



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 500 N. Nelson Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43219

To: Honorable Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor
From: Ryan Scheiderer, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: April 11, 2024
Involves: CPD Officer [REDACTED] (Taser)
CPD Officer [REDACTED] (Firearm)
Colin Jennings (Deceased)
BCI Case Numbers: 2024-0590
BCI Laboratory: 24-11819

Investigative Request

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, Sergeant Terry McConnell of the Columbus Division of Police requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation's (BCI's) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on February 22, 2024, in the area of 500 N. Nelson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219, and resulted in the death of Colin August Jennings.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the February 22, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.



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Investigative Team

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA Ryan Scheiderer

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Matt Collins
- SA Kyle Douglass
- SA Chad Holcomb

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Aja Chung
- SA Mathew Austin

BCI Criminal Intelligence Analyst:

- Jennifer Dillion

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Acting Special Agent Supervisor Jim Mulford

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of the one officer who discharged his weapon
- Recorded interview(s) of the one officer who discharged his Taser
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Interviews of four civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident



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- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding Use of Force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through subpoena
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

Incident Summary/Overview

On Thursday February 22, 2024 at approximately 0925 hours, the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) received a 911 call from Christopher Stone (Stone) at 500 N. Nelson Road, Apartment 105, Columbus, Ohio, advising his boyfriend, Colin Jennings (Jennings), was cutting himself and had possibly consumed unknown pills. Dispatch could hear arguing over the telephone and at one point, Stone requested officers expedite their response for his safety. Stone eventually made his way outside the apartment and waited in the lobby for the responding officers. Stone provided Dispatch with the additional information that Jennings was wearing a brown leather jacket and had a 10-inch knife in his right back pocket.



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CPD Officers [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene at approximately 0931 hours. As Officer [REDACTED] approached the front entrance to the apartment building, Jennings exited the front entrance and advanced on Officer [REDACTED] with the knife in his right hand and positioned above his head in a striking fashion while saying "shoot me... shoot me". Officer [REDACTED] retreated away from Jennings towards Officer [REDACTED]'s location and the CPD cruisers. Ultimately, Officer [REDACTED] deployed his Taser at Jennings and at nearly the same time Officer [REDACTED] discharged his duty pistol at Jennings who died as a result of his injuries.

At approximately 0955 hours, CPD Sergeant Terry McConnell (Sgt. McConnell) notified Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Acting Special Agent Supervisor Jim Mulford (SA Mulford) and requested BCI investigate the shooting incident. BCI Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) Special Agents were assigned to investigate the incident.

Subsequent Investigation

The following details were obtained throughout the course of the investigation by compiling information gained from interviews, review of recordings from Body Worn Cameras or Cruiser Video Systems, collection & examination of evidence, and research of open-source data or law enforcement restricted information systems. The following only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this Subsequent Investigative summary. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which the information is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation.

Colin A. Jennings (Jennings) was twenty-six (26) years old at the time of his death. Jennings had been staying in Apartment 105 at the Creekside Apartments located at 500 N. Nelson Road in Columbus, Ohio, prior to his death. His boyfriend, Christopher Stone (Stone) had been staying with him since January 27, 2024. According to his mother, Yolanda Jennings (Yolanda), Jennings was originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but she had him move to Columbus, Ohio, because Philadelphia was "so bad". Yolanda reported that Jennings was autistic, had ADHD, social anxiety, and other mental health issues. Yolanda was aware Jennings had made prior comments about self-harm and had attempted suicide in the past. Jennings had no known arrests or criminal convictions at the time of his death.



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The Columbus Division of Police (CPD) had sent officers to Jennings' residence two previous times during the month of February at the request of Stone:

Incident: P24008136

On February 04, 2024 at approximately 1048 hours, Stone reported that Jennings had taken pills in attempt to kill himself and was armed with a paring knife. Stone reported that Jennings made comments that officers would have to shoot him.

When officers arrived on scene, Jennings was waiting for them inside the apartment building near the front exit. Jennings started walking towards his apartment, and Stone alerted officers that Jennings possessed a knife. When confronted by officers about the knife, Jennings retrieved a concealed knife from his waistband and tossed it to the floor. The knife was secured by officers. Jennings spoke with officers inside his apartment and ultimately Jennings agreed to be transported by squad to Grant Medical Center for an evaluation.

Incident: P240107887

On February 14, 2024 at approximately 2052 hours, Stone called CPD requesting a well-being check on Jennings due to concerns he may be harming himself and described Jennings as acting "inebriated". Stone described the February 02, 2024, incident to Dispatch including Jennings having a knife during that incident. Stone was not at the residence at the time he placed the call to CPD. Two CPD officers responded and knocked on the door to Apartment 105. No one answered and officers left without ever contacting Jennings.

