



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



2024-3996
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 780 Taylor Road,
 Gahanna, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Involved Officer
Involves: ██████████, Gahanna Police Department
Activity Date: 01/17/2025
Activity Location: Gahanna Police Department – 460 Rocky Fork Blvd,
 Gahanna OH 43230
Authoring Agent: SA Kyle Douglass

Narrative:

On Friday, January 17, 2025, at 0950 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and SA James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Gahanna Police Department (Gahanna PD) ██████████ who was accompanied by his attorney, Kate Harshman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Gahanna PD station. The interview was audio recorded.

██████████ 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: ██████████	Rank: ██████████
Badge Number: █████	Normal Shift: ██████████
Assignment: ██████████	Length at Current Agency: ██████████
In-Car Camera: Operational, But Not Used	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Shift Day of Incident: ██████████	Injuries: None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 17
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Number of Rounds Fired: 15

Narrative:

In his written statement to BCI, [REDACTED] wrote:

"I responded to a call at Springhill Suites hotel located at 665 Taylor Road on the use of a fraudulent credit card by a patron. [REDACTED] and Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh were already on scene. [REDACTED] briefed me when I arrived. Because the call involved a stolen identity, I considered it a possible felony. [REDACTED] Sgt. Millenbaugh, an employee of the hotel, and myself approached the hotel room to confront the patron. I was standing to the right of the door when facing it behind Sgt. Millenbaugh. Both [REDACTED] and Sgt. Millenbaugh knocked on the door of room 112 and identified us as Gahanna Police. Sgt. Millenbaugh ordered the patron out of the room several times. The patron failed to comply and said he was packing his belongings to leave. After a few more moments, I could hear glass breaking and I assumed the suspect had fled out the window. I ran down the hallway and through the lobby to the back (south side) of the building, which was a mostly empty parking lot. I ran to the west side of the building where my cruiser was parked. I drove to the parking lot to the east of TownPlace Suites, which was just to the east of the SpringHill Suites hotel with my emergency lights activated."

[REDACTED] continued in his statement, *"The suspect, who was a heavy-set male in gray pants and a black sweatshirt, was on the eastern side of the parking lot. I could see what appeared be a black semiautomatic pistol held in his right hand at his side pointed at the ground. With my weapon pointed at the suspect, I ordered him to put the gun down multiple times. The suspect took off his black sweatshirt with the gun still in his hand and dropped it in the parking lot. Underneath he was wearing a black t-shirt. He continually refused to comply with my commands. He kept walking east, eventually over the grass separating two parking lots. I aired that we were in the parking lot of 735 Taylor. I kept tracking him in the grass area between the parking lot and Taylor Road. He continued east through several parking lots. It appeared to me that he racked the slide of his weapon at some point, which I aired. At the parking lot of the Columbus*

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MEPS center, the suspect turned to the north towards Taylor Road. I continued to order the suspect to put down his gun, which he continually failed to do. The suspect continued north walking across Taylor Road to a residence, which upon review of the video appears to be 780 Taylor Road. The residence was set far back from the street and was accessed by a long asphalt driveway. Large hedges stood to the side of the driveway down the length of the property to east (parallel to Taylor Road)."

██████████ explained the circumstances leading up to the shooting incident and the firing of his duty weapon, *"I was standing in the roadway nearest the north sidewalk and the suspect, who was approximately 30-40 feet north of me on the driveway, turned towards me, putting the gun to his head with his right hand. Several officers including ██████████ and I gave numerous commands to the suspect to put his gun down, urging him to talk, and to not to kill himself. He said something to the effect of "it's too late or I've gone too far." He walked east just north of the row of hedges with the gun still to his head. To my left, ██████████ used a shotgun to deploy a less lethal "bean bag" round. It appeared to me that the bag hit the suspect near his right arm. This did not seem to have any effect on the suspect. The suspect stopped pointing the gun at himself and turned to run east. At this point, I had yet to see the suspect point his weapon at anyone other than himself. However, as he continued to run east, he turned back towards ██████████ and myself (to the west) and raised his weapon in our direction. I fired a volley of shots. The suspect fell to the ground initially on his back with his head towards the south. When he fell, the gun was no longer aimed at any officers and I stopped firing. I ordered him again to put down his weapon. The suspect racked his slide. He began to roll on his left side and again pointed his gun in my direction, I fired again. I stopped firing when the suspect no longer appeared to be a threat. The suspect was not moving at that point and was still laying on his left side facing officers. The suspect was no longer holding the gun and it appeared to be underneath him."*

