



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



2025-3290
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3810 Louise Ct., Grove City,
OH 43123 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 10/24/2025
Activity Location: Grove City Police Department Annex – 444 Broadway, Grove City,
OH 43123
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Friday, October 24, 2025 at 1124 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Richard Ward and James Gore met with Grove City Police [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the purpose of an interview. Also present was [REDACTED] union attorney, Nicole Wannamaker. The interview took place the Grove City Police Department annex, 444 Broadway, Grove City, Ohio.

[REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: Yes
Radio Call Sign: Click here to enter text.	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Hennessy
Radio Channel Utilized: Grove City PD main	Mobile Data Terminal: Yes
Cruiser Description: White SUV	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: 1 Driver
Assignment: Patrol / SRT	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: N/A	Spotlight: Yes

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Emergency Lights: Choose an item.	Siren: Yes
Shift Day of Incident:	Duty Status: On Duty
Days Off: ██████████	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Day shift for Taser training on the 8th
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: ██████████	Length at Current Agency: ██████████
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Choose an i
Uniform Worn: navy blue utility pants and shirt	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:
Ballistic Vest: Choose an item.	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: Gunshots to lower body	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT, instructor for, def tactics, baton, Mace	OPOTC Certification: ██████████
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: Click None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: N/A

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Daniel Defense	Model: AR 15
Caliber/Gauge: .223	Serial: ██████████
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Sling
Magazine Capacity: 30	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 28
Extra Magazines:	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 24	Number of Rounds Fired: 4+
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: Grove City PD
Last Qualification Date: Click here to enter text.	Type of Holster, if any: Click here to enter text.

██████████ provided a typed statement, which he read into the record. The statement read, in part:

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“At approximately 7:20 p.m., I was at home when I received an SRT notification via Everbridge, which the Grove City Police Department (GCPD) uses to send emergency notifications to SRT members. The notification advised of a burglary in progress, with the suspect barricaded inside a residence on Louise Court. SRT members were instructed to report to the Command Post.

I put on my blue, police-issued SRT uniform, which displays a Grove City Police badge and patches, along with blue utility pants. I then got into my personal vehicle and drove to the GCPD to retrieve my Axon body-worn camera. From there, I drove to the Command Post, which was located at Louise Avenue and Sheldon Place. Once on scene, I donned my external body armor with rifle plates, which were clearly marked “POLICE” in white lettering on the front and back, as well as my ballistic helmet. At all times, I was clearly identifiable as a law enforcement officer. My body-worn camera (BWC) was mounted in a pouch attached to my ballistic helmet, with the camera feed positioned at the front. My BWC was activated during this incident.

My division-issued Daniel Defense 5.56 short-barreled rifle was waiting for me at the Command Post. The rifle was loaded with TAP (Tactical Application for Police) ammunition and equipped with an Aimpoint red dot sight and a rifle-mounted light. I carried the rifle in a sling over my right shoulder. I was also carrying my division-issued Glock 45 9mm handgun; however, I did not use my handgun during this incident. I am current on my range qualifications with both weapons.

Upon arriving at the Command Post, I learned that officers had been on scene for a couple of hours. I was also informed that the suspect had been inside the residence alone when the homeowner arrived. I was one of the first SRT members to arrive. Lt. Holmstrom, Sgt. Smith, and Sgt. Wilhelm were already present. I believe Officers [REDACTED] Cole, and Reber had also arrived.

Officer Cole and I walked up through the yards toward 3810 Louise Court. The residence was a split-level home located at the center of the cul-de-sac. There were two lower-level windows just above ground level, with two upper-level windows directly above them. A large black truck was backed into the driveway, with a large piece of machinery in the bed. Officers were positioned on the east side of the truck, using it as cover while monitoring the house. There was a cruiser positioned on the east side of the cul-de-sac and another cruiser parked directly in front of the residence.

Officer Cole and I moved to the left (west) side of the cul-de-sac to obtain a visual of the 1–2 side of the house. (The front of the house is the 1 side, the west side is the 2 side, the rear is the 3 side, and the east side is the 4 side.) Sergeant Hennessey was making announcements over a cruiser loudspeaker, instructing the occupant of 3810 Louise Court to come out with nothing in his hands and advising that he was under arrest. K-9 Officer Nelson and his police dog were also on scene.

The front of the house had a screen door and a main door. At one point, the suspect came to the front door, opened the main door, looked around, and then shut it again.

