



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



2025-0151

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 350 South Arch Avenue,
Alliance, Ohio 44601, Stark County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness Officer
Involves: Officer Kevin Brown
Activity Date: 02/03/2025
Activity Location: Alliance Police Department, 470 E. Market Street,
Alliance, OH 44601
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, February 3, 2025, at 1322 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (SA Valente) and SA Cory Momchilov (SA Momchilov) interviewed Alliance Police Department (APD) Officer (Ofc.) Kevin Brown (Officer Brown), who was accompanied by his attorney, Daniel Chaffin, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Alliance Police Department, 470 E. Market Street, Alliance, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Ofc. Brown read, stated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form prior to being questioned.

Officer Brown was identified as a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the January 16, 2025 officer-involved shooting which occurred on the fifth-floor hallway of the apartment building located at 350 South Arch Avenue, Alliance, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Brown 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.

Officer Brown stated his radio call sign on January 16, 2025, was "Car 43". He has been employed by the APD for about 21 years. During the incident, Officer Brown wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove APD unit #43, a marked police vehicle with APD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. Officer Brown stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

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Officer Brown saw a news story on television that included a portion of one of the involved or witness officer's body-worn camera (BWC) recordings. Officer Brown believed he likely watched the news piece that included a portion of the BWC recording twice. Officer Brown stated the only thing that stuck out to him from viewing the BWC video clip included in the news story was noticing the officers who were standing behind him "had their guns up."

On the morning of the officer-involved shooting, Officer Brown was loading his patrol vehicle at the beginning of his shift. While loading his police cruiser, Officer Brown heard an incoming 911 call. Officer Brown was able to listen to this incoming call live from his patrol vehicle. The 911 caller reported there was a man with a gun. Officer Brown then quickly grabbed his body armor and BWC from inside the police station, returned to his patrol vehicle and drove to the scene. Officer Brown was the last of the four officers to arrive at the apartment building.

When Officer Brown arrived at the apartment building, he observed two officers holding rifles [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Based on that observation, Officer Brown chose not to bring his rifle into the building. The group of officers all entered the building elevator together and rode up to the fifth floor. Officer Brown stated, (4:54 mark of recording) "Uh, we were supposed, they were supposed to be in the hallway, which is what I told the guys. Uh, when we opened the door, a guy's pointing down the hallway, 'dude's got a gun.' Um, I popped out, I was the front the minute I popped out, I moved to the left side of the hallway, uh, weapon out, light on, on the gun. And I could see the dude standing down there. He was looking down at her and he had a gun sticking out of his hand, kind of like, uh, pointing down towards her. Uh, I yelled at the boys, he had a gun and I started ordering commands at him. 'Drop the gun. Drop the gun.' He raised the gun at her and fired. I cannot tell you where he hit her at, but he was, she was laying on the ground with her head. Some of her back probably against the opposite wall in the hallway on the left side. He was on the right side."

Officer Brown continued, (5:50 mark of recording) "I'm not 100 percent sure. I don't know if he, what apartment they were in at that time or nothing like that. Uh, he kind of stepped to the right, disappeared. Um, I don't know if he walked into the apartment, but there's a little, I guess he could kind of step back with the walls, have the doors reset a little bit, and he kind of disappeared from my view. Uh, I told the rifles to get up front. We started going down the hallway. Uh, once we started moving down the hallway, we didn't get very far. He reappeared again and the guys engaged him."

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When asked, Officer Brown clarified that when he stated, "the guys engaged him", he was referring to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] firing their rifles at the subject.

Officer Brown believed at the moment [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fired their rifles he was standing behind these officers and had a hand on each of their shoulders.

When asked to describe moving or assisting the two officers who fired into position in front of him, Officer Brown stated, (8:00 mark of recording) "Uh, it seemed like a long shot to me if I had to take it with a handgun. Uh, not to mention he kind of ducked outta my view for a second. Um, I did not feel comfortable with a handgun to do that. So, I said rifles up front. Uh, the way we're taught is you have to be online or lateral distance to engage somebody. And I knew behind me, I did not want them shooting with me in front of them. And I, so I shoved the one guy I don't even know which one I grabbed. I didn't get to look, I pushed him in front of me and then I, whoever was next to him, I pushed him online together. So, they would be about shoulder to shoulder together. So, they would be online."