██████████ discussed his decision to fire his duty weapon, *"I now know that I fired a total of fifteen (15) times. At the time I fired, I had followed the suspect, who had a gun in his hand, through multiple parking lots. I repeatedly ordered the suspect to put down the gun, which he repeatedly failed to do. Once we arrived at 780 Taylor Road, the suspect put a gun to his head and still did not comply with the directions of officers to put down his weapon. ██████████ deployed a less lethal "bean bag" round which was ineffective. When the suspect turned and pointed his gun in my direction, I fired. I would estimate that I fired half of my rounds during this first volley. I fired from a standing position using both hands. I used my red dot sites. I did not fire from cover. I fired to the east at the suspect's center of mass. At the time I fired, I estimate*

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that the suspect was 30-40 feet from me. My backdrop was the ground behind the suspect (as he was laying on the ground on his side) and the empty yard beyond. I did not see anyone in my backdrop."

██████████ explained why he stopped firing his duty weapon, *"I stopped firing after the suspect fell to ground and was no longer pointing his weapon in my direction or the direction of any other officer. The suspect then racked his slide, turned towards us from the ground, and pointed his gun again in my direction. I fired again. I estimate I fired half of my rounds during this time. I fired from a standing position using both hands. I used my red dot sites. I did not fire from cover. I fired to the east at the suspect's center of mass while he was laying on the ground. At the time I fired, I estimate that the suspect was 30-40 feet from me. My backdrop was the ground behind the suspect (as he was laying on the ground on his side) and the empty yard beyond. I did not see anyone in my backdrop. I stopped firing when the suspect was no longer a threat."*

██████████ summarized his decision-making, *"At all times that I fired during the incident, I did not believe I had any other reasonable choice other than to fire to protect my own life and the lives of my fellow officers from death or imminent bodily harm. When I reasonably perceived that the suspect was not a threat, I did not fire or stopped firing. The suspect did not respond to less lethal force."*

██████████ was asked several follow-up questions regarding the incident. ██████████ used a printed map of the incident area to show his path of travel during the incident. ██████████ initially made contact with the subject, Alex Russell (Russell), in the parking lot area east of TownePlace Suites. ██████████ said he gave Russell several verbal commands to drop his gun, and around this time ██████████ observed Russell "racked the slide" or manipulating his weapon. ██████████ pursued Russell at a walking pace from there to the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road, continuing to give Russell verbal commands to drop his gun, which had been in Russell's hand the entire time. ██████████ heard ██████████ trying to deescalate the situation and asking Russell to put the gun down. "This is when he has the gun to his head," ██████████ stated, as they (Gahanna PD officers) continued to attempt to gain compliance from Russell. ██████████ believed ██████████ less-lethal shot had struck Russell, which was when ██████████ observed Russell turn and point his gun towards ██████████ and other Gahanna PD officers. ██████████ said he fired his first group of shots towards Russell, who then fell to the ground. ██████████ then observed Russell manipulating his gun, briefly pointed it at his own head and then quickly pointed the gun towards Gahanna PD officers again. "That's when I fired the second volley," ██████████ stated, and heard

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other officers firing as well. [REDACTED] confirmed he observed Russell point his gun at Gahanna PD officers while he was standing and again while he was on the ground. [REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] say, "stop stop stop" at the same time he perceived Russell to "slump" and no longer be a threat, and [REDACTED] stopped firing. [REDACTED] elaborated that Russell was no longer pointing his gun at Gahanna PD officers and may have been in a state of unconsciousness.

The interview concluded at approximately 1022 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.

