



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

2021-2286

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 2469 Kimberly Dr



Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: CPD; Ofc. Andrew Hawkins, #2601

Activity Date: 11/3/2021

Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher

Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Wednesday, November 03, 2021, at 1357 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) and SA Shane Hanshaw (SA Hanshaw) interviewed City of Columbus-Division of Police (CPD) Officer (Ofc.) Andrew Hawkins (Hawkins), who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the law firm of Harshman and Wannemacher, Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Hawkins 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. While the term suspect or subject may be used in the interview with identifying the involved subject, for clarity, knowing that the male subject had been identified as Kyle Veyon (Veyon), his name will be utilized in this report.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: Andrew Hawkins	Rank: Patrolman (Ptl.)
Badge Number: 2601	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: 9091
Radio Call Sign: 9091	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Collier
Radio Channel Utilized: Zone 2	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Marked Ford Explorer; white with CPD emblem	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Hawkins-Driver; Balmert-Passenger
Assignment: Patrol; Z2, D2	Normal Shift: 0900-1900
In-Car Camera: Operational, But Not Used	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized

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Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: 0900-1900	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Sun/Mon/Tue	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No
	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 11 years	Length at Current Agency: Since 02/2010
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Dark blue pants; short sleeve w/police patches on both shoulders, "Columbus Police" on the back; police ball cap	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Taser
Ballistic Vest: Concealed Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: Balmert
Injuries: No	Equipment Damage: No
Training or Areas of Specialty: CIT/Rifle training	OPOTC Certification: 2010
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: Click here to enter text.
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Not within 24 hrs of incident.

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: S&W	Model: 2.0
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: unk
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: hip
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17+1
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17x2

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Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 15	Number of Rounds Fired: 3
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: 2021	

Narrative:

Attorney Wannemacher provided SA Collins with a statement said to be Hawkins', relating to the incident on September 29, 2021. After Hawkins read his statement for the record, verifying it was his own, SA Collins asked follow-up questions related to the incident and introduced BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) photographs (4978; 4986; 4987) to Ofc. Hawkins.

Hawkins stated he was not originally assigned a partner, but was giving CPD officer Steven Balmert (Ofc. Balmert) a ride to Groves Road. Hawkins stated they'd just left the Columbus Police 9th Precinct when he was dispatched to call at 2469 Kimberly Parkway East. Hawkins stated the initial details of the call were "vague." Hawkins believed the call had come in as a "34-O" (34: meaning unknown caller) or an "open line." He said dispatch could only hear a female saying, "get off me." Hawkins stated he understood it was an apartment complex, however, he was not provided an apartment number.

Hawkins stated he'd arrived in the area of Kimberly Parkway and witnessed CPD Officer Brown, also in the area. Hawkins said he pulled up next to Ofc. Brown, where their driver's side doors were next to each other. Hawkins said Ofc. Brown had just told him apartment Q2 had come up on the call, when Hawkins witnessed a female (Felicia Marshall (Marshall)), approach Ofc. Brown's vehicle. Hawkins stated Ofc. Brown began speaking with Marshall but he could not hear the entire conversation. However, Hawkins believed Marshall had said a male "pulled a knife on her and that they weren't supposed to be around each other, or words to that effect." Hawkins said, as Ofc. Brown was speaking with Marshall, he heard Ofc. Brown say something like "stay there." Hawkins said he saw a black male (Veyon) approaching from the rear of his patrol car.

Hawkins said he pulled his patrol vehicle forward so he could get out. According to Hawkins, when he exited his patrol car, Veyon was just a few feet away from him and Hawkins drew his firearm as he exited. Hawkins stated he witnessed Veyon with a knife in his right hand and he was moving it back and forth across his neck, while walking towards Hawkins. Hawkins was asked if the reason he did not fire his weapon at that time was because Veyon was not a threat

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to him (Hawkins). Hawkins responded, "*I mean he was definitely a threat. Cause, when you're suicidal, you're homicidal. That's what they teach us.*" Hawkins stated he told Veyon to back up as Hawkins pointed his gun at Veyon. Hawkins said, "*He was focused on me.*" Hawkins said he continued to tell Veyon to stop and Hawkins took a couple steps backward along the driver's side of his patrol car, moving towards the rear of his patrol car.

