



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



2023-1792
Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-70 at Mound Street,
Columbus, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Subject
Involves: Ofc. [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 08/03/2023
Activity Location: Lipperman, Lathan – Business – 4683 Winterset Dr, Columbus, OH
43220, Franklin County
Author: SA James A. Mulford, #39

Narrative:

On August 03, 2023 at approximately 1017 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]) in response to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred between Abdisamad Mohamed Ismail (Ismail) and CPD officers that occurred on I-70 at the Mound Street exit, Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). Ismail was fatally shot as a result of the incident. CPD Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]) was also shot and transported to the hospital where he is recovering from his injuries. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual. Also present for the interview was Officer [REDACTED]'s union attorney, Jaci Tipton.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to beginning the interview, SA Mulford provided Officer [REDACTED] with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" form. SA Mulford advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that CPD may be conducting. Officer [REDACTED] was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Officer [REDACTED] verbally confirmed he understood the contents of the form and signed the document further acknowledging his understanding. A copy of the signed Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) is attached to this report.

Attorney Jaci Tipton provided SA Mulford with a written statement from Officer [REDACTED] regarding the OICI. Agent Mulford reviewed the statement upon receipt. Furthermore, SA Mulford provided a printed scene sketch of the OICI scene to reference throughout the

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interview. Officer ██████ signed his statement provided to BCI, and he verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI incident. Please refer to Officer ██████ statement for further details. A copy of the signed written statement and the sketch was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

SA Mulford asked Officer ██████ a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he fired his weapon based on the printed scene sketch. Officer ██████'s answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Officer ██████ wrote in his statement, " I heard someone air "shots fired." I unholstered my weapon. As I was unholstering my weapon I heard someone air "Officer hit." At that point, traffic on 70 East was backed up. I was able to observe through intermittent breaks in traffic a dark-skinned male in civilian attire near a black Porsche. I predominately saw the male from the torso up. He appeared to be squaring his body to officers and raising his arms, as if to fire a gun. Aside from Columbus Police Officers, he was the only other individual outside of a vehicle and in the roadway. I navigated my cruiser behind two other cruisers and parked between the northernmost lane and the second lane of 70 east. I estimate that from the time I began pursuit until the time I parked my cruiser, approximately 2.5-3 minutes passed. I heard gunshots as I exited my cruiser. The shots sounded like they were coming from east to west, toward officers. There were several vehicles, both CPD and civilian, between my cruiser and the suspect vehicle. The Porsche was stationary, angled facing northeast between the two northernmost lanes of traffic on Interstate 70 east. As I exited my cruiser, I could see that someone was on the ground southeast of me and appeared to be injured. I saw multiple officers, including Sgt. ██████ to my left (east/northeast). CPD Officer ██████ was on my right (southeast). I ran to my right (south) and east, past two civilian vehicles in order to observe more clearly the situation. Once I got closer, I could see that the person on the ground was a CPD Officer who appeared to have been shot in the lower body due to blood pooling around his lower extremities. I saw a black male wearing a hoodie and surgical mask near the right (south) side of the highway. I confirmed he was the male I observed a few seconds earlier in civilian attire with arms raised towards officers, as if firing, while I was approaching the scene in my cruiser. He also matched the description provided by Whitehall PD of the suspect who stole the Porsche at gunpoint from the dealership and who was observed inside the Porsche at the 5/3 Bank. His hands appeared to be clenched near his stomach and waistline area and were never clearly visible to be empty. He was advancing in a hurried and aggressive manner west, toward the injured officer and the officers returning fire. The officers on my right and left were firing at him. I believed he was the person who had shot the officer on the ground to my southeast. The male never made any attempt to give himself up or show that his hands were empty. I positioned myself behind the rear passenger side of a white civilian sedan to obtain cover and a steady platform to return fire. I fired multiple shots in rapid succession at the suspect. Initially, the suspect continued to move aggressively forward, toward officers while simultaneously maintaining his hands toward his stomach and waistline. When I ducked behind the civilian vehicle to reload the suspect fell to the ground."

Officer ██████ continued in his statement, "At the times I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life, the lives of the other officers on the scene, and the lives of the civilians on the interstate at that time. I did have a taser with me, however, given my distance from the suspect and that I believed the suspect had fired at

officers and shot an officer, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser.”

