



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 Officer
Involves: Officer ██████████ (S)
Date of Activity: 10/10/2023
Author: SA James A. Mulford, #39

Narrative:

On October 10, 2023 at approximately 1430 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Mulford (SA Mulford) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer ██████████ (Officer ██████████ 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 ██████████ was also shot multiple times and transported to the hospital. He was released from the hospital and is recovering at his residence. 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 ██████████ union attorney, Kate Harshman.

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 ██████████ 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 ██████████ was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Officer ██████████ 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 Kate Harshman provided SA Mulford with a written statement from Officer ██████████ regarding the OICI. Agent Mulford reviewed the statement upon receipt. 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 was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

SA Mulford asked Officer ██████████ if he would be willing to discuss the incident further. Officer

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██████████ and his attorney said that his written statement has all the details he could remember documented. Officer ██████████'s still recovering from the gunshot wounds and believed talking further about the incident at this time could affect his recovery process. Officer ██████████ was very cooperative and complied with the investigation.

Officer ██████████ wrote in his statement, "After the Mound Street Exit and just west of the 1-71S exit, the suspect vehicle appeared to have crashed and had stopped between the left most (north) and middle of the three (3) lanes with its front facing northeast. I do not remember seeing any sort of damage on the suspect vehicle. I saw a male black jump over the concrete barrier to the south as we came to a stop. I radioed the mile marker location and told them that the suspect was running south. I got out of passenger side (south) of the cruiser and drew my weapon. I remember a white sedan, possibly a Toyota Camry, right behind the suspect vehicle, between the cruiser and the concrete barrier. My focus was totally on the suspect I saw running south I saw when we pulled up. I planned on jumping the concrete barrier and following him in order to apprehend him.

Almost immediately after exiting the cruiser, and as I approached the barrier, I was shot several times and fell to the ground. I do not remember seeing the suspect that shot me prior to being shot and I do not remember the sound of his gun firing. I do clearly remember knowing I had been shot. I remember yelling something like "I'm hit" or "I was shot." As I was falling, I believe I may have shot at the suspect, a male black, 1 to 2 times. When I fell onto the ground, the suspect shot at me again. I do not remember hearing the shots, but I felt two (2) shots hit my back, covered by my ballistic vest. I believe I hit my gun on the ground when I fell, and it malfunctioned. I dropped the mag, reloaded, and pulled back the slide to clear it. I was still on the ground and turned to see the suspect running to the east. I shot multiple times from the ground laying on my right side with my head towards the concrete barrier. I tried to get up, but my right leg gave way and I fell back to the ground. I repositioned myself on the ground. The suspect was now walking towards me. He was looking directly at me and coming my direction. I do not remember seeing the suspect's weapon at the time, but I believed he was coming back to finish me off. I fired multiple more times from the ground on my left side with my head facing north, but the suspect kept coming. I kept firing until the suspect fell to the ground, and the threat had ended. I remember looking back and seeing an officer behind me, I now believe that was Officer ██████████ though I did not know him at the time. Several other officers came towards me, speaking to me. I remember officers placing a tourniquet on my leg. I was carried under my arms to a cruiser and placed in the back. I was laying with my head and upper body on the driver's side of the vehicle laying on Officer ██████████. An officer, who I now know was Officer Anthony Muscaro, was holding the tourniquet on my leg. I remember asking if Officer ██████████ was ok, as I did not remember seeing him on scene after the shooting and I wanted to make sure he had not been hurt. I now know that Officer ██████████ was driving the cruiser that was taking me to Grant Hospital. I was taken out of the cruiser at Grant by several police officers that were apparently already there and carried to a gurney. I then received treatment in the emergency room trauma bay. I had no further involvement in the incident."

Officer ██████████ continued in his statement, "The third (or second) time I fired, the suspect was coming towards me west with his eyes focused on me. I believed the suspect was returning to execute me after he saw that I was not dead. I don't remember how many times I fired. When I

fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect myself. The suspect was or had been actively trying to kill me. He shot me multiple times. When I fired, I also did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my fellow officers and the civilians that were stopped in their vehicles on the interstate as their lives were in imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm from the armed suspect.”

