record. The statement read, in part:

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“Sergeant Hennessy was in a cruiser parked on the west side of the cul-de-sac. She was making announcements over the loudspeaker, repeatedly stating, ‘This is the Grove City Police Department. Occupants of 3810 Louise Court, come out with your hands up. You are under arrest.’

Lieutenant Holmstrom drove the command post vehicle into the cul-de-sac. K-9 Officer Nelson and his partner, Rakka, were also on scene providing containment. I believe Sergeant Wilhelm and Officer Hall were coordinating less-lethal options and gas deployment. Several members of the team were positioned on the east side of a utility truck, using it for concealment. [REDACTED] was first in the line with the shield. [REDACTED] was next with the rifle providing lethal cover. [REDACTED] was behind him, followed by Officer Chandler; they comprised the arrest team. Officer Cole was next with the ram, followed by Officer Coleman with the Halligan tool. Sergeant Smith and I were at the rear of the stack providing rear security. I believe [REDACTED] and Pertz were also positioned to the rear for security.

I believe Officer Hall and Sergeant Wilhelm maneuvered toward the 1–2 corner of the house to gain better window access for gas deployment. The 1-side of the house is the front, and the numbering proceeds clockwise, with the rear being the 3-side. Because I was positioned at the rear of the lineup, I was monitoring a window on the 4-side (east side) of the house. Once they were ready to deploy gas, we were instructed to don our gas masks. I put my mask on and then placed my helmet over it. Once everyone was masked, the warning ‘Gas, gas, gas’ was announced to alert officers that the noise would be from gas deployment and not gunfire. Gas was deployed through the upper two windows. The intent was for the gas to drive the suspect out of the residence so he could surrender peacefully. Sergeant Hennessy continued making announcements for the suspect to come out with his hands up.

After several minutes with no response, the ‘Gas, gas, gas’ warning was given again and gas was deployed into the lower two windows. A few seconds after the second deployment, someone radioed that the suspect was fleeing through the backyard.

I ran north along the 4-side (east side) of the house. As I cleared the 3–4 corner, I observed thick, tall brush. I ran toward the rear wire fence and saw the suspect jump over it; he was approximately 40 yards north of my position. As I attempted to climb the fence, my pants became snagged, requiring me to reposition my foot to clear it. I believe I pushed my gas mask up to increase my field of vision, and my helmet fell off on the opposite side of the fence. I continued pursuing the suspect.

I observed the suspect running north/northeast between 3075 and 3065 Barbee Avenue. I ran northeast as well. The suspect ran toward 3667 Sheldon Place, which had a floodlight directed downward toward the south/southwest, illuminating the 1–2 side of the residence. As the suspect ran east through the yard on the south side of 3667 Sheldon Place, I saw him stumble and fall to the ground.

There was a small SUV parked on Barbee Avenue just south of the suspect. I was running toward that SUV as the suspect pushed himself up from the ground. Suddenly,

he swung his right arm back and fired west toward pursuing officers, then immediately swung his arm and fired toward me. This occurred in a split second; I heard the round and simultaneously saw the muzzle flash. I immediately fired my rifle at the suspect and moved to a better position with cover and concealment behind the SUV.

I observed an officer move to the east side of 3667 Sheldon Place and saw another officer on the ground to the west of the suspect. The suspect was still moving, twisting up and down on the ground, and continued holding the gun. He began lifting his arm, attempting to level the weapon toward officers to his west, and I again fired my weapon at him. I then heard the suspect say, 'I'm done,' or words to that effect. I believe someone yelled, 'Drop the gun.' The suspect then threw or dropped the gun, and I heard someone yell, 'Cease fire.' I yelled out to check if everyone was okay. Medics were immediately requested, as tactical EMS was already on scene for the SRT mission.

I observed [REDACTED] on the east side of 3667 Sheldon Place, moving erratically. At that time, I did not know he had been shot. The suspect was turned face down, and officers advanced toward him. His hands were secured with zip ties, and I observed what appeared to be a gunshot wound to his thigh. I retrieved a tourniquet and applied it to his thigh to control the bleeding. Other officers and TEMS medics initiated additional lifesaving measures, including applying a chest seal and pressure to his wounds. The suspect and [REDACTED] were both transported to Grant Medical Center.