References:

No references

Attachments:

1. 2025-01-17 [REDACTED] Interview Audio
2. [REDACTED] - Signed Statement+CIN+Maps

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STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Thursday, December 19, 2024, between the hours of 9:30am and 10:00am. I am voluntarily giving this statement as part of the criminal investigation into this matter conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired as a police officer by the City of Gahanna in [REDACTED]. I do not have any other law enforcement experience. I served from [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED]. At the time of this incident, I was assigned as a [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] p.m. with [REDACTED] off. On Thursday, December 19, 2024, I was on my regular assignment assigned to Cruiser [REDACTED] which is marked with the Gahanna Police insignia with red and blue lights consistent with police vehicles. I was alone and did not have a partner.

I was dressed in the uniform of the day, which consisted of black uniform pants, a black collared shirt with black external carrier vest that reads "Gahanna POLICE" on the back in white letters. The external carrier also identifies me as a police officer on the front right pocket area. I was wearing my body worn camera mounted inside the center of my external carrier. I was armed with a department issued Glock 17 9mm with standard department-issued ammunition. My handgun has a red dot sight affixed to the slide with iron sights as a backup and a Streamlight TLR9 affixed to the frame. I was and am current on my range qualifications for my gun, red dot, and light. I had no back up weapons. I do not have any discipline in my file for use of force outside of the established City policy.

I am right hand dominate. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I had not worked any special duty for twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to the incident. I had plenty of sleep prior to my shift. I was not under any unusual stress. I do not wear hearing aids nor do I have

problems with my hearing. I do not wear contacts or glasses (other than for the computer) nor do I have notable problems with my sight. I was not taking medication or drugs, whether prescribed or not, that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I have no disability that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer.

On Thursday, December 19 at approximately 9:30am, I was at the Gahanna Police Department located at 460 Rocky Fork Boulevard in Gahanna working on a crash report. I responded to a call at Springhill Suites hotel located at 665 Taylor Road on the use of a fraudulent credit card by a patron. [REDACTED] and Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh were already on scene. [REDACTED] briefed me when I arrived. Because the call involved a stolen identity, I considered it a possible felony. [REDACTED] Sgt. Millenbaugh, an employee of the hotel, and myself approached the hotel room to confront the patron. I was standing to the right of the door when facing it behind Sgt. Millenbaugh. Both [REDACTED] and Sgt. Millenbaugh knocked on the door of room 112 and identified us as Gahanna Police. Sgt. Millenbaugh ordered the patron out of the room several times. The patron failed to comply and said he was packing his belongings to leave. After a few more moments, I could hear glass breaking and I assumed the suspect had fled out the window. I ran down the hallway and through the lobby to the back (south side) of the building, which was a mostly empty parking lot. I ran to the west side of the building where my cruiser was parked. I drove to the parking lot to the east of TownPlace Suites, which was just to the east of the SpringHill Suites hotel with my emergency lights activated.

The suspect, who was a heavy-set male in gray pants and a black sweatshirt, was on the eastern side of the parking lot. I could see what appeared be a black semiautomatic pistol held in

his right hand at his side pointed at the ground. With my weapon pointed at the suspect, I ordered him to put the gun down multiple times. The suspect took off his black sweatshirt with the gun still in his hand and dropped it in the parking lot. Underneath he was wearing a black t-shirt. He continually refused to comply with my commands. He kept walking east, eventually over the grass separating two parking lots. I aired that we were in the parking lot of 735 Taylor. I kept tracking him in the grass area between the parking lot and Taylor Road. He continued east through several parking lots. It appeared to me that he racked the slide of his weapon at some point, which I aired. At the parking lot of the Columbus MEPS center, the suspect turned to the north towards Taylor Road. I continued to order the suspect to put down his gun, which he continually failed to do. The suspect continued north walking across Taylor Road to a residence, which upon review of the video appears to be 780 Taylor Road. The residence was set far back from the street and was accessed by a long asphalt driveway. Large hedges stood to the side of the driveway down the length of the property to east (parallel to Taylor Road).

