



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



2022-0535  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-71 N. Mile Marker 123, Lewis  
Center, Ohio (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Monica Nicole Lashay Howard (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 03/11/2022  
**Activity Location:** Scene – Northbound I-71 at Mile Marker 123, Lewis Center, OH  
43035, Delaware County  
**Author:** SA James H Gore, #168

**Narrative:**

On the afternoon of March 11, 2022, at approximately 1215 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) James Gore and Ohio State Patrol (OSP) Sergeant Tim Henn conducted an interview of Monica Howard. The interview took place in the back of Columbus Police patrol vehicle #10, on the side of Interstate 71 North in Delaware County, at the site of an Officer-Involved Critical Incident involving members of the Columbus Division of Police. Howard was reportedly present during the incident. Prior to the interview, Sgt. Henn and SA Gore learned that Howard was previously read her rights under Miranda by another OSP sergeant.

Ms. Howard acknowledged that she was the owner of a gray Ford Fusion which had been involved in the incident (Ohio tag HKR2405), and she further admitted that she was the driver. Howard stated that she was traveling with JONATHON MYERS, with whom she has a child in common. MYERS was the subject who was reportedly involved in a shootout with police on I-71.

Howard explained that MYERS had been arguing with her while she was driving, and he was reportedly paranoid that someone was following their vehicle. Howard alleged that MYERS grabbed the steering wheel of her car while she was traveling on I-71 (north of Cabela's at the Polaris shopping center), and this caused her car to strike a wall. Howard alleged that MYERS grabbed her steering wheel again, and this caused her car to spin out and strike a cable barrier in the median.

Howard stated that she did not visually observe the shootout between MYERS and police, because by that time, an officer had already placed her in the patrol car. Howard recalled hearing 7 to 10 shots during the confrontation. Howard denied seeing MYERS shooting at any passing vehicles, and she also denied that MYERS shot at anyone or any vehicles from within

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her car.

Howard mentioned that after her vehicle came to a stop in the median, MYERS paced back and forth until police officers arrived. Howard said she later heard from officers that MYERS shot at passing vehicles, and she also received updates on her phone via the "Citizen App," which she explained was a sort of informal news service.

Howard alleged that she had picked up MYERS somewhere near Morse Road in North Columbus, and the two were heading to the Polaris area to get something to eat. Howard denied that she was in an accident anywhere else in the area prior to the activity on I-71. Howard also denied knowing that MYERS was armed with a gun.

Outside of the patrol vehicle, Sgt. Henn briefly informed SA Gore that there were reports of Howard's vehicle being involved in a hit-and-run accident with shots fired, on the west side of Columbus earlier on the same day. SA Gore and Sgt. Henn then resumed the interview with this information at hand.

Howard initially denied being on the west side, and she denied being involved in any criminal activity. Howard relented, however, after she was informed that investigators would be seizing her phone and conducting a search warrant on it in order to corroborate or disprove her story.

Howard reported that she picked up MYERS earlier in the morning at approximately 0700 hours. Howard admitted that she was involved in a crash with another vehicle on the west side, but it too was because MYERS allegedly jerked her steering wheel. Howard recalled that the crash was somewhere on I-70 near Hilliard. Howard claimed she did not remain at the scene of the accident because MYERS forced her to continue driving by pressing her leg/foot on the gas pedal with his hand. Howard later admitted that at the scene of the accident, MYERS opened the passenger door and shot 2 or 3 rounds. Howard said she did not see what or at whom MYERS shot.

Howard repeated her claim that MYERS was paranoid and arguing with her because he thought police were following them. MYERS, according to Howard, had reportedly been awake for three days, and he had some sort of pill bottle in his possession. Howard said MYERS emptied the contents of the pill bottle around her car after the final crash on I-71.

Howard was repeatedly asked if MYERS threatened her, was violent with her, or if she was afraid of him. Howard answered in the negative to all of that line of questioning.

Howard's cellular phone was seized by Sgt. Henn.

A video copy of Howard's interview is available for further review as an attachment to this report.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Monica Howard Video Interview, CPD Car 10, SA Gore, OSP Sgt T. Henn  
3-11-2022