Officer [REDACTED] had no further information. The interview concluded.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Officer [REDACTED] Interview

Attachment # 02: CIN-Officer [REDACTED]

Attachment # 03: Signed Statement-Officer [REDACTED]

Attachment # 04: Interview Sketch- Officer [REDACTED]



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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).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of Interviewee

8-3-23 10:17am

Date / Time

[Redacted]

Jim Mulford # 39
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED], BADGE # [REDACTED]

This statement is in regard to my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, between approximately 4:00 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. beginning near 4255 Hilliard Rome Road and concluding on Interstate 70 eastbound near Mound Street. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police is December 19, 2016. I obtained my OPOTA Certification in July 2017. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I have served in the Army National Guard since December 2007. I have never had a use of force determined to be out of policy. My regular assignment is 15B7, 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with Friday and Saturday off. At the time of the incident, I was working my regular assignment. I was in cruiser [REDACTED] and marked in as cruiser [REDACTED] which was in good working order. I was not working with a partner. I was wearing my CPD uniform, consisting of navy pants and a navy short sleeve shirt with my CPD badge on the front and "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the back. I was wearing a baseball style CPD hat. I was wearing my exterior vest over my shirt. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted on the left side of my chest. My badge was clearly visible on the front. I was clearly identifiable as a Columbus Police Officer. I was not wearing gloves.

I was armed with a division-issued Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm which was loaded with division-issued ammunition. I was current in my range qualification with my weapon. I was not carrying any backup firearms. I was not taking any medication that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I was well rested at the start of my regular shift. I had not consumed any alcohol in the 24 hours prior to the start of my shift. I do not wear glasses or contact lenses and my vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid

and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities that would impair my ability to perform my responsibilities as a police officer.

On July 3, 2023, 3 days day prior to the incident, I was aware that a Chevrolet Corvette had been stolen at gunpoint from a dealership and subsequently used in a robbery of a Chase bank in Upper Arlington which is just a few miles from my assigned jurisdiction. The Corvette was later recovered on the evening of July 5, 2023 unoccupied and no apprehensions had been made.

At approximately 12:00 p.m. on July 6, 2023, I learned via text message from Whitehall officers that a black Porsche Cayenne SUV had been stolen at gunpoint from Byers auto dealership. I saw a photo of the stolen vehicle and was made aware that Whitehall police were working on a GPS ping to get the location of the SUV, as well as getting surveillance photographs from the dealership. Based on the similarities between the two incidents, I believed the Porsche was likely stolen by the same suspects who had taken the Corvette a few days prior. I believed that the suspects were likely to use the Porsche to commit another crime.

I reported for my regular shift beginning at 3:00 p.m. During roll call, I made other CPD officers and our Supervisor aware of the theft of the Porsche Cayenne and to be on the lookout if it shows up at a nearby bank and the fact that Whitehall was working on getting a location for the vehicle. When I got in my cruiser, I kept my portable personal radio on Columbus radio air, but turned my cruiser radio to Whitehall's air to monitor the location and situation regarding the stolen Porsche.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. I heard Whitehall air that Porsche was traveling northbound on 270, near Georgesville Road. At that time, I was finishing a call for service in the Fishinger

Road area. Once I was cleared from that call, I headed in the general direction of the Porsche. While driving, I heard Whitehall air the Porsche was on Hilliard Rome Road, near the Target store. I exited 270 at Roberts Road and traveled westbound toward Hilliard Rome Road. I heard Whitehall air that they had eyes on the suspect driving northbound on Hilliard Rome Road and turning into the 5/3 bank which was in my assigned jurisdiction

I knew that all of the Whitehall officers were in plain cars. I decided to stay in the area, but out of sight in order to not alert the suspect to have a marked cruiser ready if needed. I remained in my cruiser and parked approximately a quarter mile away from 5/3 bank, on the east side of Hilliard Rome Road, in a strip mall parking lot near Lucky's sports bar and Planet Fitness gym. The strip mall made an "L" shape, so I was able to obscure my cruiser from any potential view the suspects may have had.

I remained in the strip mall parking lot for approximately 3-4 minutes. I believe during that time I heard Whitehall PD air that the suspect was a black male wearing a mask. Whitehall also appeared to be unable to confirm if there was more than one occupant in the vehicle. I heard Whitehall air "Go, go, go. Go, go, go. Go, go, go." I believed that Whitehall was going to attempt to apprehend the suspect(s) at that time and proceeded in the direction of the 5/3 Bank, so that I could be ready if needed. A few seconds later, I saw the Porsche drive over the curb/berm and travel northbound on Hilliard Rome Road. Almost simultaneously Whitehall aired that the vehicle had rammed its way out.

