



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 1045 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Richard Ward and James Gore met with Grove City Police [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 demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: Click here to enter text.	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Hennessy
Radio Channel Utilized: Grove City PD main	Mobile Data Terminal: Yes
Cruiser Description: White with blue markings	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: 1 (Driver)
Assign: Patrol	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: None	Spotlight: Yes

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Emergency Lights: Yes	Siren: Yes
Shift Day of Incident: N/A	Duty Status: On Duty
Days Off: ██████████	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: ██████████	Length at Current Agency: ██████████
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: None
Uniform Worn: Navy colored shirt & pants	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Click here to enter text.
Ballistic Vest: Exterior	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: Click here to enter text.
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None

Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT	OPOTC Certification: Yes, ██████████
Military Experience/Training: None	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: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Click here to enter text.

Officer's Firearm:

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 45
Caliber/Gauge: 9mm	Serial: ██████████
Type: handgun	Method of Carry: Holstered
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 18
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: Click here to enter text.
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: None
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 18 after reload	Number of Rounds Fired: Click here to enter text.
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: Department
Last Qualification Date:	Type of Holster, if any:

Narrative:

██████████ provided a typed written statement, which he read into the record. The statement

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read in part:

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“SRT was officially activated at 7:12 p.m. SRT members began arriving on scene shortly thereafter, including Lt. Holmstrom, Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Wilhelm, Sgt. Roach, [REDACTED] Officer Cole, Officer Hall, Officer Coleman, Officer Chandler, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I remained behind Cruiser S2.

Approximately an hour after I arrived on scene, I saw the suspect look out the front door; however, the suspect did not leave the residence. Following the suspect looking through the front door, Sgt. Hennessy resumed giving commands for the suspect to come out with his hands up.

Approximately five minutes after the suspect looked through the front door, the Mobile Command Post was pulled onto Louise Court, to the right (east) of Cruiser S2. Sgt. Smith announced a plan to gas the residence. Sgt. Smith instructed some members of the SRT team to line up on the rear driver’s side of the utility truck, near the garage of the residence. I was designated as the shield person and was first in the stack. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was directly behind me, and I believe [REDACTED] was in the third position.

We lined up near the Mobile Command Post and then moved north to the rear driver’s-side corner of the utility truck. Once in position, Sgt. Hennessy gave another round of commands through the PA system. I believe Officer McCune and Officer Reber moved to cover the northeast corner/rear of the home once SRT was in place near the utility truck.

Lt. Holmstrom ordered those of us in the stack to put on our gas masks. The officers in the two and four positions put their masks on first, followed by those in the one and three positions. While putting on my mask, I handed the shield to Sgt. Smith; once my mask was secure, Sgt. Smith returned the shield to me.

Approximately two minutes after gas was deployed into the bottom-floor windows, I heard [REDACTED] over the radio announce that the suspect was running out the back of the residence. I ran to the rear/northeast side of the house. Numerous officers were fanning out around the rear of the home. I yelled ‘K9’ to remind officers that a K9 was on scene and could be deployed.

I heard someone yell words to the effect of, ‘He’s running!’ I saw a person I believed to be the suspect in the backyard of 3065 Barbee Avenue, moving toward Sheldon Place. I removed my headset to take off my gas mask, leaving both the shield and mask near a fence. I stepped over a short chain-link fence and continued northeast toward Barbee Avenue. I attempted to place my headset back on so I could hear radio traffic but was unable to get it fully secured. I carried my helmet, as my BWC was attached to it, and stepped over another fence.

While on the south side of Barbee Avenue, I saw the suspect on the north side of the roadway. The suspect appeared exhausted and stumbled or fell. I ran toward him. Two officers were in close proximity to the suspect, north/northeast of my position. The suspect fell near a flower bed on the south side of 3667 Sheldon Place.

I believe I saw at least two muzzle flashes from the suspect while he was lying in the flower bed. I believed he was shooting at [REDACTED] who was within approximately ten feet of the suspect. I immediately dropped my helmet, drew my firearm, and returned fire. I heard numerous officers firing at the same time. My first shots were fired from near the southeast corner of the front yard of 3056 Barbee Avenue. As I continued firing, I moved north/northwest to the concrete porch at the front of 3056 Barbee Avenue.

From the front porch, I could see the suspect lying southeast of me, south of 3667 Sheldon Place, with his feet toward the west and his head toward the east. The suspect appeared to continue attempting to push himself up. Believing he was still armed and intending to continue shooting at officers, I fired a few additional rounds.

