



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



2023-1535

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 311 25th Street SW, Canton, Ohio

**Investigative Activity:** Involved Officer Interview – Jacob Dryden  
**Activity Date:** June 14, 2023  
**Activity Location:** BCI Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Matthew Armstrong #146

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at approximately 1242 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) interviewed Canton Police Department (CPD) Officer Jacob Dryden (Dryden), who was accompanied by his attorney, Ty Graham. The interview took place at the BCI Richfield office. The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording has been attached to this report. The video recording was titled *2023-06-14: Officer Dryden Interview* and has been stored on evidence.com and on a DVD in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item F. Ofc. Dryden read, indicated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form. A copy of the form has been attached to this report.

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. Time reference made through this report correlate with the video recording.

**Preliminary and Demographic Information:**

<b>Name:</b> Jacob Dryden	<b>Rank:</b> Patrolman (Ptl.)
<b>Badge Number:</b> 172	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> 45 (Passenger)
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> 172	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Lt. Gary
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> Channel 1	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Black and White Ford Explorer marked with the word "Police" and equipped with emergency lights and siren	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Officer Scott Wohlheter – Driver; He was the front passenger.
<b>Assignment:</b> Patrol	<b>Normal Shift:</b> 1530 hours – 2330 hours
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational & Utilized	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present; Not Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Shift Day of Incident</b> 1530 hours – 2330	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty

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hours	
<b>Days Off:</b> Friday and Saturday	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> none
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> 8 hours	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 4.5 years	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> 4.5 years
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> Contact Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Dark blue pants, dark blue uniform shirt with police patches on both shoulders, a badge on the upper left chest and name tag on the upper right chest.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Tourniquet, holster and duty firearm, Asp baton, 2 handcuffs, OC spray, radio, taser, double magazine pouch
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> Concealed Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> None	<b>Partner:</b> Officer Scott Wohlheter - Patrolman
<b>Injuries:</b> None	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> Work pants
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> Field Training Officer, SWAT, CIT	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. Graduated in 2019.
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> Served 8 years active duty in the Marine Corps. Served as a combat engineer and Sgt. Had 2 deployments; one 7-month deployment to Afghanistan in 2011 and one 7-month deployment to Iraq in 2016.	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Review of use of force policy annually at minimum.
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> None	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> None
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> None
<b>Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?</b> Yes – previous day.	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> Two days.

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**Officer's Firearm(s):**

**Weapon #1**

<b>Make:</b> Glock	<b>Model:</b> 17
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 9 mm	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Right hip in holster
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 17 rounds	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 3 Magazines – 2 on duty belt, 1 in his firearm. Each magazine had 17 rounds and 1 round in the chamber of the gun. Total rounds carried as described was 52 rounds.
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 2	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 17 rounds in each magazine
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unknown. Knew he did not empty the magazine because his slide did not lock.	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> unknown
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> January 2023	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> Safariland Level II Holster.

**Video Reviewed:**

Officer Dryden said that prior to the interview he had watched his body camera footage approximately five to ten times.

**Narrative:**

After obtaining the preliminary and demographic information, Officer Dryden provided the following information related to the incident on June 7, 2023:

Officer Dryden and his partner, Officer Wohlheter, were dispatched to 311 25th Street SW, for people at the residence fighting. As they approached the residence, he saw a male walking on the side of the house in the driveway area. When they parked the cruiser, the male perked up very quickly in a nervous manner and it immediately caught his attention. He suspected the male was going to run and when Officer Dryden took a step out of the cruiser, the male started running.

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They had not had the opportunity to talk to anyone and due to the nature of the call he did not know if the male was a suspect or if the male had just hurt somebody so he began pursuing the male on foot. They ran in a northbound direction toward the rear of the property. He radioed to dispatch that the subject was running and was jumping a chain link fence. He continued pursuing the subject over a concrete barrier on the northbound 77 on ramp and radioed a description of the subject; White male wearing a red shirt and blue jeans. After crossing the on ramp, they came to an open grassy field between the on ramp and Interstate 77. There were two medium sized islands of brush which the male ran between. The male then turned left and was headed back in the direction they had just run from.

