



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



2022-0498

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 34 E. Fulton Ave., Columbus 43215

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Sgt. [REDACTED]
Activity Date: 5/18/2022
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher
Authoring Agent: SA John Butterworth

Narrative:

On Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 1233 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Butterworth (SA Butterworth) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Sergeant (Sgt.) [REDACTED] (Sgt. [REDACTED]), who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Harshman and Wannemacher. The interview was audio recorded.

Sgt. [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: Sergeant (Sgt.)
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: N/A
Radio Call Sign: N/A	Immediate Supervisor: Lt. Bachelder
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: N/A	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: N/A
Assignment: Special Investigations Unit	Normal Shift: 0800-1600
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Not Present	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident: 0800-1600	Duty Status: On-Duty



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Days Off: Saturday and Sunday	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Well rested	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: Click here to enter text.	Length at Current Agency: 20 years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Prescribed; Not Worn at Time
Uniform Worn: Plainclothes	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: N/A
Ballistic Vest: Not Worn	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: N/A	OPOTC Certification: April 1999 Eastland Police Academy
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Unknown
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: Unknown
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: None

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: N/A	Model: N/A
Caliber/Gauge: Choose an item.	Serial: Click here to enter text.
Type: Choose an item.	Method of Carry: N/A
Magazine Capacity: N/A	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): N/A
Extra Magazines: N/A	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident? Choose an item.	Primary or Backup Weapon: Choose an item.

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Rounds Remaining After Incident: Click here to enter text.	Number of Rounds Fired: Click here to enter text.
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Choose an item.	Ownership: Choose an item.
Last Qualification Date: Click here to enter text.	Type of Holster, if any: Click here to enter text.

Narrative:

On Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 at approximately 1233 hours, SA Butterworth and SA Collins interviewed Sgt. [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his FOP attorney Nicole Wannemacher. SA Butterworth read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form to Sgt. [REDACTED] which he stated he understood and signed. Sgt. [REDACTED] agreed to continue to speak with agents about the Officer-Involved Critical Incident that occurred on March 7, 2022.

Sgt. [REDACTED] had a previously prepared written statement that was provided electronically to SA Butterworth prior to the interview taking place. The statement was provided by attorney Wannemacher and paper copies were provided during the interview as well. SA Butterworth requested Sgt. [REDACTED] read his prepared statement, which he did.

Sgt. [REDACTED] stated on Monday March 7, 2022, between approximately 0930 and 0945 hours, he was involved in the incident which is being investigated by BCI. (This incident was an Officer-Involved Critical Incident that resulted in the death of Rayshawn Meeks.) According to Sgt. [REDACTED] he is in a plainclothes assignment at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and was wearing jeans, a gray hoodie (sweatshirt) and baseball cap. Sgt. [REDACTED] was wearing a FCSO lanyard around his neck at the time of the incident. Sgt. [REDACTED] was not armed at the time of the incident.

Sgt. [REDACTED] said he was parking his vehicle in the parking garage and typically parks on the exit side of the garage, which he did on the date of the incident. While speaking with FCSO Deputy Feery, Sgt. [REDACTED] stated he heard a female screaming and running toward Clinton Township Police Officer [REDACTED]. As he looked down the garage, Sgt. [REDACTED] observed two black males "squaring off" as if they were going to fight. Sgt. [REDACTED] states he heard whom he believed to be Officer [REDACTED] and saw Officer [REDACTED] quickly walking toward the two males. Sgt. [REDACTED] also observed Deputy [REDACTED] quickly approaching the two males just a few seconds behind Officer [REDACTED]. Sgt. [REDACTED] estimated he was 40 to 50 feet away from the males and kept a visual on



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the situation as he believed the two would stop fighting with Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] being there.

As one of the males backed away upon the approach of Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] Sgt. [REDACTED] observed the second male hit Officer [REDACTED] Sgt. [REDACTED] then ran to help. Upon arrival, Sgt. [REDACTED] said he reached the male, Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] said to the male "get on the ground" or words to that effect. The male did not comply with the order and lunged at Officer [REDACTED] Sgt. [REDACTED] grabbed the male by his hood and helped Officer [REDACTED] take the male to the ground (Sgt. [REDACTED] refers to the male as "suspect" in his statement at this point).

According to Sgt. [REDACTED] the suspect was now on his back and still trying to fight. The suspect then rolled to what Sgt. [REDACTED] believed to be his left side, which placed his back toward Sgt. [REDACTED] At this time, Sgt. [REDACTED] states that Officer [REDACTED] Deputy [REDACTED] and himself were trying to gain compliance of the suspect and secure his hands. They were unable to as he was thrashing about on the ground.

Sgt. [REDACTED] requested Deputy Feery to tase the suspect as Deputy Feery was a couple of feet from him. Sgt. [REDACTED] thought Deputy Feery was near the suspect's head when he pulled out his taser. Sgt. [REDACTED] requested the taser and Deputy Feery provided it to him. Sgt. [REDACTED] tased the suspect and thought it did not have any impact on him as he was still fighting. A second deployment of the taser was conducted by Sgt. [REDACTED] At that moment, according to Sgt. [REDACTED] he realized the suspect had Officer [REDACTED] firearm and it was pointed up towards him. Sgt. [REDACTED] states he then heard a gunshot and saw a muzzle flash.