Although my magazine was not empty, I performed a tactical reload so that I would have a full magazine available if the suspect resumed firing.

Once the suspect no longer appeared to be attempting to push himself up, I advanced east toward him while ordering him to stop moving. I maintained my firearm pointed at him, as I could not see his weapon. His arms appeared tucked beneath him, and I could not see his right hand. I gave commands for him to extend his arms.

I saw officers converge on the suspect to secure him and begin rendering aid. When SRT is activated, Tactical EMS (TEMS) medics are placed on standby. As such, I knew medics would be on scene shortly.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the other officers on the scene. I did have a taser with me, however, given my distance from the suspect, and the fact that the suspect had fired his gun at officers, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser. "

Agent Ward provided [REDACTED] with an aerial map of the area to illustrate the path he and Byrdsong took prior to the shooting. [REDACTED] was also provided a diagram of the scene to indicate his position when he fired and the final location of Byrdsong.

When asked by Agent Ward when he discharged his weapon, [REDACTED] stated he did not fire until he observed Byrdsong shoot. [REDACTED] believed he fired eight to twelve rounds but was uncertain of the exact number. After performing his tactical reload, he did not fire again. Other officers asked [REDACTED] if he had been hit, but he did not know at the time. A neighbor who was a nurse checked him for injuries and found none. [REDACTED] observed other officers on scene begin to render aid to Byrdsong. After the shots were fired, Agent Ward asked [REDACTED] if he saw Byrdsong's gun; [REDACTED] stated he did not. After leaving the scene, [REDACTED] returned to the annex where his handgun was collected by BCI, a round count was completed, and he was photographed in uniform.

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Agent Ward concluded the audio-recorded interview with [REDACTED] at 1115 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: [REDACTED] audio interview

Attachment # 02: [REDACTED] s typed statement, diagram and CIN

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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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

10-24-2025 / 1047
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

Rekwan
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE [REDACTED]

This statement is in regard to my involvement in an incident that occurred on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, between approximately 6:27 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. near the intersection of Sheldon Place and Barbee Avenue in Grove City, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Grove City Police Department was [REDACTED]. I obtained my OPOTA Certification in [REDACTED]. I do not have any previous law enforcement experience. I do not have any military service. I do not have any active discipline for outside of policy use of force. My regular assignment is [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] off. I am also a member of the Grove City Police part-time Strategic Response Team (SRT). On the night of the incident, I was in cruiser [REDACTED]. I was not working with a partner. I was wearing my Grove City Police uniform, consisting of navy pants and a navy long sleeve shirt with my badge on the front and Grove City Police insignia on the sleeves. I was wearing my exterior vest over my shirt. My exterior vest has "POLICE" on the front and back. I was wearing a communication headset and a helmet. I was clearly identifiable as a law enforcement officer. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted on my helmet. I was not wearing gloves. I was clearly identifiable as a law enforcement officer.

I was armed with a department-issued Glock 19 9mm which was loaded with department-issued ammunition. I was current in my range qualification. I was not carrying any backup firearms. My rifle was in my cruiser, but I did not remove it at any point during this incident. I was not taking any medication that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I was well rested at the start of my regular shift. I

had not consumed any alcohol in the 24 hours prior to the start of my shift. I do not wear glasses or contact lenses and my vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities that would impair my ability to perform my responsibilities as a police officer.

On October 8, 2025 I was scheduled to report for duty at [REDACTED]. At 6:27 I received a group message on the GroupMe app stating that there was potential for an SRT call out on Louise Court. When I reported for duty at [REDACTED] I was immediately dispatched to 3810 Louise Court by Sgt. Hennessy. As I knew the situation had potential to be an SRT call out, I loaded my SRT equipment into my cruiser from my personal vehicle before leaving Grove City Police Department. While in route, I did not run lights and sirens. While I was driving to the location, I read the available information regarding the call on my mobile data terminal (MDT), which stated words to the effect that the homeowner had come home to a Hispanic male that he did not know being inside the residence. The unknown male claimed he lived there. Sgt. McCoy had relayed that he had seen the suspect exit the residence at one point and it looked like he had a screwdriver in his hand. Per the notes, the suspect retreated into the home after saying words to the effect of "show me your badges".