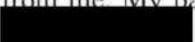
I was standing in the roadway nearest the north sidewalk and the suspect, who was approximately 30-40 feet north of me on the driveway, turned towards me, putting the gun to his head with his right hand. Several officers including [REDACTED] and I gave numerous commands to the suspect to put his gun down, urging him to talk, and to not to kill himself. He said something to the effect of "it's too late or I've gone too far." He walked east just north of the row of hedges with the gun still to his head. To my left, [REDACTED] used a shotgun to deploy a less lethal "bean bag" round. It appeared to me that the bag hit the suspect near his right arm. This did not seem to have any effect on the suspect. The suspect stopped pointing the gun at himself and turned to run east. At this point, I had yet to see the suspect point his weapon at anyone other than himself. However, as he continued to run east, he turned back towards [REDACTED] and myself (to the

west) and raised his weapon in our direction. I fired a volley of shots. The suspect fell to the ground initially on his back with his head towards the south. When he fell, the gun was no longer aimed at any officers and I stopped firing. I ordered him again to put down his weapon. The suspect racked his slide. He began to roll on his left side and again pointed his gun in my direction, I fired again. I stopped firing when the suspect no longer appeared to be a threat. The suspect was not moving at that point and was still laying on his left side facing officers. The suspect was no longer holding the gun and it appeared to be underneath him.

I waited to approach until Sergeant Hendon positioned himself in front of me carrying a shield. As we got close to the suspect, [REDACTED] moved the suspect's gun away and began to render aid with several other officers. I went to the front of the driveway to help direct the medic when it arrived. I moved the unmarked vehicle (black truck) to the east so medics from Mifflin Township had access to the driveway when they arrived.

Thereafter, I secured tape in one of the parking lots. After retrieving my phone from my cruiser, I then left the scene and was driven to the Gahanna Police station. Once at the Gahanna Police station, I waited for Lodge Counsel.

I now know that I fired a total of fifteen (15) times. At the time I fired, I had followed the suspect, who had a gun in his hand, through multiple parking lots. I repeatedly ordered the suspect to put down the gun, which he repeatedly failed to do. Once we arrived at 780 Taylor Road, the suspect put a gun to his head and still did not comply with the directions of officers to put down his weapon. [REDACTED] deployed a less lethal "bean bag" round which was ineffective. When the suspect turned and pointed his gun in my direction, I fired. I would estimate that I fired half of my rounds during this first volley. I fired from a standing position using both hands. I used my red dot sites. I did not fire from cover. I fired to the east at the suspect's center of mass. At the

time I fired, I estimate that the suspect was 30-40 feet from me. My backdrop was the ground behind the suspect (~~as he was laying on the ground on his side~~ ^{WHILE HE WAS STANDING} ) and the empty yard beyond. I did not see anyone in my backdrop.

I stopped firing after the suspect fell to ground and was no longer pointing his weapon in my direction or the direction of any other officer. The suspect then racked his slide, turned towards us from the ground, and pointed his gun again in my direction. I fired again. I estimate I fired half of my rounds during this time. I fired from a standing position using both hands. I used my red dot sites. I did not fire from cover. I fired to the east at the suspect's center of mass while he was laying on the ground. At the time I fired, I estimate that the suspect was 30-40 feet from me. My backdrop was the ground behind the suspect (as he was laying on the ground on his side) and the empty yard beyond. I did not see anyone in my backdrop. I stopped firing when the suspect was no longer a threat.

At all times that I fired during the incident, I did not believe I had any other reasonable choice other than to fire to protect my own life and the lives of my fellow officers from death or imminent bodily harm. When I reasonably perceived that the suspect was not a threat, I did not fire or stopped firing. The suspect did not respond to less lethal force.

I now know that the suspect's name was Alex Russell. I do not recall any prior interactions with the suspect.

I have now reviewed body worn camera video of the incident. Those videos did not materially alter my recollection of events, however I now know that my first volley appeared to be seven (7) rounds, my second volley appeared to be eight (8) rounds.

This statement consists of five (5) pages.