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

SA Mulford asked Officer [REDACTED] and his attorney if he would be willing to sign a consent form releasing his medical records to BCI. On October 11, 2023, SA Mulford emailed a release form to Attorney Kate Harshman. The details are being discussed and the form will be signed.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 10-10-2023 Officer [REDACTED] Interview
- Attachment # 02: CIN-Officer [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 03: Signed Statement- Officer [REDACTED]



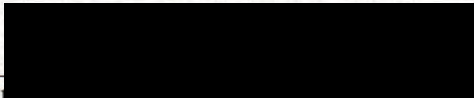
Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Criminal Investigation Notification

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



10/10/2023 1431
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee



BCI Agent (Printed)

Jim Myler #39

BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] # [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, between the hours of 4:00pm and 4:30pm.

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police on July 25, 2022. At the time of this incident, I was still in my probationary period. I have previous law enforcement experience as a police officer in Dublin, Ohio where I worked from June 16, 2016 to July 23, 2023. At the time of this incident, I was assigned to Precinct 19B in my second phase probationary assignment. My regular duty hours were 3:00pm to 11:00pm with Tuesday and Wednesday off. On Thursday, July 6, I was on my regular assignment. My partner for the shift was Officer [REDACTED]. We were assigned to Cruiser [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] was driving, and I was in the passenger seat.

I was dressed in the patrol uniform of the day. I was armed with a department-issued Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm 2.0 with standard department-issued ammunition. My weapon has a TLR-1-HL light made by Streamlight. I am current in my range qualifications with my sidearm and the light. I was not carrying any backup weapons.

I am right-hand dominant. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I had not worked special duty in the twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to the incident. I had plenty of sleep prior to my shift. I was not under any unusual stress. I do not wear a hearing aid, nor do I have any problems with my hearing. I do not wear contacts or glasses, nor do I have any problems with my vision. I was not taking any medication or drugs, whether prescribed or not, that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I had not consumed alcohol in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to coming on shift.

At approximately 4:00pm on July 6th, I remember radio traffic regarding a bank robbery on Hilliard-Rome Road on the west side of the City. I pulled up the run on the cruiser's computer

and saw the run was in 15 Precinct, northwest of our location and approximately fifteen (15) minutes away. I believe there was also radio traffic about the suspect vehicle being stolen in an armed robbery. Officer [REDACTED] and I discussed whether we should respond considering how far away the bank robbery was. When it became evident that the suspect(s) were fleeing, we decided to head that direction. At the time, I do not believe I knew how many suspects were involved and I did not have a description of any of the suspects. At first, we took West Broad Street to the I-70W entrance. At some point, a description of the vehicle was aired- a black Porsche SUV. It was aired that the suspect vehicle had been seen going east towards the I-670E/I-70E split, which was just west of our location. If the vehicle stayed on I-70E, it would go by the West Broad Street entrance ramp that was close to our location.

We turned around on Broad to enter the on-ramp for I-70E, which was behind us at the time. We waited on the berm with our lights on between the end of the Broad Street on-ramp and the I-70E to see if we could intercept the vehicle. A few moments later, the black Porsche flew past our location. We followed with lights and sirens. At first, the suspect vehicle remained in the leftmost lane, but began moving in and out of traffic as the interstate got busier. We lost sight of him due to the high rate of speed but continued following. I observed the suspect vehicle in the leftmost lane behind a big white box truck. I then lost sight of the vehicle again when it maneuvered around it. We continued east to see if we could get sight of him again. I radioed our location and what we were seeing.

After the Mound Street Exit and just west of the I-71S exit, the suspect vehicle appeared to have crashed and had stopped between the left most (north) and middle of the three (3) lanes with its front facing northeast. I do not remember seeing any sort of damage on the suspect vehicle. I saw a male black jump over the concrete barrier to the south as we came to a stop. I radioed the

mile marker location and told them that the suspect was running south. I got out of passenger side (south) of the cruiser and drew my weapon. I remember a white sedan, possibly a Toyota Camry, right behind the suspect vehicle, between the cruiser and the concrete barrier. My focus was totally on the suspect I saw running south I saw when we pulled up. I planned on jumping the concrete barrier and following him in order to apprehend him.