When asked if he believed the two officers began to fire before he reached back to help move them or after that, Officer Brown stated he believed the two officers did not begin to fire until they were in front of him.

When asked, Officer Brown stated he had "no idea" how many times the two officers fired. Officer Brown described the officer's gunfire as a quick volley rather than a long or sustained exchange or one having any pauses or breaks in shooting.

Officer Brown stated he did not get a good look at the subject at the moment the two officers began to fire at the subject. At that time Officer Brown's focus of attention was the two officers themselves. Once the two officers stopped firing there was a large cloud of smoke in the air. Officer Brown's view down the hallway became obstructed due to the smoke.

When Officer Brown looked down the hallway he observed the subject and the victim lying on the hallway floor. Officer Brown told the officers to stop firing and lower their weapons. Officer Brown then began to walk in front of the two officers who fired and towards the subject and victim.

Officer Brown could not recall what he did first when he reached the end of the hallway. However, Officer Bown did recall he and the other officers checked the subject and victim for a pulse and cleared the open apartment at the end of the hallway when they reached that point. Officer Brown stated he personally checked the female victim

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at the end of the hallway. When asked what specifically he did to check her, Officer Brown stated, (13:26 mark of recording) "Uh, when I first got there, it looked like she was still alive, so I yelled, uh, to whoever was behind me as I was getting my gloves out before I touched her to uh, gimme an ambulance. Uh, just as I got I think one or both of my gloves on, I looked at her and it appeared that she, she, she was looking at me and it appeared, uh, her breath left and her head turned to the left and that was the end of it for her." Officer Brown believed Officer Vesco called for EMS. The fire department responded, put monitors on the subject and victim, and found no signs of life for either party.

When asked what he thought was going to happen after he observed the subject shoot the victim, Officer Brown stated (14:19 mark of recording) "Uh, wasn't a hundred percent sure. I thought maybe, uh, he would fight us, but at that point I didn't care. It was a rescue mission. We were there to make sure she was okay or, or do our best to save her at that point in time. So, I considered her basically to be a rescue."

Officer Brown stated he did not fear for his own safety, citing he did not even have time to think about that. Officer Brown stated he feared for the safety of the other officers and victim. Those fears were based on, (15:11 mark of recording) "Uh, didn't know (if) he was gonna start shooting at us, obviously. Uh, I did push the two guys in front of me. Um, 'cause they had long guns. Uh, but way I look at it is we're here to save the public, not, so join, the time to giddy up. And, uh, I was concerned for her. I just wishing her get shot. I don't know if she'd been shot previously or if any other injuries had occurred to her physically or anything like that. So, once I saw him raise a gun and shoot her, we were, it was a rescue operation to, to save her if it was possible."

When asked what led to his decision to exit the elevator first, Officer Brown stated that the choice was probably made because he had the most experience of the group of officers.

When asked, Officer Brown clarified that at the moment he had his hands on the shoulders of the two officers who fired he was not actively pushing them. Rather he was holding them in position and felt they started to lean back against him. Officer Brown described when the two officers who fired began to lean or push back against him (17:21 mark of recording) "I looked at 'em and I said, guys, we're in the middle of a fucking hallway, we got nowhere to go."

Officer Brown did not believe any of the actions of the involved officers was inappropriate or potentially criminal in nature.

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The interview concluded at approximately 1341 hours.

The audio recording of the interview was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was also attached to this report. The video recording of the interview was saved in the evidence.com case file as part of Reference Item D.

References:

D - Video Recorded Officer Interviews

Attachments:

1. Audio Interview of Officer Kevin Brown
2. Officer Kevin Brown Criminal Investigation Notification Form

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DAVE YOST
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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).

KENN BROWN

Printed Name of Interviewee

2-3-25 / 1321

Date / Time

[Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

S/A Nick VALENTE #139

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)