I fired a total of seven (7) rounds during this incident. I know this based on my round count, as I had 21 rounds remaining. My rifle was slung over my shoulder. I am right-hand dominant, with my right hand on the pistol grip and my left hand on the barrel. I believe I utilized my red-dot sight for all shots. I aimed at the suspect's center mass for each round. Although it was dark, an exterior light at 3667 Sheldon Place illuminated the suspect. All shots were fired in a northern direction, with the backdrop being the ground and cinder blocks of the residence. I fired at a slight downward angle, as the suspect had stumbled and fallen.

After the suspect fired at me, I believe I fired three (3) rounds while positioned on Barbee Avenue, without cover or concealment, at a distance of approximately 25–30 yards. I then moved to a position of cover behind the SUV. At that time, I was unsure if the suspect had been hit, as he continued moving. When I observed him raise his arm again, I believed he was attempting to fire at officers to his west, and I fired an additional four (4) rounds from a distance of approximately 15–20 yards. I estimate that approximately 5–6 seconds elapsed between my first and last shots, with only a couple of seconds between volleys. I ceased firing when the suspect stated, 'I'm done,' was no longer pointing the firearm at anyone, and then dropped or threw the gun a second or two later.

At the times I fired my weapon, I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, as well as the lives of the other officers from the suspect's deadly actions. I believe he intended to shoot and seriously injure or kill us. I believe all my actions were consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer,

as well as the policies of the Grove City Police Department. I believe all of my actions were consistent with the laws of Ohio and the United States."

██████████ provided his path of travel onto Barbee Avenue (northeast) and his location at the time Byrdsong discharged his firearm at officers, documenting these locations on a diagram. When ██████████ discharged his firearm, he was positioned south of Byrdsong and fired in a northerly direction. When asked about ██████████ location, ██████████ stated he now believed ██████████ was positioned east of Byrdsong and was the closest officer to him.

According to ██████████, he was not wearing his gas mask during the shooting, and his body-worn camera had fallen off during the foot pursuit of Byrdsong.

Agent Ward concluded the audio-recorded interview with ██████████ at 1025 hours.

Attached below is the audio-recorded interview, diagram, CIN and typed signed statement.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: ██████████ statement, diagram and CIN.
Attachment # 02: ██████████ audio interview



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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] _____
Printed Name of Interviewee

10-24-2025 0957 HRS
Date / Time

[Redacted] _____
Signature of Interviewee

Reek Wang
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE NUMBER [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, between 7:16 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in Grove City, Ohio. I am voluntarily giving this statement as part of the criminal investigation into this matter conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire as a police officer with the Grove City Police Department (GCPD) is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I believe I received my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification in [REDACTED] from Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. I served [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I received [REDACTED] While in the [REDACTED] I also served as a member of the [REDACTED] which required me to provide security and protection over [REDACTED]

I also had [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University, a Master of Business Administration from [REDACTED] and I am currently finishing my doctorate at Liberty University. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I do not currently have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy. I am a certified rifle and shotgun operator. I have completed basic and advanced Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) training. I have also completed advanced sniper training.

I was in good health at the time of this incident. I do use reading glasses but my distance vision is good. My hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities that would impact the performance of my law enforcement duties. I did not take any medication, prescription or over the counter, that would impair my duties as a law enforcement officer. I did not consume any alcohol in the 24 hours prior to this incident. On the day of this incident, I worked my regular

assignment prior to the SRT activation. I arrived at the start of my regular shift well-rested and had a full night's sleep.

At the time of this incident, I was assigned to the [REDACTED] My regularly scheduled duty hours are [REDACTED] My regular days off are [REDACTED] My regular supervisor is Detective Sergeant Richard Forney. I am also a member of the Strategic Response Team (SRT). I have been a member of SRT for over 10 years. On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, I completed [REDACTED] and was home for the evening. I received an Everbridge notification at approximately 7:16 p.m., which instructed SRT to respond to 3810 Louise Court and report to Sgt. Hennessey. I believe the notification stated that there was a burglary in progress and an active barricade situation.

I put on my blue police-issued SRT uniform which consists of a utility shirt marked with Grove City Police badge and patches and utility pants with "Police" and my name on the backside. I got into my personal car and drove to the Grove City PD to pick up a charged radio battery, Axon Body Worn Camera (BWC) and my rifle. I put on my external body armor/rifle plates, which also identified me as POLICE in white letters along the front and back, as well as my ballistic helmet. At all times, I was clearly identifiable as a law enforcement officer. My body worn camera was in a pouch attached to my ballistic helmet, with a feed that attached to the front. I had my body worn camera activated during this incident.