I activated my lights and sirens and began pursuing the suspect vehicle. The activation of the lights/sirens automatically activated my body worn camera. The suspect vehicle turned right at the intersection of Hilliard Rome Road and Roberts Road and continued eastbound on Roberts Road. I aired on Columbus radio that the suspect had rammed Whitehall and was headed east on

Roberts Road. A Hilliard Police cruiser attempted to use stop sticks on the suspect shortly after the Porsche turned onto Roberts Road, however the suspect drove through a strip mall parking lot which included Prime furniture store in order to avoid the stop sticks. I followed the suspect through the strip mall parking lot. The suspect vehicle then continued eastbound on Roberts Road. The Porsche was traveling at high rates of speed. Within a minute, I could no longer see the suspect(s). CPD Officer Brumfield was closer to the suspect(s) and took over airing the location of the Porsche, direction of travel, and the speeds traveled. I informed Whitehall that CPD was aware of the facts and was in pursuit with multiple cruisers.

Officer Brumfield aired that the suspect vehicle had turned onto 270 Southbound. I continued to pursue and update Whitehall via radio. Officer Brumfield stated that he lost sight of the suspect on 270 southbound, approaching the split with Interstate 70. At that time, CPD radio aired that the suspect(s) in the Porsche had robbed the bank in Hilliard. There was some confusion as to whether it was a 5/3 bank or a Chase bank, however I knew it to be a 5/3 location. It was unknown if the suspect was going to continue on 270, or take Interstate 70 either east or west. I aired that I was going to take 70 east, if someone else would take 70 west.

I heard Whitehall PD air traffic regarding attempting to get a ping on the vehicle for a more exact location. There was also discussion as to whether the CPD helicopter was up yet. I heard CPD Sgt. [REDACTED] air that he had eyes on the suspect vehicle on 70 East, passing Wilson Road, approaching the Interstate 670/70 split. At that time, I estimate I was approximately a mile behind the suspect. I heard that the suspect vehicle was passing 70 East and Broad Street. Approximately 45 seconds later, I heard a CPD Officer air that the suspect was still on 70 East at the 98.6 mile marker.

A few seconds later, I heard someone air “shots fired.” I unholstered my weapon. As I was unholstering my weapon I heard someone air “Officer hit.” At that point, traffic on 70 East was backed up. I was able to observe through intermittent breaks in traffic a dark-skinned male in civilian attire near a black Porsche. I predominately saw the male from the torso up. He appeared to be squaring his body to officers and raising his arms, as if to fire a gun. . Aside from Columbus Police Officers, he was the only other individual outside of a vehicle and in the roadway. I navigated my cruiser behind two other cruisers and parked between the northernmost lane and the second lane of 70 east. I estimate that from the time I began pursuit until the time I parked my cruiser, approximately 2.5-3 minutes passed.

I heard gunshots as I exited my cruiser. The shots sounded like they were coming from east to west, toward officers. There were several vehicles, both CPD and civilian, between my cruiser and the suspect vehicle. The Porsche was stationary, angled facing northeast between the two northernmost lanes of traffic on Interstate 70 east. As I exited my cruiser, I could see that someone was on the ground southeast of me and appeared to be injured. I saw multiple officers, including Sgt. [REDACTED], to my left (east/northeast). CPD Officer [REDACTED] was on my right (southeast). I ran to my right (south) and east, past two civilian vehicles in order to observe more clearly the situation. Once I got closer, I could see that the person on the ground was a CPD Officer who appeared to have been shot in the lower body due to blood pooling around his lower extremities.

I saw a black male wearing a hoodie and surgical mask near the right (south) side of the highway. I confirmed he was the male I observed a few seconds earlier in civilian attire with arms raised towards officers, as if firing, while I was approaching the scene in my cruiser. He also matched the description provided by Whitehall PD of the suspect who stole the Porsche at

gunpoint from the dealership and who was observed inside the Porsche at the 5/3 Bank. His hands appeared to be clenched near his stomach and waistline area and were never clearly visible to be empty. He was advancing in a hurried and aggressive manner west, toward the injured officer and the officers returning fire. The officers on my right and left were firing at him. I believed he was the person who had shot the officer on the ground to my southeast. The male never made any attempt to give himself up or show that his hands were empty. I positioned myself behind the rear passenger side of a white civilian sedan to obtain cover and a steady platform to return fire. I fired multiple shots in rapid succession at the suspect. Initially, the suspect continued to move aggressively forward, toward officers while simultaneously maintaining his hands toward his stomach and waistline. When I ducked behind the civilian vehicle to reload the suspect fell to the ground.