I remained in the cul-de-sac for approximately 10–15 minutes when additional SRT members arrived. Sgt. Wilhelm and Officer Hall joined Officer Cole and me. Sgt. Wilhelm was equipped with a 40mm launcher to deploy gas canisters, and Officer Hall was assigned as his lethal cover. Officer Cole and I were instructed to move closer to the house.

Around this time, Lt. Holmstrom drove the Command Post vehicle directly into the court, and I believe the remainder of the SRT members arrived. Sgt. Smith was the scene commander. I was assigned to the 1–4 corner as part of the takedown team. [REDACTED] was assigned as the shield operator. [REDACTED] and I were positioned behind him as lethal cover, followed by Officer Chandler. I believe [REDACTED] and Sgt. Smith were positioned at the rear of the team.

I believe we held this position for approximately 10–15 minutes before being advised that gas was going to be deployed. I put on my gas mask, securing it beneath my ballistic helmet. Once everyone had their gas masks on, an announcement of “gas, gas, gas” was made to alert personnel that gas canisters were being deployed. Gas was then fired through the upper-level windows. During this time, Sergeant Hennessey continued making announcements over the loudspeaker.

After several minutes, another “gas, gas, gas” announcement was made, and gas canisters were deployed through each of the lower-level windows. Seconds after the second deployment, [REDACTED] radioed that the suspect was exiting the rear of the house. I was unfamiliar with the backyard layout and had not reviewed an overhead map, so I followed [REDACTED] and Sgt. Smith as they ran north.

The backyard contained heavy brush, and my gas mask limited my visibility. However, I observed the suspect, whom I believe was jumping a fence near 3065 Barbee Avenue. I saw [REDACTED] to my right (east), and he appeared to become entangled on a fence. I jumped over the fence and continued through the yards between 3075 and 3065 Barbee Avenue, then ran northeast across Barbee Avenue.

I observed [REDACTED] who appeared to be down on one knee, yelling commands at the suspect to get on the ground or words to that effect. It was very dark, and I was using my rifle-mounted light to illuminate the area.

I then saw the suspect running toward a residence at the corner of Barbee Avenue and Sheldon Place. The suspect was approaching a fence or gate approximately three to four feet high on the south side of 3667 Sheldon Place. I was concerned the suspect might enter another residence, potentially taking hostages and creating another barricade situation.

I caught up to [REDACTED] and continued closing distance on the suspect. I reached the front yard of 3056 Barbee Avenue and illuminated the suspect with my rifle light. There was also lighting on the south side of 3667 Sheldon Place. I observed the suspect trip and fall. At that point, I believe I was positioned in front of [REDACTED] and approximately 8–10 feet from the suspect; my depth perception may have been affected by the gas mask.

I did not see a weapon in the suspect's hands or on his person. Knowing that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was immediately nearby providing lethal cover, I began to lower my rifle with the intention of deploying my taser. Suddenly, I heard a pop, observed a muzzle flash, and immediately realized I had been shot in the back of my upper leg. I raised my rifle and fired at the suspect. I heard multiple rounds being fired and recognized the need to move to avoid a crossfire situation.

I moved to the front (east) side of 3667 Sheldon Place to get out of the line of fire and into better lighting. I attempted to broadcast over the radio that I had been hit, but my helmet had fallen off, disconnecting my communications headset. I began assessing my injury.

Officer Nelson came around the corner, and I advised him that I had been shot. He assisted me in removing my gear and locating the gunshot wound. Tactical EMS (TEMS), who were already on scene, began rendering medical aid.

At the time I fired my weapon, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect myself from further serious bodily harm or death. I believe all of my actions were consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer, as well as GCPD policies. I believe all of my actions were consistent with the laws of Ohio and the United States. "

Agent Ward asked [REDACTED] who fired first. [REDACTED] stated that Byrdsong fired first, followed by continuous gunfire. [REDACTED] advised that he was wearing his gas mask when he fired, which caused disorientation and negatively affected his vision. [REDACTED] stated he did not want to remove the gas mask because he did not want to lose visual contact with Byrdsong.

To avoid a potential crossfire with [REDACTED], who was positioned to his left, and other approaching officers, [REDACTED] moved east to a position in front of 3667 Sheldon Place. [REDACTED] remained at the front of 3667 Sheldon Place until he was treated for his injuries and subsequently removed from the scene by medics. [REDACTED] identified his path of travel and final position on a diagram consisting of an aerial photograph of the surrounding area.