I was armed with my division issued Daniel Defense DDM4 5.56 AR-15 rifle which is equipped with an Aimpoint red dot. This is the firearm I utilized during this incident. It was loaded with TAP (tactical ammunition for police) rounds. I carry my rifle with 28 rounds in the magazine. I was also carrying my department-issued Glock ^{45 G&K} ~~17~~ 9mm with standard department-issued

ammunition. I did not discharge my handgun during this incident. I am current in my range qualifications with both firearms.

Once I had my bwc and gear, I drove to the incident command post. The command post was at the corner of Sheldon Place and Louise Avenue. Lt. Holmstrom was the incident commander. He prepared a diagram of the scene and coordinated equipment deployment. Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Wilhelm are the SRT team leaders. SRT members Hall, Cole, Coleman, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Chandler were also there. Once we were done with the briefing, we walked from the command post to 3810 Louise Court. It is a bi-level house directly in the middle of the cul-de-sac. There was a very large black truck with a welding machine in the back of it backed into the driveway.

Sergeant Hennessy was in a cruiser parked to the west side of the cul-de-sac. She was making announcements over the loudspeaker. She repeatedly announced: "This is the Grove City Police Department. Occupants of 3810 Louise Court come out with your hands up, you are under arrest." Lt. Holmstrom drove the command post up into the cul-de-sac. K9 Officer Nelson, and his partner, Rakka, were also on scene for containment. I believe Sgt. Wilhelm and Officer Hall were coordinating less-lethal options and gas deployment. Several members of the team were on the east side of the utility truck, trying to use it for concealment. [REDACTED] was first in the line and had the shield. [REDACTED] was next with the rifle for lethal cover. [REDACTED] was behind him and Officer Chandler was behind him; they were the arrest team. Officer Cole was behind him with the ram and then Officer Coleman with the halligan tool. Sgt. Smith and I were at the back of the stack for rear security. I believe [REDACTED] and Pertz were positioned in the back for rear security.

I believe Officer Hall and Sergeant Wilhelm had maneuvered towards the 1-2 corner of the house for better window access to deploy gas canisters. The 1-side of the house is the front, and then it goes clockwise, with the rear of the house being the 3 side. Since I was at the back of the lineup, I was also watching a window that was on the 4 (east) side of the house. Once they were ready to deploy gas, we were instructed to put our gas masks on. I put mine on and put my helmet over it. Once everyone had their masks on, the warning "Gas, Gas, Gas" was given (to let everyone know the noise is the discharge of the gas and not a gunshot) and gas was deployed through the upper two windows. The hope was the gas would drive him out of the house and he would surrender peacefully. Sergeant Hennessey continued making announcements for the suspect to come out with his hands up during this time. Several minutes passed and there was no response from the suspect. The "Gas, Gas, Gas" warning was given again and gas was deployed into the lower two windows. A few seconds after the second deployment, someone aired that the suspect was fleeing through the backyard.

I ran north, along the 4 (east) side of the house. As I was clearing the 3-4 corner of the house, I realized that there was thick, tall brush. I ran towards the rear wire fence. I saw the suspect jump over a fence; he was approximately 40 yards north of me. I attempted to climb the fence but my pants were snagged and I had to reposition my foot to get over the fence. I believe I pushed my gas mask up to increase my field of vision but my helmet fell off on the other side of the fence. I continued pursuing the suspect.

I saw him running north/northeast between 3075 and 3065 Barbee Avenue. I ran northeast. The suspect was running towards 3667 Sheldon Place which had a flood light pointed downward to the south/southwest. It lit up the 1-2 side of that house. As the suspect was running east in the yard on the south side of 3667 Sheldon Place, I saw him stumble and he went down to the ground.

There was a small SUV parked on Barbee Avenue, just south of the suspect. I was running towards that SUV as he was pushing himself off the ground. Suddenly, he swung his right arm back and fired west at the pursuing officers and then immediately swung his arm and fired at me. This happened in a split second as I heard the round and simultaneously saw the muzzle flash. I immediately fired my rifle at the suspect. I moved for a better position with more cover/concealment behind the small SUV. I saw an officer go around to the east side of 3667 Sheldon Place and I saw another officer on the ground to the west of the suspect. The suspect was still moving up and down, twisting on the ground. He still had the gun in his hand and was lifting his arm up to level the weapon at the officers to his west. I again fired my weapon at the suspect. I then heard the suspect say, "I'm done!" or words to that effect. I believe someone yelled at him to "drop the gun!" He then threw or dropped the gun and I heard someone yell "cease fire!" I yelled out asking if everyone was ok. Medics were immediately requested as the tactical EMS is on scene for SRT missions.