I arrived at 3810 Louise Court approximately 3-5 minutes after leaving Grove City Police Department. I parked my cruiser on Louise Avenue, southeast of Louise Court. I went to the rear of my cruiser and put on my outer vest, headset, and helmet. At that time I moved my BWC from my chest area to my helmet. I saw [REDACTED] who was leaving the scene to get his SRT gear. I walked through back yards between Sheldon Place and Louise Court and arrived on Louise Court walking northwest.

Sergeant Hennessy was on the passenger side of the K9 cruiser, which was parked facing 3814 Louise Court, using the cruiser's PA system to make announcements. Her announcements were to the effect of "Grove City Police. We are not leaving. Come out with your hands up." I spoke briefly with Sgt. Hennessy. She informed me that the homeowners were remodeling and the house was presently unoccupied, but neighbors had called the police the night prior after seeing a suspicious person on the property of 3810 Louise Court. Sgt. Hennessy directed me to go to K9 Officer Nelson, who had K9 Rakka, and Sgt. McCoy, who were standing in the cul-de-sac, near cruiser S2, which was parked facing 3810 Louise Court.

The residence at 3810 Louise Court was a single family, white, split-level home with an attached garage on the southeast end of the house. There was a large, black, utility truck facing away from (southwest) the home in the driveway. Civilian vehicles were parked on the cul-de-sac around the court. Officer Nelson stated that he wanted to have a view of the front door, so that the K9 could be released if needed. Sgt. McCoy reiterated that the suspect had come out of the home, gone to the utility truck, and gone back in prior to my arrival on scene. I retrieved a tactical blanket and set it up on the rear passenger side of the S2 cruiser so that we would have cover.

Officer Reber and Officer McCune were in front of the attached garage of the house. I spoke with Sgt. McCoy, K9 Officer Nelson, Officer Reber, and Officer McCune to formulate an arrest plan. Officer Reber and Officer McCune were positioned to prevent the suspect from reaching the driver side of the utility truck in the driveway. I deployed stop sticks from the K9 cruiser in front of the utility truck. I was aware that [REDACTED] and Officer Pertz were northwest, rear of the house. As I believed the suspect was Hispanic, I asked if anyone knew if the suspect spoke English. Sgt. McCoy confirmed he did.

SRT was officially activated at 7:12 p.m. SRT members started showing up on scene thereafter, including Lt. Holmstrom, Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Wilhelm, Sgt. Roach, [REDACTED] Officer Cole, Officer Hall, Officer Coleman, Officer Chandler, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. I remained behind Cruiser S2. Approximately an hour after I arrived on scene, I saw the suspect look out the front door. However, the suspect did not leave the residence. Following the suspect looking through the front door, Sgt. Hennessy resumed giving commands for the suspect to come out with his hands up.

Approximately five minutes after the suspect looked through the front door, the Mobile Command Post was pulled into Louise Court, right (east) of cruiser S2. Sgt. Smith announced a plan to gas the residence. Sgt. Smith gave orders for some members of the SRT team to line up on the rear driver's side of the utility truck, near the garage of the residence. I was designated as the shield person and was first in the stack. [REDACTED] was directly behind me. I believe [REDACTED] was third. We lined up near the Mobile Command Post and then moved up (north) to the rear driver's corner of the utility truck. Once we were in position, Sgt. Hennessy gave another round of commands through the PA system. I believe Officer McCune and Officer Reber moved to cover the northeast corner rear of the home once SRT was in place near the utility truck. Lt. Holmstrom gave the order for those of us in the stack to put our gas masks on. The Officers in the two and four position put their masks on first, followed by those in the one and three position. While I was putting on my gas mask, I handed the shield to Sgt. Smith. Once my mask was on, Sgt. Smith returned the shield to me.

I knew that Sgt. Wilhelm and Officer Hall were in the rear of the residence with the gas team. I heard two rounds gas deployed through each of the two second story windows in the rear of the house. Following the deployment, Sgt. Hennessy gave more commands for the suspect to

exit the residence. There was no movement from the suspect. I heard someone radio for additional gas. I believe Officer Cole retrieve additional gas from the Mobile Command Post. I heard gas fired into the rear first floor windows of the residence [REDACTED] stated he thought he heard something in the garage.