Almost immediately after exiting the cruiser, and as I approached the barrier, I was shot several times and fell to the ground. I do not remember seeing the suspect that shot me prior to being shot and I do not remember the sound of his gun firing. I do clearly remember knowing I had been shot. I remember yelling something like "I'm hit" or "I was shot." As I was falling, I believe I may have shot at the suspect, a male black, 1 to 2 times. When I fell onto the ground, the suspect shot at me again. I do not remember hearing the shots, but I felt two (2) shots hit my back, covered by my ballistic vest. I believe I hit my gun on the ground when I fell, and it malfunctioned. I dropped the mag, reloaded, and pulled back the slide to clear it. I was still on the ground and turned to see the suspect running to the east. I shot multiple times from the ground laying on my right side with my head towards the concrete barrier. I tried to get up, but my right leg gave way and I fell back to the ground. I repositioned myself on the ground. The suspect was now walking towards me. He was looking directly at me and coming my direction. I do not remember seeing the suspect's weapon at the time, but I believed he was coming back to finish me off. I fired multiple more times from the ground on my left side with my head facing north, but the suspect kept coming. I kept firing until the suspect fell to the ground, and the threat had ended.

I remember looking back and seeing an officer behind me, I now believe that was Officer [REDACTED], though I did not know him at the time. Several other officers came towards me, speaking to me. I remember officers placing a tourniquet on my leg. I was carried under my arms

to a cruiser and placed in the back. I was laying with my head and upper body on the driver's side of the vehicle laying on Officer [REDACTED]. An officer, who I now know was Officer Anthony Muscaro, was holding the tourniquet on my leg. I remember asking if Officer [REDACTED] was ok, as I did not remember seeing him on scene after the shooting and I wanted to make sure he had not been hurt. I now know that Officer [REDACTED] was driving the cruiser that was taking me to Grant Hospital. I was taken out of the cruiser at Grant by several police officers that were apparently already there and carried to a gurney. I then received treatment in the emergency room trauma bay. I had no further involvement in the incident.

At the time I first fired at the suspect, he had just shot me in the right leg and continued to shoot at me as I turned to attempt to return fire. I was beginning to fall at the time I shot. I believe I shot 1-2 times, but I am unsure whether I shot or the number of times. If I fired it would have been in a northeast direction. I would estimate that I was 10-15 feet away from the suspect at the time I fired. I was convinced the suspect was going to kill me.

The second (or first) time I fired, the suspect had shot me at least two (2) more times in the back at very close range. Again, I was convinced the suspect was going to kill me. As he ran to the east, I was able to fire at him from my position on the ground. I was laying on my right side with my head towards the concrete barrier directly to my south. I shot several times, but do not know how many. I shot with either two (2) hands or my right hand. At the time, my left hand had also been shot. I remember using my sights. I did not fire from cover. I fired at the suspect's center of mass. My backdrop was the interstate. There were no vehicles or civilians in the direction I fired. I fired east. I estimate that the suspect was 30-50 feet from the me at the time I fired.

The third (or second) time I fired, the suspect was coming towards me west with his eyes focused on me. I believed the suspect was returning to execute me after he saw that I was not dead.

I again fired from the ground—this time on my left side with my head to the north. I shot several more times, but do not know how many. I shot with either two (2) hands or my right hand. I fired at the suspect's center of mass. I remember using my sights. I did not fire from cover. My backdrop was the interstate. There were no vehicles or civilians in the direction I fired. I fired east. I estimate that the suspect was 20-30 feet from the me at the time I fired.

I don't remember how many times I fired. When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect myself. The suspect was or had been actively trying to kill me. He shot me multiple times. When I fired, I also did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my fellow officers and the civilians that were stopped in their vehicles on the interstate as their lives were in imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm from the armed suspect.

I now know the suspect's name was Abdisamad Ismail. I do not recall having any prior interactions with him, either professional or personal.

I have now reviewed my body worn camera. I cannot tell for sure if I fired right after the suspect shot me in the leg. It appears that I shot at the suspect six (6) times as he ran to the east and eight (8) more times as he headed back west in my direction.

This statement consists of five (5) pages.

OFFICER 