



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 1030 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 & Utilized	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: 5

Narrative:

In his statement to BCI, [REDACTED] wrote:

"I was monitoring the radio traffic in case I needed to assist officers who were currently on a call for service at the Springhill Suites. They had been called there due to an individual who had utilized a fraudulent credit card. From the radio traffic, I knew that the individual was not cooperating and had fled out of the window. I heard [REDACTED] air that he was pursuing the suspect (male in a black shirt and gray sweatpants) through the parking lot. He aired a 44 which is our ten code for an officer in trouble. I turned on my lights and sirens and pulled out of the parking lot. [REDACTED] then aired code 40 which is our ten code for a gun. I started driving towards Taylor Road, while I continued listening to the radio traffic. Officers were airing the suspect's direction of travel: he was walking east, going through the parking lots of multiple businesses. I arrived in the area in approximately 2 minutes. I turned east down Taylor Road and turned off my siren as to not alert the suspect that additional units were on their way. I saw the suspect walking east with a black handgun in his right hand, pointed towards the ground. I believe [REDACTED] was behind him. I turned into a parking lot to the east of Towne Place Suites. I got out of my cruiser with my weapon drawn. I pointed it at the suspect and ordered him to stop. He kept walking. I got back into my car. I heard someone air that the suspect just racked the slide and to lock down the Columbus MEPS (military entrance processing station). I drove east to Columbus MEPS and turned into the parking lot. I drove to the front of the building and yelled to a civilian to go inside. I got out of my cruiser to get a visual on the suspect."

[REDACTED] continued in his statement, *"I saw the suspect start walking north and he crossed Taylor Road. I got into my cruiser and drove back to the front of the Columbus MEPS parking lot entrance. I parked and exited my cruiser with my weapon drawn. I ran north across Taylor Road. I saw the suspect to my west and I saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were behind him. I aired that the suspect was in the driveway of 780 Taylor*

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(the driveway is very long as the house is approximately 100-120 yards from the road). There was a long line of large bushes and trees that ran east/west along edge of the yard of 780 Taylor, separating it from the sidewalk on the north side of Taylor Road. I could see the suspect through the branches and I kept my weapon pointed at him. I walked a couple feet west (closer to the other officers) who were telling the suspect to put down the gun and that they wanted to talk. I saw the suspect standing in the driveway of 780 Taylor with a gun in his right hand that was pressed up against his right temple. The suspect said something like "it's all over for me" or words to that effect. I told him to put the gun down so we could talk and that it was ok and not a big deal."

██████████ wrote in his statement regarding the shooting incident, "I saw ██████████ pull up to my right (east). I asked if he had less lethal and he got the bean bag shotgun out of the back of his cruiser. He ran behind me with the shotgun and got with ██████████ They began walking north. The suspect turned and started advancing east. I was concerned about the house at 820 Taylor Road, as it is located much closer to the sidewalk and the suspect's path would lead him directly to that home. I started walking east, paralleling the suspect. ██████████ fired the beanbag round at the suspect and the suspect started running east. I yelled to hit him with 2 more and began running east. I did not hear the shotgun discharge again and a second or two later I heard multiple gunshots. I could not see the suspect or other officers at the time gunfire erupted. My view was partially obstructed due to the bushes and trees but at times I could see the suspect between the branches. I stopped just south of the suspect, where there was a bit of an opening in the bushes and trees. Through the branches I saw the suspect was down on his left side (I did not see him go down). I saw him start to lift his right arm to point his gun at the officers who were to his west. I yelled at him to drop the gun and I discharged my weapon at the suspect. The suspect's arm went down and I stopped firing. The suspect did not appear to be moving. I ran west to the driveway and joined the other officers on scene."

██████████ discussed his decision to fire his duty weapon, "I believe I fired 5 rounds at the suspect. This is based on my review of the BWC footage. I fired all of my shots in controlled succession. I would estimate I fired all of my rounds in 3-4 seconds. I would estimate I was approximately 20-25 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. I fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip at a downward angle. I believe I used my sights. I did not have any cover but may have had some concealment from the bushes and trees that separated the suspect and me. My backdrop was the ground. The direction of my shots was north. My target was the suspect's back/right shoulder, as he was laying his left side in with his back towards me. I stopped firing because the

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Investigative Report



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suspect's arm (which had the gun pointed at officers near the driveway) went down and he did not appear to be moving."