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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

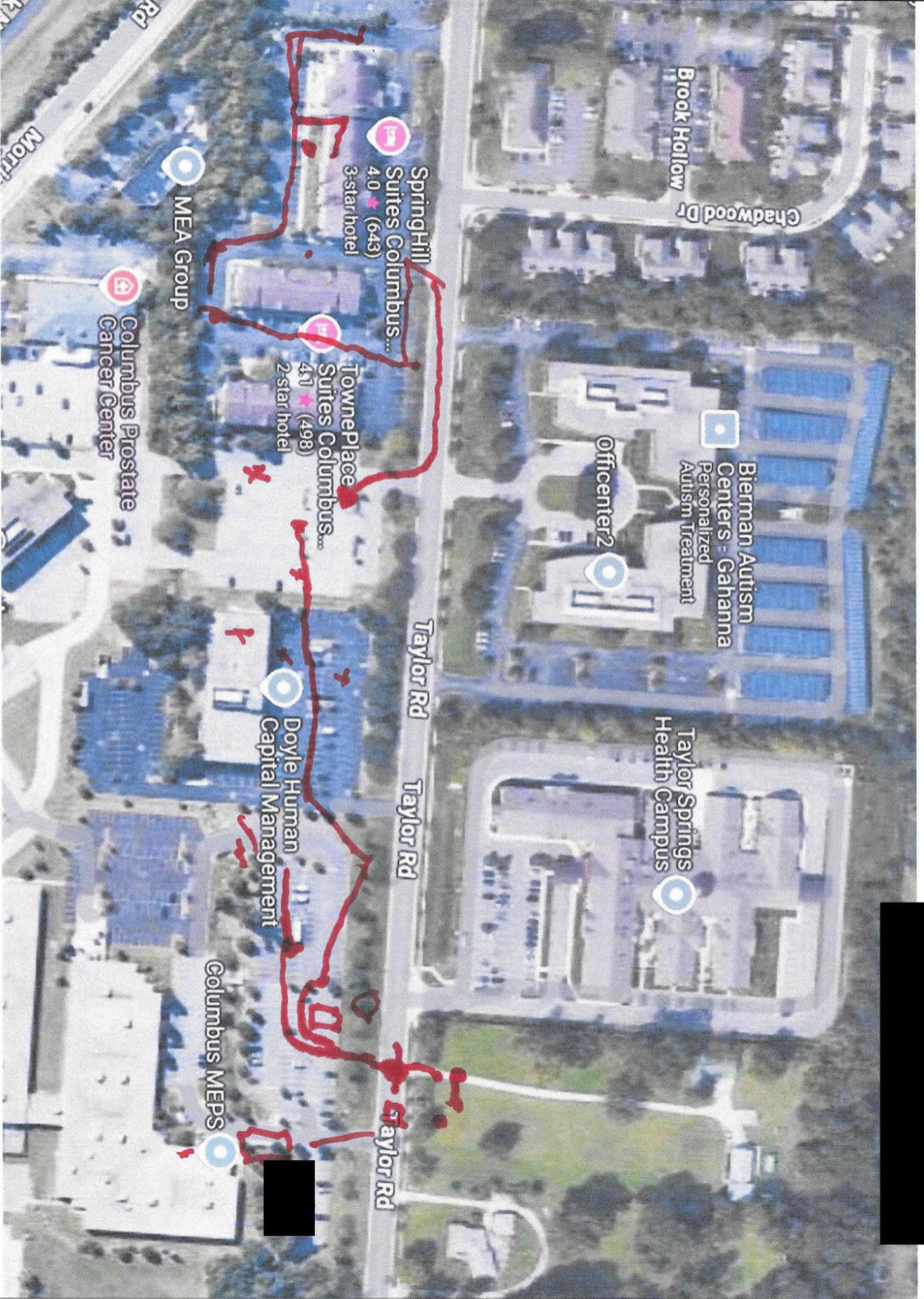
1/17/25 9:53a
Date / Time


Signature of Interviewee

Kyle Douglass
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature)





Brook Hollow

Chadwood Dr

Bierman Autism Centers - Gahanna Personalized Autism Treatment

Officenter 2

Taylor Springs Health Campus

Taylor Rd

Taylor Rd

Taylor Rd

SpringHill Suites Columbus... 4.0 (643) 3-star hotel

TownePlace Suites Columbus... 4.1 (498) 2-star hotel

Doyle Human Capital Management

Columbus MEPS

Columbus Prostate Cancer Center

MEA Group

North Rd