



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



2024-1513
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 6382 Georges Creek Drive,
Columbus, OH 43110 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Officer Brady Thomas (W)
Date of Activity: 05/30/2024
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman –
4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220
Author: SA Chad Holcomb, #61

Narrative:

On Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 1423 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer (Ofc.) Brady Thomas (Thomas), badge number 3361, who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the attorney's office located at 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Thomas was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 16, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred around 6382 Georges Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Thomas did not discharge a firearm during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Ofc. Thomas stated his radio call sign on May 16, 2024, was 208. He has been employed by the CPD for about 2 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 2 years. During the incident, Ofc. Thomas 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 CPD unit #208, a wagon, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. His partner was Officer Ryan Cale (Ofc. Cale). Ofc. Thomas was driving while Ofc. Cale was in the front passenger seat. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

Ofc. Thomas stated that he and other CPD officers were wrapping up a burglary call approximately 90 seconds away from Georges Creek. The new run popped up on the MDT and officers started heading towards the dispatched address. Ofc. Thomas said the information that he had received was that there was a male, Rafael Warfield (Warfield), that was banging on the back door and threatened to kill himself and everyone in the apartment.

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
06/03/2024

When they pulled up, they parked near the intersection to avoid parking in front of the dispatched address. Multiple officers approached the address on foot. Ofc. Thomas looked around back and didn't see anything right away. A person was heard making noise and banging on a back door. Ofc. Thomas used the corner of the apartment building while [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] moved positions behind a vehicle for a better sightline of where the noise was coming from.

Ofc. Thomas was not able to see where the sound was coming from due to a large privacy fence. Ofc. Thomas began to yell commands stating that it was Columbus Police, and they didn't want to hurt him [Warfield]. He believes he gave the commands multiple times. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he saw the male at the back door. Ofc. Thomas asked [REDACTED] if he could see anything in Warfield's hands, [REDACTED] said he couldn't tell.

Ofc. Thomas gave additional commands. Ofc. Thomas stated, "That's when he started firing towards us. He fired, uh, no clue, maybe six, seven rounds at us, maybe. The suspect fired six, seven rounds at us." Ofc. Thomas then ducked around the wall, aired shots fired, and [REDACTED] shot at the subject.

A lot of smoke was in the area and officers couldn't see anything. [REDACTED] then repositioned in an attempt to get a better sightline. [REDACTED] said that he was on the ground by the fence and then Ofc. Thomas saw him lying on the ground as well. Both officers then approached Warfield while giving him commands not to move. [REDACTED] then kicked the gun away that was near Warfield's face/head. First aid was then performed on Warfield and Ofc. Thomas helped other CPD officers clear the apartment.

SA Holcomb asked Ofc. Thomas why he didn't discharge his firearm. Ofc. Thomas stated, "Uh, I didn't have a clear line of sight and we are always taught if you don't have a good backdrop, and you don't have a clear shot, then don't shoot. So, I wasn't going to shoot just because one of my fellow officers had shot because I didn't know my background or my target." Ofc. Thomas continued to say that he would've had to 'blindly' shoot at the fence since he wasn't sure of Warfield's location or if anyone else was behind the fence.

Ofc. Thomas was asked if he ever saw a firearm in Warfield's hand besides when they approached him after the shooting. Ofc. Thomas replied no.

SA Holcomb asked Ofc. Thomas if he followed CPD policies and regulations during the incident; he replied yes.

The interview concluded at approximately 1433 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-05-30 – Officer Brady Thomas Interview (2024-1513)

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