I saw [REDACTED] on the east side of 3667 Sheldon Place and he was moving erratically. At the time, I did not know he had been shot. The suspect turned face down and we advanced towards him. His hands were secured with zip ties and I observed what appeared to be a gunshot to his thigh. I retrieved a tourniquet and applied it to his thigh to control the bleeding. Other officers and the TEMS medics initiated other lifesaving measures and applied a chest seal and pressure to his wounds to try and stop the bleeding. The suspect and [REDACTED] were both transported to Grant Medical Center.

I went to the Grove City Police Annex where I waited for BCI Agents to arrive. They photographed me and collected my weapon. This ended my involvement in this matter.

I fired a total of seven (7) rounds in this incident. I know this from the round count, as I had 21 rounds remaining. I had my rifle in a sling over my shoulder. I am right hand dominant. I had my right hand on the pistol grip and my left hand on the barrel. I believe I utilized my red dot sight when I fired all my rounds. My target was the suspect's center mass for all my shots. It was dark outside but there was a light on the outside at 3667 Sheldon Place that illuminated the suspect. The direction of all my shots was north. My backdrop was the ground and cinder blocks of the house. I fired at a slight downward angle as the suspect had stumbled and fallen to the ground. After the suspect fired at me, I believe I fired 3 rounds at him and I heard other rounds being fired. I fired those 3 rounds from Barbee Avenue with no cover/concealment. I believe I was approximately 25-30 yards from the suspect. I stopped firing and moved to get a better position with some cover/concealment behind the SUV. At the time, I was not sure if I had hit him, as he was still moving. Then I saw him raise his arm up and I believed he was going to again fire at the officers to his west and I believe I fired another 4 rounds. I would estimate that I was about 15-20 yards from the suspect when I fired these rounds. I believe that from the time of my first shot until my last shot was 5-6 seconds, as there was only a couple seconds between my shots. I stopped firing because the suspect said, "I'm done!" and he was no longer pointing the gun at anyone and a second or two later he either dropped or threw the gun.

Prior to this incident, the suspect had been given several hours to surrender. Sergeant Hennessey made numerous commands over the loudspeaker for the suspect to come out with nothing in his hands. He refused to come out. He was warned that gas was going to be deployed and still refused to surrender peacefully. Instead, he fled from the residence with a firearm. He fell during the foot pursuit and instead of surrendering at that point, he started shooting at us.

Immediately prior to me firing at the suspect, he had fired at other officers and me. I do not know how many rounds the suspect fired but I believe he fired at least 3 rounds.

At the times I fired my weapon, I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, as well as the lives of the other officers from the suspect's deadly actions. I believe he intended to shoot and seriously injure or kill us. I believe all my actions were consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer, as well as the policies of the Grove City Police Department. I believe all of my actions were consistent with the laws of Ohio and the United States.

I did not have any less lethal options on me at the time of this incident. My taser and mace are on my duty belt which I did not have on because this was an SRT call out. Furthermore, use of less lethal force would not have been reasonable when the suspect is utilizing deadly force against us.

I now know that the suspect's name was Dominique Byrdsong. I do not recall previously having any interactions with him, personally or professionally.

I have now reviewed video of the incident. Prior to reviewing the video, I did not know exactly which officers were to the west of the suspect as I was not sure the exact path everyone took when running through the yards. The video also makes it clear that the entire incident happened in a matter of seconds.

This concludes my statement.

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the document.



Barbee Ave

Carol Ave

3008

3007

3006

3003

3018

3017

3012

3011

3664

3020

3020

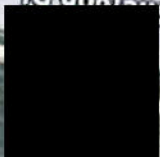
3019

Sheldon Pl

Sheldon Pl

Sheldon Pl

Sheldon Pl



3667

3691

3701

3709

3727

3056

3055

3066

3065

Barbee Ave

3814

3822

3076

3075

3086

3085

3810

3811

Louise Ct

3096

3095

3815

3825

3104

3103

3106

3094