Hawkins said Veyon, suddenly stopped at the front driver's side of his patrol car and began chasing after Marshall who was on the sidewalk. Hawkins said Veyon chased Marshall by running north, still with the knife in his hand. Hawkins stated he then began running after Veyon. Hawkins believed Ofc. Balmert had deployed a taser, because he could see wires as Veyon continued chasing Marshall. Hawkins said Marshall ran east, across Kimberly Parkway, screaming as Veyon was chasing her with the knife. Hawkins said he continued to yell at Veyon. Hawkins stated, once Marshall was on the east side of the roadway, Veyon turned his focus toward Hawkins. Hawkins said Veyon was still in possession of the knife and had it up to his (Veyon's) neck. Hawkins stated Veyon repeatedly yelled, "*Kill me*" as he "*advanced quickly towards me, as I was stepping backwards, with my gun pointed at him. I continued to yell 'stop' or words to that effect but he continued to come towards me with the knife in his hand.*" Hawkins continued by stating Veyon had come within approximately six to seven (6-7) feet of Hawkins, "*...still armed with the knife, and that is when I fired my weapon at him.*" Hawkins said he believed he'd fired three (3) rounds while Veyon was approximately six to seven feet away." Hawkins described that he'd fired his shots in "*...rapid succession, and I believe I fired all my shots in a second or two.*" Hawkins further stated he had fired his rounds in a north/northwestern direction at Veyon's "center mass." Hawkins continued by stating he had chosen that as his target because he was "*trained to shoot center mass to neutralize the threat, as center mass is the largest target. We are not trained to shoot at an extremity or weapon, as that is a small target and increases the probability of injury to another person.*" Hawkins, when describing the surroundings, stated he did not have any cover or concealment. Hawkins said, "*At the times I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life. The suspect had just chased the female with a knife. I ran after him and he turned his attention to me and I believe that the female was behind me. I believed that the suspect was going to stab me and seriously injure or kill me and that if I was injured, he would go after the female again. It is at that moment that I began firing my weapon. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of the female who the suspect was just chasing with the knife, at the time I fired my weapon. The suspect had ignored my repeated commands to stop, chased after the female with a knife in his hand despite our presence, and continued to aggressively advance towards me, screaming 'kill me!' with a knife in his hand.*"

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Hawkins stated Veyon fell backwards onto the street and dropped the knife. Hawkins stated "*I stopped firing because the suspect fell backwards, dropped the knife and therefore was no longer an immediate threat.*" Hawkins witnessed Ofc. Balmert approach Veyon and kick the knife towards Hawkins. Hawkins said he continued to hold cover as Ofc. Balmert approached Veyon. Hawkins stated he witnessed Ofc. Brown and Ofc. Balmert provide medical aid to Veyon. Hawkins stated, "*I aired 10-3 and shots fired.*" He believed Ofc. Brown had radioed for medics to arrive. Hawkins said, after looking for medical supplies, he too assisted in providing medical aid to Veyon.

Hawkins stated he did not utilize his taser because he'd witnessed Ofc. Balmert already attempt to use a taser and it failed. He also stated he did not have any lethal back-up to counter Veyon's lethal force, should his taser deployment fail.

When referring to the photographs, Hawkins said he recalled moving his patrol vehicle out of the way for medics, but he did not necessarily recall moving into the location it was at in the photograph.

Hawkins was asked about whether he heard Veyon or Marshall saying anything while they were running. Hawkins said, "*No, I heard screaming. Um, but again it was—when we were running, I just remember seeing the taser wire, so at that point in time I knew that he had been tased and it was ineffective. Um, and when he was running I was trying to calculate, if I could shoot this guy. What was my backdrop, if I could? And how I would be able to stop the threat without injuring the victim? The female, right? When I was chasing him, thinking about all this stuff, that is when she, you know, made like a right-hand turn....*" SA Collins made a statement but was asking to clarify if Hawkins was saying he'd contemplated or otherwise processed whether he should shoot Veyon why he was running after Marshall. Hawkins said, "*when he was running yes. I'm tryin' to think, okay, I can't let this guy just murder this girl in front of me. So, I have ta stop the threat. So, I'm trying to calculate—Cause in training in the academy, I can't just—I have to make sure that my backdrop is a, is good. Right? Cause I don't wanna shoot the victim or shoot him and miss and hit someone else, that's walking by or whatever. So, I was trying to calculate all this stuff while running. Even though it only lasted for like a second. Right? And then at that point in time, she then turned and then, that plan was out the window. I had to then address what was in front of me.*"



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The interview concluded at approximately 1437 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and statement is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office (740- 845-2000)
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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).