Sgt. [REDACTED] said he at some point yelled, "he's got [REDACTED] gun" and wasn't certain if he yelled it before or after the round was fired as it happened within a second or two. Sgt. [REDACTED] recalls that [REDACTED] said "I didn't shoot him." Sgt. [REDACTED] observed bleeding from the suspect's head and he called dispatch for a medic. Sgt. [REDACTED] believed Officer [REDACTED] retrieved his trauma bag and began rendering aid with Deputy [REDACTED] assisting. Upon the arrival of other deputies on the scene, Sgt. [REDACTED] was told to leave the scene and went to the FCSO offices at 410 S. High Street.

Sgt. [REDACTED] described the scene as chaotic and rapidly evolving. When he first heard the female screaming, he presumed she was being "robbed or something" until the two males were observed in a physical altercation. As Officer [REDACTED] approached, the second man physically assaulted Officer [REDACTED] according to Sgt. [REDACTED] Upon approaching the male, Sgt. [REDACTED] says he told him to get on the ground, but he ignored the order and again tried to attack Officer [REDACTED] Upon taking the suspect to the ground, the male still refused to comply and give his hands to officers. Upon utilizing the taser, Sgt. [REDACTED] said he was trying to gain compliance



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from the male to secure him. Sgt. ██████ did not initially realize that the male had Officer ██████ weapon and did not see him take the weapon, nor does Sgt. ██████ know how he got the weapon. When Sgt. ██████ realized the suspect was armed, he (the suspect) was on his left side but had the barrel of the weapon pointed up at him (Sgt. ██████). Sgt. ██████ again said he believed it was about a second after utilizing the taser for the second time, that the male fired the weapon. Sgt. ██████ believed he (the suspect) was trying to shoot and kill him (Sgt. ██████). Sgt. ██████ does not believe that he had had any prior encounters, professional or personal with Rayshawn Meeks.

Upon completion of Sgt. ██████ reading his statement, SA Butterworth requested that he sign the paper copy that was provided to agents. Sgt. ██████ signed his statement and agents asked a few follow up questions. During follow up questions with Sgt. ██████ SA Butterworth asked Sgt. ██████ if it was normal for him not to be armed, and attorney Wannemacher answered that it was noted in the statement that he hadn't been able to retrieve his weapon from his bag in his car. SA Butterworth asked Sgt. ██████ when he used the taser if he saw Meeks' hands and he said no. SA Butterworth followed up with when Sgt. ██████ fired the taser, if he knew where the taser probes ended up and he believed they were in his back. SA Butterworth asked if during the second deployment, that the taser was used as a "drive stun" and where that was placed on Meeks, Sgt. ██████ said the second deployment was in his back as well.

SA Butterworth asked Sgt. ██████ if he heard or observed a fight between Meeks and a female in or around a vehicle in the parking garage. Sgt. ██████ did not, but heard someone, or a female saying I've been robbed and then saw the men squaring off. Sgt. ██████ said he didn't see the female. SA Butterworth asked if Sgt. ██████ during the altercation, if Meeks was making movements towards Officer ██████ gun or any movement he could recall. Sgt. ██████ stated no, just that he recalled seeing the barrel pointed up toward his head.

SA Butterworth asked if Sgt. ██████ used any other force against Meeks, which was followed up by using strikes, punches or the like. Sgt. ██████ said yes, he had been giving knee strikes but Meeks was still not complying. SA Butterworth asked if there was any conversation between Officer ██████ and himself right after the shot being fired and Sgt. ██████ said only that Officer ██████ said "he didn't shoot him" or "he shot himself" or something like that. SA Butterworth asked if he recalled saying anything to Officer ██████ and Sgt. ██████ said only to get his trauma bag. Once Officer ██████ got his bag, they started to render aid and then Sgt. ██████ was relieved from the scene. Sgt. ██████ said he left the scene and went to Chief Miner's office.



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SA Collins asked Sgt. [REDACTED] to describe how Meeks had the weapon when he mentioned it during his statement. Sgt. [REDACTED] recalled seeing the gun, which has a distinctive sight on it, and he just recalled seeing it. SA Collins clarified with Sgt. [REDACTED] as to who had possession of it and Sgt. [REDACTED] did not know who had it. SA Collins asked about where Sgt. [REDACTED] delivered the knee strikes and he said in his shoulder area, upper shoulder. SA Collins also clarified that Meeks was on his left side, when the strikes were delivered. Sgt. [REDACTED] said Meeks was initially on his back, and he rolled onto his side as officers were on him. Sgt. [REDACTED] ended up on Meeks' back side by his head while Deputy [REDACTED] had his legs and Officer [REDACTED] was on the other side. SA Collins asked if Meeks had said anything during the incident and Sgt. [REDACTED] said not that he could hear as there was a lot of yelling going on. Sgt. [REDACTED] said there were multiple people giving multiple commands during the incident. SA Collins asked Sgt. [REDACTED] if anyone had influenced him to be dishonest and he said no. SA Collins asked if the statement he had given was the truth and Sgt. [REDACTED] said yes.

