



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 Officer

Involves: Officer Seth Casto, #2658

Activity Date: 8/30/2023

Activity Location: Law offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman located at:
4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Chad Holcomb, #61

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 1139 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer (Ofc.) Seth Casto (Casto), who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the attorney's office located at 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Casto was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the August 9, 2023 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 45 Great Southern Blvd., Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Casto did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Ofc. Casto has been employed by the CPD for about 12 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 12 years. During the incident, Ofc. Casto wore his standard police uniform with a police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove CPD unit #R131, a patrol SUV with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

Ofc. Casto stated he did not know the subject, Austin Huntzinger (Huntzinger), at the time of the incident. SA Holcomb has used Huntzinger's name in the report for clarity purposes.

Ofc. Casto stated that CPD had received a call at approximately 0630, that a male was brandishing a firearm at Dieble's Hardwood Floors. He stated that the description of the male was that he was wearing a white shirt, possibly white or khaki pants and was in the area of a Lowe's parking lot. Ofc. Casto stated that when he was in the Lowe's parking lot, a male White, wearing a black shirt, looked at him and ran away. Ofc. Casto did not make contact with this male due to him not matching the description. Ofc. Casto then went to Dieble's and met up

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with Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] where he got a better description of the male from the Dieble's employees; the male subject was wearing a black shirt. Ofc. Casto went back to the Lowe's area to look for the male, Huntzinger.

Ofc. Casto stated that he was behind the south side of the Kroger shopping center when the 911 call came in of a male, Huntzinger, robbing a male in front of a title store. Ofc. Casto stated he started to head north behind the shopping center towards the scene. As he was arriving he saw the CPD wagon (with Ofc. [REDACTED] and Ofc. [REDACTED] pull up to the scene and "... heard gunfire and smoke flying all over the place". Ofc. [REDACTED] got out of the CPD cruiser and drew his firearm, gave Huntzinger commands, and then saw both of Huntzinger's hands. He made himself known to other CPD officers and then put hands on Huntzinger as he was on the ground and flipped him on his stomach. After Ofc. [REDACTED] reached Huntzinger, Ofc. Casto ran over to Ofc. [REDACTED] and rendered first aid due to Ofc. [REDACTED] being shot during the gunfire. Ofc. Casto stayed with Ofc. [REDACTED] until the medics arrived.

Ofc. Casto stated he did not activate his CPD cruiser light bar or siren during the incident. SA Holcomb asked Ofc. Casto if he ever saw Huntzinger with a firearm when he saw him in the Lowe's parking lot; he stated he did not. SA Holcomb asked Ofc. Casto that during the incident if he ever feared for his life. Ofc. Casto said, "Yes and no". He said that initially he was in fear for his life when he got on scene but once he saw Huntzinger's hands and that there was nothing in his hands, he was no longer in fear for his life. He was then more concerned for Ofc. [REDACTED]. Ofc. Casto stated as Huntzinger was "flipping" he saw a firearm flip out of his hand as he was going backward; that was the first time he saw Huntzinger. He believed he was roughly 50-feet away when he first saw Huntzinger. Ofc. Casto believed the firearm was dark.

Ofc. Casto stated that he has never heard of Huntzinger before this incident. Ofc. Casto stated he had no additional information.

The interview concluded at approximately 1151 hours.

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