Andrew J Hawkins
Printed Name of Interviewee


Signature of Interviewee

11-3-21
Date / Time

SA Matt Collins
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Matt Collins #151
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER ANDREW HAWKINS, BADGE NO. 2601

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, between approximately 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m., at 2469 Kimberly Parkway East. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD or the Division) in February 2010. I obtained my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification in August 2010. I do not have any other law enforcement experience before joining CPD. I do not have any military experience. I have never had a use of force that has been determined to be outside of policy.

My regular assignment is Z2D2. My regular duty hours are 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. My regular days off are Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. At the time of this incident, I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform which consists of dark blue pants and a short sleeved dark blue shirt with police patches on both shoulders and "Columbus Police" across the back. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted to the side of my shirt. My BWC was activated during this incident. I had on my Columbus Police baseball hat. I was also wearing an internal ballistic vest. I was carrying my Division-issued Smith and Wesson 2.0 9mm pistol loaded with Division-issued ammunition. I carry that weapon with a full magazine (17 rounds) plus an additional round in the chamber. I am current on my qualifications with this weapon. I was not carrying any backup firearm. I am also a certified rifle operator.

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my uncorrected vision is good as I had lasik several years ago. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I had not taken any medication that would impair my abilities as a police officer. I

did not consume any alcohol in the 24 hours prior to this incident. I did not work any special duty in the 24 hours prior to this incident and I arrived at the start of my shift well rested.

I was assigned to Cruiser 9091. I was not working with a partner; however, Officer Steven Balmert, Badge 2480, was in the cruiser with me as I was supposed to drive him to Groves Road to pick up another cruiser. However, I was dispatched on this run out of the substation and prior to taking him to Groves Road. I was driving and Officer Balmert was in the passenger's seat.

We had just left the Columbus Police 9th Precinct Substation when I was dispatched on a call for service at 2469 Kimberly Parkway East. The initial details given for the call were vague. I knew the area was an apartment complex but there was no apartment number provided. Also, I believe when dispatch attempted to trace the call, it was coming back to a phone number on the west side.

When I turned north onto Kimberly Parkway East, I saw Officer Henry Brown in another cruiser and he was driving south on Kimberly Parkway East. I pulled up next to him so that our driver's side doors were parallel to one another. He told me that apartment Q2 had just come up on the run. At about that time, a black female walked up to Officer Brown's cruiser. Officer Brown began speaking to her. I could not hear their entire conversation, but I believe she stated that a male had pulled a knife on her and that they weren't supposed to be around each other, or words to that effect.

As the female and Officer Brown were speaking, I heard Officer Brown say something to the effect of, "stay there" and I saw a black male approaching from the rear of my cruiser. I put the cruiser in drive and pulled forward a couple feet (because the driver's door was next to Officer Brown's cruiser door and I did not have enough room to exit the cruiser) and turned my

cruiser to the left (west), put my cruiser in park, and I immediately exited the cruiser. The male was just a few feet from my cruiser door when I exited. I drew my weapon as I exited the cruiser. The male had a knife in his right hand, and he was moving it back and forth across his neck while walking towards me. I yelled at him to back up or get back or words to that effect, as I pointed my gun at him. He was focused on me. I continued to tell him to stop. I took a few steps back, along the driver's side of my cruiser, towards the rear and he continued to walk towards me. Suddenly, he stopped at the front driver's side of my cruiser, ran around the front of the cruiser, and began chasing the female who had been speaking with Officer Brown. The female ran north on the sidewalk of Kimberly Parkway East and the suspect chased her, still with the knife in his hand.