The interview concluded at approximately 1251 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
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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

05/15/2022 12:56 p.m.
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

SA JOHN BUTTERWORTH #35
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #35
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF SERGEANT [REDACTED], BADGE [REDACTED]

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, March 7, 2022, between approximately 9:30 and 9:45 a.m., in the parking garage attached to 410 S. High Street. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is November 13, 2000. I am assigned to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), which is a plainclothes assignment. My regular duty hours in that assignment vary depending on the mission/assignment but are typically 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday off. I do not have any military experience.

At the time of this incident, I was wearing plainclothes consisting of jeans and a gray hoodie and baseball cap. I had my FCSO lanyard around my neck. I do not have a body worn camera (BWC) as the FCSO has not issued them yet. I was not carrying a taser or mace, due to being in a plainclothes assignment. I did not have my FCSO firearm on me, as it was in my bag in my car. This incident occurred before I was able to finish retrieving and gathering my items from my car for the day.

I was not working with a partner, but FCSO Detective [REDACTED] and Deputy Declan Feery and Clinton Township Officer [REDACTED] were present during this incident. Detective [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] were in plainclothes, but Deputy Feery was wearing the FCSO patrol uniform.

I have glasses for office work/reading but my uncorrected distance vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I did not consume any alcohol or prescription medication that could affect the performance of my duties in the 24 hours before this incident. I

did not work any overtime or special duty in the 24 hours prior to this incident. I arrived at my shift well-rested and in good spirits.

On the day of this incident, I was parking my plain car in the parking garage attached to 410 S. High St. I typically park on the exit side of the garage and did so on this date. I was talking to Deputy Feery when I heard a female screaming and run towards Officer [REDACTED]. I looked down the parking garage (down because of the angle of the parking garage and being parked on the exit side) and I saw two black males squaring off (facing each other, fist raised) as if they were going to fight. I heard someone yell (I believe Officer [REDACTED] and I saw him quickly walking towards the two males. I also saw Deputy [REDACTED] quickly approaching the two males, just a few seconds behind Officer [REDACTED]. I was approximately 40-50 feet away from the males and kept a visual on the situation, as I figured they would stop fighting with Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] there.

One of the males backed away once Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] approached. I thought that was the end of it but then I saw the other male hit Officer [REDACTED] and I ran to help him. As I reached the male, Officer [REDACTED], and Deputy [REDACTED], I believe I yelled "get on the ground," or words to that effect to the male. He did not comply with my order and lunged at Officer [REDACTED]. I grabbed him, I believe by his hood, and helped Officer [REDACTED] take him to the ground. The suspect was on his back and still trying to fight. The suspect rolled to his side (I believe his left side) and his back was towards me. Officer [REDACTED], Deputy [REDACTED] and I were all trying to gain compliance of the suspect and secure his hands, but he was thrashing about on the ground.

Deputy Feery was a couple feet from me, and I yelled at him to tase the suspect, as he was still fighting us. I believe Deputy Feery was by the suspect's head when he pulled out his

taser. I yelled for Deputy Feery to give me his taser and he handed it to me. I tased the suspect, it was a close quarter deployment, and it did not appear to have any impact on him. He was still fighting. I released the trigger of the taser and pulled it again. It is at that moment that I realized the suspect had Officer [REDACTED] firearm (I recognized it as Officer [REDACTED] because his weapon is a Staccato and has a very distinct site) and it was pointed up towards me. Suddenly, I heard a gunshot and saw a muzzle flash.

At some point, I yelled "he's got [REDACTED] gun!" I am not certain if I yelled that before or after the round was fired, as it all happened in a second or two. I believe [REDACTED] said, "I didn't shoot him." I saw the suspect was bleeding from the head and I called dispatch for a medic. I believe Officer [REDACTED] retrieved his trauma bag and began rendering aid. I believe Deputy [REDACTED] was also assisting.

Several other deputies arrived and Lt. Bachelder told me to leave the scene. I went to 410 S. High Street and waited for BCI investigators to arrive. This ended my involvement in this matter.

This entire scene was chaotic and rapidly evolving. When I first heard the female screaming, I presumed she was being robbed or something until I saw the two males in a physical altercation. The one immediately disengaged when Officer [REDACTED] approached but the other man physically assaulted Officer [REDACTED]. When I approached him, and told him to get on the ground, he ignored me and again tried to attack Officer [REDACTED]. Once we took him to the ground, he still refused to comply and give us his hands. When I tased the suspect, I was trying to gain compliance so we could secure him. I did not initially realize he had Officer [REDACTED] weapon and I did not see him take the weapon and I do not know how he got the weapon. When I realized the suspect was armed, the suspect was still on his left side but had the barrel of the

weapon pointed up at me. I believe it was about a second after I tased the suspect for the second time that he fired the weapon. I believe he was trying to shoot and kill me.

I now know that the suspect is Rayshawn Meeks. I do not believe I have had any prior encounters, professional or personal, with him.

This concludes my statement. I will answer any additional questions you may have at this time.


FCSO Sergeant , Badge No. 