[REDACTED] stated that he never observed the handgun but heard the gunshot and saw the muzzle flash. According to [REDACTED], he was the closest officer to Byrdsong during the pursuit and subsequent shooting.

[REDACTED] was struck twice by gunfire to his lower body. Shrapnel from the rounds remains inside his body.

Agent Ward concluded the audio-recorded interview with [REDACTED] at 1156 hours. Attached below are the diagram, CIN form, and the signed typed statement.

Attachments:

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Attachment # 01: [REDACTED] audio interview
Attachment # 02: [REDACTED] CIN, Diagram, typed statement

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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

10-24-25 @ 1125
 Date / Time

 Signature of Interviewee

Reid Ward
 BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
 BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NUMBER [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in a critical incident that occurred on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, between 7:20 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in Grove City, Ohio. 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 Grove City Police Department (GCPD) on [REDACTED]. I attended the Columbus Police Training Academy and I received my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification in [REDACTED]. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I do not have any military experience. I have been a member of the Strategic Response Team (SRT) for approximately 2 years. I have completed basic and advanced Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) training. I am also an OPOTA certified instructor for defensive tactics, taser, baton and mace. I am also a certified rifle and shotgun operator.

I am in good health and I do not suffer from any disabilities. I am right hand dominant. I do not wear glasses or contacts and my vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I had not taken any medication, prescription or over the counter, in the 24 hours prior to this incident. I had not consumed any alcohol 24 hours prior to this incident. I was not under any unusual stress. I do not have any uses of force that have been found outside of GCPD policy in my file.

At the time of this incident, I was assigned to [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED]. My regular days off are [REDACTED]. My regular supervisor is Sergeant Hennessey. On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, I worked my regular assignment. However, on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, the day of this incident, I worked [REDACTED] (approximately [REDACTED]) because I was teaching taser in service.

At approximately 7:20 p.m., I was at home when I received the SRT notification via Everbridge which GCPD uses to send out emergency notifications to SRT. The information was that there was a burglary and the suspect barricaded himself into a house on Louise Court. SRT was to report to the Command Post.

I put on my blue police-issued SRT uniform which displays a Grove City Police badge and patches and blue utility pants. I got into my personal car and drove to the GCPD to get my Axon Body Worn Camera. Then I drove to the Command Post which was at Louise Avenue and Sheldon Place. Once there, I put on my external body armor/rifle plates, which also identified me as POLICE in white letters along the front and back, as well as my ballistic helmet. At all times, I was clearly identifiable as a law enforcement officer. My body worn camera (bwc) was in a pouch attached to my ballistic helmet, with a feed that attached to the front. I had my body worn camera activated during this incident.

My division issued Daniel Defense 5.56 short barreled rifle which was loaded with TAP (tactical application for police) ammunition was waiting for me at the Command Post. It was equipped with an Aimpoint red dot sight and a rifle light. I carry my rifle in a sling over my right shoulder. I also had my division issued Glock 45 9mm but I did not use my firearm in this incident. I am current in my range qualifications on both weapons.

Once I arrived at the Command Post, I believe I learned that officers had been on scene for a couple of hours. I was also informed that the suspect was in the residence alone when the homeowner arrived. I was one of the first SRT members to arrive. Lt. Holmstrom, Sgt. Smith and Sgt. Wilhelm were there. I believe [REDACTED] Cole and Reber had also arrived. Officer Cole and I walked up the yards towards 3810 Louise Court. The house was a split level located directly at the center of the court. There were two lower-level windows (just above ground level) and then

two upper-level windows directly above them. There was also a very large black truck backed into the driveway with a piece of large machinery in the bed. Officers had been positioned on the east side of the truck, utilizing it for cover as they watched the house. There was a cruiser positioned on the east side of the cul-de-sac and another cruiser in front of the house.

Officer Cole and I went to the left (west) side of the cul-de-sac to get a visual on the 1-2 side of the house (the front of the house is the 1 side, the west side of the house is the 2 side, the back of the house is the 3 side and the east side of the house is the 4 side). Sergeant Hennessey was making announcements over the cruiser speaker for 3810 Louise Court to come out with nothing in his hands and that he was under arrest. K9 Officer Nelson and his dog were also on scene. The front of the house had a screen door and a main door. At one point, the suspect came to the front door and opened the main door and looked around and shut it again.