██████████ continued regarding firing his weapon, *"Immediately prior to firing at the suspect, I heard multiple rounds being fired and I did not know who was firing. At the moment I fired, the suspect had just gone to the ground and was raising his gun towards officers. Prior to this, he had been given numerous opportunities to comply and drop the gun. He refused. Even after an exchange of gunfire and being on the ground (presumably from being hit), he chose to again raise his weapon and point it at officers. At the time I discharged my weapon, I was in immediate fear for the lives of the officers who were near the driveway, directly to the west of the suspect, as he was raising his firearm at them. I believed that he was going to shoot and kill or seriously injure one of them. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of those officers in the driveway at the time I discharged my weapon. I believe my actions were consistent with the law, as well as my training and experiences as a law enforcement officer. I did not have a taser with me at the time of this incident, it was in my cruiser, as I had been preparing to leave for the day. In addition, use of the taser would not have been appropriate in this situation because the suspect was armed with a deadly weapon and the taser requires an unobstructed path to be utilized and there were trees/bushes separating the suspect and me."*

██████████ was asked several follow-up questions regarding the incident. ██████████ used printed maps of the incident area provided by BCI to explain his positioning throughout the incident. ██████████ recalled he started moving eastbound on the sidewalk on Taylor Road when Alex Russell (Russell) ran away from Gahanna PD officers who had encountered him at the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road. ██████████ said he could not see Russell when the initial burst of gunfire occurred. ██████████ explained there was an opening in the shrubbery where he could see Russell, who was on the ground. ██████████ confirmed Russell did not point his gun directly at ██████████, but at other Gahanna PD officers who were in the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road, which is when ██████████ decided to fire his weapon. ██████████ was unsure if Russell had fired his weapon and was also unsure if Russell had pointed his gun at any Gahanna PD officers prior to being on the ground. ██████████ had heard Gahanna PD ██████████ attempt to deescalate Russell, who had made several statements which could have been interpreted as suicidal. ██████████ believed Russell was given ample time and opportunity to be compliant with police commands. ██████████ reported Gahanna PD officers immediately began rendering medical aid to Russell after he was determined to no longer be a threat.

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The interview concluded at approximately 1053 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] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, December 19, 2024, between approximately 9:50 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in Franklin County, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) into this matter.

My date of hire with the Gahanna Division of Police is [REDACTED]. My regular assignment is [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED]. My regular days off are [REDACTED]. My regular supervisors are Sgt. Millenbaugh and Sgt. Hendon. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I do not have any military experience. I have an Associate Degree in Applied Science of Law Enforcement from Columbus State. I do not currently have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy.

I was wearing the standard Gahanna PD patrol uniform consisting of dark navy pants and shirt and jacket that displayed my badge and has Gahanna PD patches on both shoulders. I was also wearing a ballistic vest. I had my body worn camera (BWC) mounted on the inside of my jacket and with a grommet for the camera lens. My BWC was activated during this incident. I was carrying my division-issued Glock 17 9mm service weapon which was loaded with division-issued ammunition. I am current in my range qualifications with this weapon. I was not carrying a backup firearm. I was not working with a partner. I was in cruiser [REDACTED] which has a cruiser video system (CVS).

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my uncorrected vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I was not taking any medication, prescription or over the counter, which could affect the performance of my duties. I

was not under the influence of any alcohol. I did not work any overtime or special duty in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to my shift. I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

Immediately prior to this incident, I had just returned to the Gahanna Police Department headquarters. I was only scheduled to work until 10:00 a.m., as I had taken the last 4 hours off to start my vacation as it was close to the holidays. I believe it was around 9:50 a.m. and I was in the parking lot of headquarters. I was there to unload my cruiser as my shift was almost over. However, I was monitoring the radio traffic in case I needed to assist officers who were currently on a call for service at the Springhill Suites. They had been called there due to an individual who had utilized a fraudulent credit card. From the radio traffic, I knew that the individual was not cooperating and had fled out of the window. I heard [REDACTED] air that he was pursuing the suspect (male in a black shirt and gray sweatpants) through the parking lot. He aired a 44 which is our ten code for an officer in trouble.

I turned on my lights and sirens and pulled out of the parking lot. [REDACTED] then aired code 40 which is our ten code for a gun. I started driving towards Taylor Road, while I continued listening to the radio traffic. Officers were airing the suspect's direction of travel: he was walking east, going through the parking lots of multiple businesses. I arrived in the area in approximately 2 minutes. I turned east down Taylor Road and turned off my siren as to not alert the suspect that additional units were on their way. I saw the suspect walking east with a black handgun in his right hand, pointed towards the ground. I believe [REDACTED] was behind him. I turned into a parking lot to the east of Towne Place Suites. I got out of my cruiser with my weapon drawn. I pointed it at the suspect and ordered him to stop. He kept walking. I got back into my car. I heard someone air that the suspect just racked the slide and to lock down the Columbus MEPS (military entrance processing station). I drove east to Columbus MEPS and

turned into the parking lot. I drove to the front of the building and yelled to a civilian to go inside. I got out of my cruiser to get a visual on the suspect.