Officer Dryden then explained

*As I'm coming through the brush, I hear a round. I don't actually see him shoot this gun, but I hear a round take off and then I'm immediately struck in the outside of my right leg. I felt it clear as day and that's when you know obviously, as soon as it happened I, I knew exactly what just occurred. He has a gun and he shot me. Um. Obviously chasing this guy, I tried to, now that this just got a lot more elevated than what it was, instead of continuing to chase him, I'm trying to slow myself down and get a, just a stable platform for whatever might need to be done. Um. As I'm trying to get my footing I, I slip and fall, uh, this all happens very quickly. As I'm slipping and falling I, I can see him have a revolver in his hand. Um. Just with how it worked, I mean how it looked I, this all happened very quickly. Like a shot rings out, I get struck in the outside of my right leg, I try to get my footing, I fall backwards um, I see him have a revolver in his hand so I drew my pistol and I opened fire until the threat ceased. Um. Like I said, I heard the gun shot, I knew I felt it, I knew I got tagged, and I see him have a revolver in his hand and I just, uh, obviously I felt threatened. Um. I don't think anybody wouldn't. Um. I don't know how many times I fired. Like I said I fired until the threat ceased. Um. When I stopped firing, the male was on the ground (24:41).*

After he finished firing, he radioed shots had been fired. Officer Wohlheter also made it to him. Officer Wohlheter told him to check himself. Officer Dryden checked himself and saw a hole in his pants but did not locate any blood. He then reloaded a fresh magazine into his gun while Officer Wohlheter provided cover.

After reloading his gun, Officer Dryden provided cover while he and Officer Wohlheter walked up to the subject. The gun was still clinched in the subject's right hand and they shook the gun from the subject's hand. Officer Dryden then moved the gun a few feet away while Officer Wohlheter handcuffed the subject. While Officer Wohlheter tended to the subject, he tried to guide responding officers to their location. Within a minute, multiple officers arrived and took

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over providing the subject with first aid. Officer Dryden was almost immediately removed from the scene and checked by multiple officers and medics to ensure he was not injured. Sgt. Rastetter then transported him to the hospital. After being released from the hospital he was transported to the Canton Police Department where Sgt. Smith and Sgt. Rastetter collected his firearm.

Officer Dryden explained there were times he lost sight of the male during the foot pursuit. It was dark while pursuing the subject through the back yard. The driveway and back yard area was "tight," there were numerous items lying around in the back yard, and he recalled running passed a trampoline. Once they made it to the grass field where the shooting occurred, it appeared pretty well lit for it being nighttime.

When the foot pursuit began, Officer Dryden yelled for the male to come back asked why he was running. He did not recall giving other verbal commands during the foot pursuit. Officer Dryden also did not remember the subject saying anything to him during pursuit.

Officer Dryden was unaware of whether the subject fired at him at other instances during the foot pursuit. He said the first time he knew he was fired at was when he felt the bullet hit him and then saw the firearm in the subject's hand. He did not know how many times the subject fired at him but after reviewing his body camera footage he believed the subject fired at him at least two times.

When Officer Dryden began firing, he was in a seated/lying position because he had slipped and fallen to the ground. He did not remember what his point of aim was and only recalled seeing his sights briefly while he was firing.

He estimated the distance between him and the subject when he fired was approximately 20 feet. The male was in a standing position and facing him with the gun in his right hand. He could not remember if the gun was pointed at him but he knew he did not start firing until after he had already been shot. Officer Dryden reiterated he stopped firing when the male was on the ground, he could no longer see the gun, and he was sure he was no longer being fired upon. He said he did not remember seeing the male fall to the ground and while he fired he did not know where his rounds were impacting.

Officer Dryden was asked how he felt at the moment he realized he had been shot. He said "I was scared" (43:21) and then added "It was scary. I'm not, I'm not going to lie. I don't feel like anybody would be in that situation, could sit there and say they wouldn't be scared. It definitely terrified me" (43:59).

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Officer Dryden believed his actions were consistent with his training. He did not believe he had any other option than to use his firearm during this incident. He did not recall ever interacting with the subject or the address prior to this incident.

Officer Dryden consented to agents watching his body worn camera footage in its entirety and reviewing any written reports he may complete in the future. Following the incident, he was given a urine drug screen. He also consented to agents reviewing the drug screen results.

**Attachments:**

2023-06-14 Involved Officer Interview - Jacob Dryden

2023-06-14 Signed Criminal Investigation Notification - Jacob Dryden

**Reference Items:**

Item F – DVD containing video recorded officer interviews





### 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).

*Jacob Dryden*

Printed Name of Interviewee

*6-14-23 1241*

Date / Time

*[Signature]*

Signature of Interviewee

*SA Matthew Armstrong*

BCI Agent (Printed)

*SA M. [Signature] #146*

BCI Agent (Signature)