



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



2021-0957  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3171 Legion Lane, Columbus,  
OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** James Howard Martin (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 04/28/2021  
**Activity Location:** Martin, James Howard – Home – 3190 Legion Ln , Columbus, OH  
43232, Franklin County  
**Author:** SA Matthew Collins, #151

**Narrative:**

On April 28, 2021, at 1250 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Matt Collins (SA Collins) and SA Jim Mulford (SA Mulford) went to 3190 Legion Ln. SA Collins had previously gone to this address on April 21, 2021, and left a business card (of SA Mulford) in the door. SA Mulford has received no calls from anyone from the neighborhood canvass.

Leading up to April 28th, SA Collins and other agents worked on identifying any and all individuals who appeared to have been involved, witnessed, or identified themselves as witnesses to the incident involving officers from the City of Columbus–Division of Police (CPD) and Ma'khia Bryant. SA Collins, having reviewed multiple sources of video, viewed a black male subject who was seen wearing a white shirt, gray sweatpants and a white fisherman's hat. That subject purported to those present that he "saw the whole thing" or "seen the whole thing." This subject was not known to investigators because it appeared he left prior to their arrival and did not provide anyone his name. SA Collins viewed the subject coming from the south, on the east side of the street (on Ofc. Reardon's body worn camera at the 08:42 mark). BCI intelligence analyst came up with a possible identity of the individual (utilizing the distinct graying in the middle of his beard) and possible Legion Lane addresses. The name Mickeal Smith was developed. SA Collins and SA Mulford first went to 3184 Legion Lane and spoke with the resident. They indicated that there was no Mickeal Smith at that address and the subject did not look like him either.

SA Collins and SA Mulford went to 3190 Legion Lane and knocked on the door. A black male came to the door and SA Collins immediately identified him as the same subject who had been seen in either body worn camera videos or social media posts, who was wearing the white fisherman's hat. While he confirmed to SA Collins that he was the one wearing the white hat, he provided another name "Jimmy Martin." It was later confirmed that he was in fact James Howard Martin (Martin), however, Martin did not allow agents to properly identify him while

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speaking with him.

Martin further would not provide agents any statement/s as to what he allegedly saw or witnessed. Agents made sure Martin was clear that they were conducting a criminal investigation in the incident and wished to obtain the statements of those who witnessed the events. Martin was less than cooperative and said he was not going to talk. As agents left, the female who was standing behind Martin was later learned to be Shonnell Kelley (Kelley) also had appeared in social media posts where she indicated that she had witnessed the events. Specifically, she was heard making a statement or asking something to the effect of "why you gotta shoot her in the chest?" No information had been released as to where Bryant's injuries were when the comment/question was posed. So, it was unknown why she believed that. It was further learned from BCI CIU, that Kelley too had posted a video from the scene using the Instagram name "Marie Marie."

Due to Martin refusing to be identified, agents attempted to photograph him for later identification. However, Martin avoided having his face in the photo and turned away. SA Collins later learned that Martin may have been avoiding detection due to him having an active warrant through CPD. SA Collins learned that information from CPD and they advised they would follow-up with it.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment # 01: Interview with James Martin\_Audio
- Attachment # 02: James Martin and Shonnell Kelley
- Attachment # 03: Shonnell Kelley and James Martin
- Attachment # 04: Why you gotta shoot her in the chest.
- Attachment # 05: Why you gotta shoot her in the chest2
- Attachment # 06: White fisherman hat
- Attachment # 07: White fisherman hat2