I saw the suspect start walking north and he crossed Taylor Road. I got into my cruiser and drove back to the front of the Columbus MEPS parking lot entrance. I parked and exited my cruiser with my weapon drawn. I ran north across Taylor Road. I saw the suspect to my west and I saw [REDACTED] were behind him. I ascertained that the suspect was in the driveway of 780 Taylor (the driveway is very long as the house is approximately 100-120 yards from the road). There was a long line of large bushes and trees that ran east/west along edge of the yard of 780 Taylor, separating it from the sidewalk on the north side of Taylor Road. I could see the suspect through the branches and I kept my weapon pointed at him. I walked a couple feet west (closer to the other officers) who were telling the suspect to put down the gun and that they wanted to talk. I saw the suspect standing in the driveway of 780 Taylor with a gun in his right hand that was pressed up against his right temple. The suspect said something like "it's all over for me" or words to that effect. I told him to put the gun down so we could talk and that it was ok and not a big deal.

I saw [REDACTED] pull up to my right (east). I asked if he had less lethal and he got the bean bag shotgun out of the back of his cruiser. He ran behind me with the shotgun and got with [REDACTED]. They began walking north. The suspect turned and started advancing east. I was concerned about the house at 820 Taylor Road, as it is located much closer to the sidewalk and the suspect's path would lead him directly to that home. I started walking east, paralleling the suspect. [REDACTED] fired the beanbag round at the suspect and the suspect started running east. I yelled to hit him with 2 more and began running east. I did not hear the shotgun discharge again and a second or two later I heard multiple gunshots.

I could not see the suspect or other officers at the time gunfire erupted. My view was partially obstructed due to the bushes and trees but at times I could see the suspect between the branches. I stopped just south of the suspect, where there was a bit of an opening in the bushes and trees. Through the branches I saw the suspect was down on his left side (I did not see him go down). I saw him start to lift his right arm to point his gun at the officers who were to his west. I yelled at him to drop the gun and I discharged my weapon at the suspect. The suspect's arm went down and I stopped firing. The suspect did not appear to be moving. I ran west to the driveway and joined the other officers on scene.

We approached the suspect and officers immediately started rendering aid. The paramedics arrived and transported the suspect from the scene. Once there were sufficient officers to secure the scene, I returned to the Gahanna Police Department. I waited there for BCI Agents to arrive. There they photographed me and collected my weapon. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I believe I fired 5 rounds at the suspect. This is based on my review of the BWC footage. During the round count, I believed I had fired 6 rounds, as my weapon had 12 rounds remaining, and my magazine holds 17. I generally carry my weapon with a full magazine and one in the chamber. However, we had firearm training the week before and I may have forgotten to top off my weapon after training. I fired all of my shots in controlled succession. I would estimate I fired all of my rounds in 3-4 seconds. I would estimate I was approximately 20-25 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. I fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip at a downward angle. I believe I used my sights. I did not have any cover but may have had some concealment from the bushes and trees that separated the suspect and me. My backdrop was the ground. The direction of my shots was north. My target was the suspect's back/right shoulder,

as he was laying his left side in with his back towards me. I stopped firing because the suspect's arm (which had the gun pointed at officers near the driveway) went down and he did not appear to be moving.

Immediately prior to firing at the suspect, I heard multiple rounds being fired and I did not know who was firing. At the moment I fired, the suspect had just gone to the ground and was raising his gun towards officers. Prior to this, he had been given numerous opportunities to comply and drop the gun. He refused. Even after an exchange of gunfire and being on the ground (presumably from being hit), he chose to again raise his weapon and point it at officers. At the time I discharged my weapon, I was in immediate fear for the lives of the officers who were near the driveway, directly to the west of the suspect, as he was raising his firearm at them. I believed that he was going to shoot and kill or seriously injure one of them. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of those officers in the driveway at the time I discharged my weapon. I believe my actions were consistent with the law, as well as my training and experiences as a law enforcement officer.

I did not have a taser with me at the time of this incident, it was in my cruiser, as I had been preparing to leave for the day. In addition, use of the taser would not have been appropriate in this situation because the suspect was armed with a deadly weapon and the taser requires an unobstructed path to be utilized and there were trees/bushes separating the suspect and me.

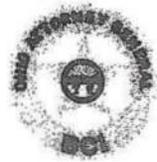
I know that the name of the suspect is Alex Russell. I do not recognize this name or this individual as anyone who I have had prior contact with, either professionally or personally.

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





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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 10:32a
Date / Time



Kyle Douglass
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature)



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