Approximately two minutes after gas was fired into the bottom floor windows, I heard [REDACTED] radio that the suspect was running out the back of the residence. I ran to the rear northeast of the house. Numerous officers were fanning out around the rear of the house. I yelled "K9" to remind officers that we had a K9 on scene that could be used. I heard someone yell words to the effect of "He's running!". I saw someone I believed to be the suspect in the back yard of 3065 Barbee Avenue, going toward Sheldon Place. I removed my headset so that I could remove my gas mask. I left the shield and gas mask near a fence. I stepped over a short chain-link style fence to continue moving northeast toward Barbee Avenue. I tried to put my headset back on so that I could hear the radio traffic, but was unable to get it fully on correctly. I carried my helmet as my BWC was attached to it. I stepped over another fence.

As I was on the south side of Barbee Avenue, I saw the suspect on the north side of Barbee Avenue. The suspect appeared tired and seemed to stumble/fall. I ran towards the suspect. I saw two officers were in close proximity to the suspect, north/northeast of myself. The suspect fell near a flower bed on the south side of 3667 Sheldon Place. I believe I saw at least two muzzle flashes from the suspect while he was laying in the flower bed. I believed the suspect was shooting at [REDACTED] who was within approximately ten feet of the suspect. I immediately dropped my helmet, drew my firearm, and returned fire. I heard numerous other officers firing at the same time. My first shots were from near the south east corner of the front

yard of 3056 Barbee Avenue. I walked north/northwest as I continued to fire to a concrete porch in front of 3056 Barbee Avenue.

From the front porch, I could see the suspect was laying east of me south of 3667 Sheldon Place, with his feet facing west and his head facing east. It appeared the suspect was continuing to try to push himself up. I believed he was still armed and going to continue firing at officers. I fired a couple additional shots. While my magazine was not empty, I performed a tactical reload so that I would have full magazine if the suspect started firing again.

Once the suspect no longer appeared to make attempts to push himself up, I began advancing east toward the suspect and ordered him to stop moving. I kept my firearm drawn and pointed at the suspect, as I could not see where the suspect's gun was. His arms appeared to be tucked beneath him and I could not see his right hand. I gave orders for the suspect to put his arms out. I saw officers converge on the suspect to secure him and begin rendering aid. When SRT is activated, Tactical EMS (TEMS) medics are placed on standby. As such, I knew medics would be on scene shortly.

Someone asked me if I had been hit. While I did not feel anything, due to adrenaline, I wanted to check myself over and be sure. As such, I fell back from the immediate scene. A female civilian came out of one of the homes across Barbee Avenue and stated she was a nurse. I asked her to check me over to make sure I had not been hit. Within 2-4 minutes of gunfire ceasing, I saw a Jackson Township medic arrive on scene. I saw [REDACTED] sitting on a porch with blood on his leg. Medics were rendering aid to him. Other officers began arriving on scene. I told them to secure the area. I also let officers know where my helmet and magazine were.

I was removed from the scene and taken to the Grove City safety services annex building. FCSO Deputy Lowell Wood acted as my officer support. This ended my involvement with the incident.

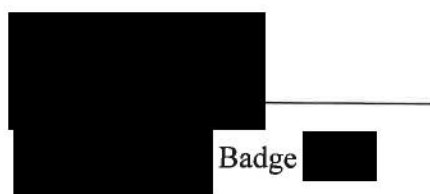
I believe I fired eight to twelve shots at the suspect. My shots were fired from a standing position, while I was walking in a northeastern direction. I used my sights when I fired. The majority of my shots were fired in a northeastern direction, the final two to three shots were fired in an eastern direction. I believe I was approximately 40-50 feet from the suspect at the time I fired my first shots and 50-60 feet from the suspect when I fired my final shot. I estimate that there were approximately ten seconds between my first shot and my final shot. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop for my shot was the exterior concrete wall of 3667 Sheldon Pl. I did not have any cover or concealment. It was dark, but there was lighting from the porch/house lights on surrounding houses as well as officers' flash lights. I stopped firing because the suspect was on the ground and no longer presenting a threat to officers.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the other officers on the scene. I did have a taser with me, however, given my distance from the suspect, and the fact that the suspect had fired his gun at officers, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser.

I now know the name of the suspect that I fired at was Dominique Byrdsong. To my knowledge I have not had any other personal or professional dealings with Mr. Byrdsong.

I have now had an opportunity to review video footage from this incident. After seeing the footage, I now recall Sgt. McCoy stating that the suspect was armed. I now also recall Officer Chandler was fourth in the stack of SRT Officers in front of 3810 Louise Court.

This concludes my statement.



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