



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



2023-2080

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 45 Great Southern Blvd., Columbus,  
OH 43207

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness

Involves: Xayla Scheurell

Activity Date: 8/9/2023

Activity Location: Columbus PD Cruiser #R-111 located near 45 Great Southern Blvd.

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Chad Holcomb, #61

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, August 09, 2023 at 0957 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Xayla Scheurell (Scheurell), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. The interview took place as Scheurell sat in the back of the Columbus Police car R-111 near 45 Great Southern Blvd., Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Before the interview was started, Scheurell was read her Miranda rights as she was in custody with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and was in the back of a police car. Scheurell stated that she understood her rights and wanted to talk to BCI agents.

Scheurell stated that her and Austin Huntzinger (Huntzinger) have been dating for three years and that they are homeless. Scheurell said that they had both been staying at the Cozy Inn, room 212 the past couple of days. Scheurell said that she and Huntzinger were supposed to go to the auto title store that day to get her father's car in her name. Scheurell stated that she has been wearing the same outfit for the last couple of days. Scheurell said that Huntzinger was wearing a plaid shirt, black pants, with black and red shoes.

Scheurell said that she was woken up that morning by Huntzinger and he said that they need to leave the hotel room right now and that if she wanted to live, she would come.

Scheurell said that she and Huntzinger started fighting around 0500 hours and Huntzinger left the hotel room and she followed. Scheurell stated they were walking around a service road across the street from Lowe's. Scheurell stated that Huntzinger kept making moves like he was about to jump in front of cars when they were on the service road. She stated, "He was telling me that he was tired of this, he couldn't handle it no more. He doesn't know what to do, what to think anymore. He doesn't know who to trust anymore. He'd rather just die. He'd rather just shoot himself. He'd rather just jump in front of the cars."

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Scheurell stated that as they were walking through the Waffle House parking lot, Huntzinger told Scheurell that he saw a red-dot on her forehead as they were in the hotel room. Scheurell said she went back to the hotel around 0640 hours, but doesn't know where Huntzinger went. Scheurell stated that the last time she saw Huntzinger was when they separated by the Waffle House. Huntzinger kept walking towards the Turkey Hill and Scheurell walked back to the hotel.

Scheurell stated she didn't see anything involving CPD and Huntzinger and that she arrived as all the cruisers were arriving. She initially thought that Huntzinger killed himself. Scheurell said she then heard sirens and thought he might've been hurt so she went looking for Huntzinger and CPD then detained her.

Scheurell was asked if she has any weapons; she said no. Scheurell was asked what kind of weapon Huntzinger had. She said it was, "... a small one, red dot thing attached to it, maybe this big [referencing the size of the firearm with her hands], just a small handgun, a 9 I think." Scheurell said that the firearm was purchased and it came with two magazines that had ammunition already in the magazines; they didn't purchase any extra ammunition. Scheurell said that one magazine contained hollow-point ammunition and the other magazine contained full metal jacket ammunition. Scheurell stated that the firearm was purchased from one of Huntzinger's friends and that he got the gun three or four days ago.

Scheurell was asked why Huntzinger got the gun. She stated that they've had some problems with people following them and threats against them. Scheurell stated that after her dad was murdered in December 2022, people began following them around. Scheurell stated that her dad's murder is currently unsolved.

Scheurell was asked if she knew Huntzinger was going to go rob someone. She replied, "No, he told me that he felt, he didn't know what was going on. He didn't know what to do. He didn't know what to believe. He couldn't really trust nobody right now, he didn't know what decision to make. He didn't know whether he should stay with me or leave me forever. He knows who killed my dad but he doesn't know if it's safe to take me with him. He doesn't know what to do."

Scheurell was asked if Huntzinger uses any drugs; she replied with 'crack'. Scheurell stated that Huntzinger used crack right before his mental breakdown that morning and that he has been awake for the last three days. Huntzinger told Scheurell that he was hearing voices in the ceilings and seeing things. Scheurell was asked if Huntzinger has heard voices or seen a red-dot before. Scheurell stated that Huntzinger hears voices all the time and that seeing a red-dot

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happens four to five times a month. Scheurell says that Huntzinger has been using crack for about two years.

Scheurell stated that they both just got new cell phones. Scheurell stated that her phone number is [REDACTED] Scheurell stated that neither her or Huntzinger have really talked to anyone over the past four days and have been mostly in the hotel room.

Scheurell was asked that when they were walking around earlier in the morning if she ever saw Huntzinger pull out a firearm. She said that she never saw him pull out a firearm.

The interview concluded at approximately 1020 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.