I ran after the suspect. I believe at some point, Officer Balmert deployed his taser, as I recall seeing the wires as the suspect chased the female. The female screamed and ran across Kimberly Parkway East, with the suspect chasing her with the knife. I continued yelling at the suspect. Once the female crossed over to the east side of Kimberly Parkway East. The suspect stopped, turned, and focused his attention directly on me. He still had the knife and he had it up to his neck. He was repeatedly yelling "Kill me!" He started quickly advancing towards me, as I was stepping backwards, with my gun pointed at him. I continued to yell "Stop" or words to that effect but he continued to come towards me with the knife in his hand. The suspect got approximately 6-7 feet from me, still armed with the knife, and that is when I fired my weapon at him.

The suspect fell backwards onto the street. Officer Balmert approached from the west and kicked the knife towards me. I held cover, as he approached the suspect. Officer Brown approached and began doing chest compressions, as Officer Balmert held pressure on the

suspect's wounds. I aired 10-3 and shots fired. I believe Officer Brown aired for medics. I went to my cruiser to get some medical supplies. When I got to my cruiser, I realized I did not have any in my cruiser, as I had not loaded up since I believed I would be going straight to Groves Road when I left the substation. I checked Officer Brown's cruiser for medical supplies but could not locate anything except some napkins. I used those to apply pressure to the suspect's wounds while Officer Brown and Officer Balmert each performed chest compressions. We continued rendering aid until the medics arrived and took over.

Sergeant Collier arrived on scene and instructed me to turn off my body worn camera. Officer Moore took me from the scene to the 9th precinct substation. I meet CPD Officer Support Team Member Steve Bricker there. I remained there until I returned to the scene to meet with Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) agents. I was willing to provide a walk through with the agents, however, they did not wish to conduct one. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I believe that I fired three rounds at the suspect. I believe that I was approximately 6-7 feet from the suspect when I fired my weapon. I fired in rapid succession, and I believe I fired all my shots in a second or two. I fired from a standing position, with a two-handed grip. The direction of my shots was north to slightly northwest. My target was the suspect's center mass. This was my target because we are trained to shoot center mass to neutralize the threat, as center mass is the largest target. We are not trained to shoot at an extremity or weapon, as that is a small target and increases the probability of injury to another person. My backdrop was Kimberly Parkway East which I could see was free from traffic and there were not any pedestrians. It was a relatively clear day and there was ample sunlight. I believe I used the front

sights on my weapon. I did not have any cover or concealment. I stopped firing because the suspect fell backwards, dropped the knife, and therefore was no longer an immediate threat.

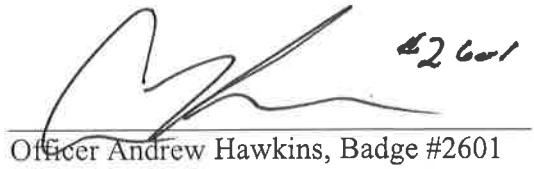
I did have a taser on my belt. However, I did not believe it would be appropriate for me to use a taser in this situation. Officer Balmert had already had a failed taser attempt and therefore, I would not have lethal force backup to counter the suspect's lethal force should my taser deployment fail.

At the times I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life. The suspect had just chased the female with a knife. I ran after him and he turned his attention to me and I believe that the female was behind me. I believed that the suspect was going to stab me and seriously injure or kill me and that if I was injured, he would go after the female again. It is at that moment that I began firing my weapon. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of the female who the suspect was just chasing with the knife, at the time I fired my weapon. The suspect had ignored my repeated commands to stop, chased after the female with a knife in his hand despite our presence, and continued to aggressively advance towards me, screaming "kill me!" with a knife in his hand.

I have now had an opportunity to watch the Body Worn Camera video footage of this incident. After reviewing the BWC footage, it appears that the female continued to run south down Kimberly Parkway East to Officer Brown, who was approximately 20-30 feet south of me. I knew he was at the scene during the incident, but I did not know exactly where he was at the time I fired my weapon. Officer Balmert was to my left (west) at the time of the incident. I knew he was at the scene and that he was somewhere to my west but I was not sure exactly where he was at the time I fired my weapon.

I know now that the suspect's name is Kyle Anthony Veyon. I do not believe I have ever had any prior encounters, personal or professional, with this individual.

This concludes my statement. I am prepared to answer any follow-up questions you may have at this time.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hawkins". To the right of the signature, the number "2601" is handwritten in smaller ink.

Officer Andrew Hawkins, Badge #2601



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