I saw that at least one officer was still covering the suspect and another officer covering and clearing the Porsche, so I immediately turned my attention to the injured officer. Officer [REDACTED], myself, and another CPD Officer ran to the injured officer. I could see that he had a gunshot wound high in the upper right leg area and that the leg appeared to be broken. Officer [REDACTED] and I simultaneously took off our tourniquets and began applying one to the injured officer. I stated that we needed to apply the tourniquet and then immediately get him into a cruiser and take him to Grant Medical Center. I stated that cruiser [REDACTED] appeared to be the least obstructed cruiser and to ready that cruiser for transport. One of the other CPD officers went to get the cruiser ready to transport the injured officer. Officer Muscaro, who I knew had experience as an Army Medic, took over applying the tourniquet and ensuring that it was sufficiently tight. I radioed Dispatch to advise Grant Medical Center that we were self-transporting an officer. Officer Muscaro and I loaded the injured officer into the rear of cruiser

█████ I sat on the rear driver's side. Officer Muscaro was on the rear passenger side. The injured officer was laying across us, with his lower body across Officer Muscaro. I provided some directions to the officer driving █████ and tried to keep the injured officer talking while en route to Grant. Officer Muscaro continued to tend to the wound.

It took us approximately three minutes to arrive at Grant Medical Center. Myself, Officer Muscaro, and other Officers who met us at Grant carried in the injured officer inside and placed him on a stretcher. Medical staff at Grant took over care of the injured officer from that point. CPD Sgt. Gitlitz turned off my body worn camera and acted as my officer support. This ended my involvement with the incident.

I fired a total of seventeen (17) shots at the suspect. My shots were fired in rapid succession. The time between my first and last shot was approximately 3-4 seconds. All my shots were fired from a standing position. I used my sites when I fired. I fired with a two-handed grip, with my right hand as my strong hand. All of my shots were fired in an east/southeast direction. I believe I was approximately 10-12 yards from the suspect at the time I fired. My target was initially the suspect's center mass. However, when the suspect did not fall after numerous shots, I believed the suspect may be wearing some form of body armor and adjusted my target to the suspect's head/neck area. The backdrop for my shots was the concrete barrier on the right (south) side of the interstate and the empty construction site behind it. I had partial cover from the civilian sedan I was standing behind when I fired. I stopped firing because I saw the suspect fall.

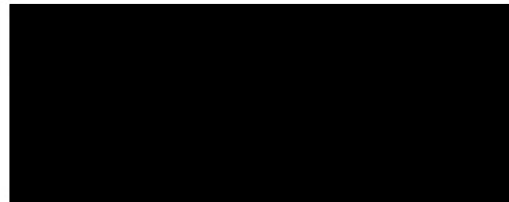
At the times I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life, the lives of the other officers on the scene, and the lives of the civilians on the interstate at that time. I did have a taser with me, however, given my distance

from the suspect and that I believed the suspect had fired at officers and shot an officer, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser.

I now know the name of the suspect that I fired at was Abdisamad Ismail. To my knowledge I have not had any other personal or professional dealings with Mr. Ismail. I now know the name of the suspects who ran from the Porsche prior to my arrival on scene are Aden Jama and Faisal Darod. To my knowledge I have not had any other personal or professional dealings with Mr. Jama or Mr. Darod.

I have now had an opportunity to review video footage from this incident. After reviewing the footage, I now know I was in pursuit of the Porsche Cayenne for approximately 6 minutes and 30 seconds. I parked behind (and slightly left/north of) a white civilian SUV, not a second Columbus Police vehicle. The civilian sedan that I fired from behind was black, not white as I had initially recalled. I also now realize there were more cruisers and officers on my left (north/northeast) when I parked my cruiser on Interstate 70 than I had initially thought. The footage has not otherwise materially changed my recollection of the event.

This concludes my statement.



2023-1792
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
July 6, 2023
Crime Scene Technician Amy Gill

Interstate 70 near Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

- Firearms/Magazines
- Blazer cartridge casings
- Sniper cartridge casings
- Projectiles



Not to Scale

I-70 Eastbound

Mile 98.8

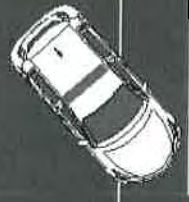
Porsche (dealer plate)



Chevy Malibu (HDG6364)



CPD Cruiser



Body of Ismail

Portia Klean

8-3-23