I was in the cul-de-sac for approximately 10-15 minutes when the other members of SRT walked up. Sgt. Wilhelm and Officer Hall came over to Officer Cole and I. Sgt. Wilhelm had the 40 mm launcher to deploy gas canisters and Officer Hall was going to act as his lethal cover. Officer Cole and I were instructed to move closer to the house. Around this time, Lt. Holmstrom pulled the command post directly into the court and I believe the rest of the SRT members walked up. Sgt. Smith was the scene commander. I was assigned to the 1-4 corner as part of the take down team. [REDACTED] was assigned the shield, [REDACTED] and I were behind him with lethal cover, Officer Chandler was behind me, then I believe it was [REDACTED] and Sergeant Smith in the back of the team.

I believe we were in this position for 10-15 minutes when we were told gas was going to be deployed. I put on my gas mask, placing it under my ballistic helmet. Once everyone had their gas masks on, the "gas, gas, gas" announcement was made to alert everyone that the sound was

cover, so I was going to put my rifle down and draw my taser. When suddenly, I heard a pop, saw a muzzle flash and immediately knew I had been shot in the back of my upper leg. I immediately raised and fired my rifle at the suspect. I heard multiple rounds being fired and I knew I had to get away from the suspect to avoid a crossfire situation.

I hopped around to the front (east) side of 3667 Sheldon Place to get out of the line of fire and to have better lighting. I tried to mark on the radio that I had been hit but I was not able to get out over the air because my helmet had fallen off and disconnected my comms from the headset. I started trying to assess my injury. Officer Nelson came around the corner and I told him I was hit. He helped me remove my gear and find the gunshot. TEMS (tactical EMS) were on scene and began rendering aid.

I was transported to Grant Medical Center. This ended my involvement in this incident. A couple of hours later, I underwent surgery to address my injuries.

I do not know for sure how many rounds I fired at the suspect but I believe I only fired one. I carry my rifle with 28 rounds in the magazine. I believe I was approximately 8-10 feet from the suspect when I fired. My backdrop was the ground and foundation of the house, as the suspect had fallen to the ground and my rifle was angled downward. The direction of my shot was north. I fired from a standing position. My target was the suspect's center mass. I do not believe I used my sights, as I was preparing to transition to my taser when the suspect shot me and I returned fire. I did not have any cover or concealment. I stopped firing because I heard multiple rounds being discharged and I knew I had been hit and needed to get out of the line of fire. I do not know how many times the suspect fired. The shooting happened incredibly fast. It was a split second from the time the suspect fell to the ground until he shot me.

In the hours proceeding this incident, the suspect had barricaded himself inside a house and was told numerous times that he was under arrest and to come out with nothing in his hands. The suspect refused to comply. Instead, the suspect remained in the house, even after the gas warning was given. Once the gas was deployed, instead of surrendering, he fled the house with a firearm. Immediately before I discharged my weapon the suspect shot me. I believe he intended to kill me and that is why I fired my weapon.

At the time I fired my weapon, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect myself from further serious bodily harm or death. I believe all of my actions were consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer, as well as GCPD policies. I believe all of my actions were consistent with the laws of Ohio and the United States.

I did have a taser on me at the time of this incident. My taser contains 10 darts. I had just made the decision to transition to my taser when the suspect shot me. I did not see the suspect with a gun. After the suspect fell to the ground, I still did not see a firearm. I thought I could use less lethal force, as I knew that [REDACTED] was with me and had lethal cover. If I had known that the suspect was armed at that moment, I would not have attempted to utilize the taser. I never saw the suspect's firearm, even after he shot me. I only saw the muzzle flash, heard the pop and felt the bullet strike me.

I now know that the suspect's name was Dominique Byrdsong. I do not recall any prior interactions with the suspect either personal or professional.

I have now reviewed bwc footage of the incident. However, my bwc footage of the incident was black and only had audio. I believe that is because my camera recorded the inside of the pouch as there usb-c did not appear to connect properly. I did have an opportunity to review [REDACTED] [REDACTED] footage and upon review of that footage it appears that [REDACTED] when I thought

[REDACTED] had taken a knee, he was actually trying to untangle something from his leg. The footage did not change my perception of the incident but it did highlight how rapidly the shooting occurred.

This concludes my statement.

[REDACTED]



Barbee Ave

Barbee Ave

Barbee Ave

Sheldon Pl

Sheldon Pl

Sheldon Pl

Carol Ave

Louise Ct

3104

3096

3086

3076

3066

3056

3667

3651

3664

3018

3008

3103

3095

3085

3075

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3691

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