Incident: ██████████

(Information collected from interviews, the 911 call recording, Officers' Body Worn Camera (BWC) recordings, & Dispatch CAD records was used to help piece together the events leading up to the fatal shooting of Jennings)

On Thursday February 22, 2024 at approximately 0924 hours, Stone called 911 from Apartment 105 and reported that Jennings was attempting to hurt himself with a knife. During the 911 call, Stone advised Dispatch that this was not the first time this had occurred and notified them of the February 4th incident. Stone provided a detailed description of Jennings, including that he had changed clothing after Stone provided the initial description. During the 911 call, Stone reported he was trying to leave the apartment, but Jennings was blocking the exit. Dispatch noted they heard a commotion



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on the call and Stone was heard saying “*Stay the fuck off me*” and “*Let me go*”. Stone requested officers expedite their response and Dispatch assured him they were responding in emergency status.

Stone was finally able to exit the apartment and advised Dispatch that he would be waiting for officers near the main lobby and that Jennings was still inside the apartment. Dispatch told Stone officers were arriving on scene and requested another description of Jennings’ clothing. Stone provided “*Brown leather coat*”, a 10-inch kitchen-knife in his right back pocket, and “*blue jeans*”. Stone acknowledged officers were on scene and told Dispatch he would be waiting in the lobby for them. The 911 call lasted approximately 9 minutes and 36 seconds.

CPD Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene in Cruiser [REDACTED] at approximately 0931 hours and parked in the parking lot along the sidewalk located near the south-wing of the apartment building [REDACTED] BWC 1). Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] arrived shortly afterwards and parked his cruiser (Cruiser [REDACTED] directly behind Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BWC 1).

As Officer [REDACTED] walked along the sidewalk north towards the front entrance, Jennings, who had been waiting inside the front entrance doors [REDACTED] BWC 2), exited and advanced towards Officer [REDACTED] while saying “*Get away from me*” [REDACTED] BWC 3). Jennings continued to advance towards Officer [REDACTED] with a knife in his right hand. Jennings repeated “*Shoot me... shoot me*” [REDACTED] BWC 4). At approximately 0932 hours, Officer [REDACTED] aired “*He’s got a knife in his hands*” over the radio, withdrew his pistol from the holster, and retreated towards Officer [REDACTED] and the cruisers [REDACTED] BWC 3) & [REDACTED] BWC 5).

Officer [REDACTED] joined Officer [REDACTED] who was positioned near a parked blue car. Officer [REDACTED] announced “*Yeah, I got lethal force*” to Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BWC 6) & [REDACTED] BWC 4). Officer [REDACTED] then issued Jennings the command “*Drop the knife, Man. Drop the knife*” and addressed Officer [REDACTED] with “*Get your Taser out*” [REDACTED] BWC 5). Jennings continued to advance towards the officers with the knife positioned in his right hand while saying “*Shoot me... I wanna die... shoot me*”. As Jennings neared the front of the parked blue car, Officer [REDACTED] told Officer [REDACTED] “*Taser him... Taser him*” and Officer [REDACTED] transitioned from his pistol to his Taser [REDACTED] BWC 8).

At approximately 0932 hours, Jennings rounded the corner of the sidewalk (right-front corner of parked blue vehicle) and continued to advance towards the officers, Officer [REDACTED] deployed his Taser at him ([REDACTED] BWC 10) & [REDACTED] BWC 8). Almost simultaneously, Officer [REDACTED] fired his duty pistol three (3) times at Jennings, striking



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him all three times [REDACTED] BWC 9) & [REDACTED] BWC 10). Jennings was approximately 15-20 feet from officers when he was fatally shot. After Officer [REDACTED] fired his pistol, Officer [REDACTED] aired “shots fired... need a medic”. Officer [REDACTED] approached Jennings and kicked the knife away from his body [REDACTED] BWC 13) & [REDACTED] BWC 15). Officer [REDACTED] secured Jennings in handcuffs and after retrieving first aid supplies, Officer [REDACTED] applied bandages to Jennings’ gunshot wounds and Officer [REDACTED] administered CPR until medics arrived at approximately 0936 hours to take over care. Jennings was transported to Grant Medical Center (Grant) via Columbus Division of Fire (CFD) ambulance and pronounced deceased at 1005 hours, by attending physician, Lamont G. Clay, MD.

From the time Officer [REDACTED] exited his cruiser at the scene to when he discharged his Taser at Jennings, approximately thirty-seven (37) seconds had elapsed. From the time Officer [REDACTED] exited his cruiser at the scene to when he discharged his pistol at Jennings, approximately nineteen (19) seconds had elapsed. Jennings was wearing the clothing Stone last described to Dispatch and in possession of the knife described by Stone. Jennings repeated the words “shoot me” approximately ten (10) times during the brief encounter.

It was discovered that two probes from Officer [REDACTED] Taser were embedded in Jennings’ brown coat (*see below photographs*). In the autopsy report for Jennings, the examiner described additional injuries observed in addition to the gunshot wounds, and none of those injuries were in areas consistent with where the Taser probes were located on the coat. It is unknown if the Taser probes ever had direct contact with Jennings or if the Taser had any effect on Jennings due to the timing of the gunfire from Officer [REDACTED]





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The following are screenshots taken from BWC recordings for Officer [REDACTED] ('Axon_Body_3_Video_2024-02-22_0931_X60A8833E') and Officer [REDACTED] ('Axon_Body_3_Video_2024-02-22_0932_X60A8537H') to help illustrate the previously described events. Additional information can be found in the Investigative Reports documenting each BWC recording review.



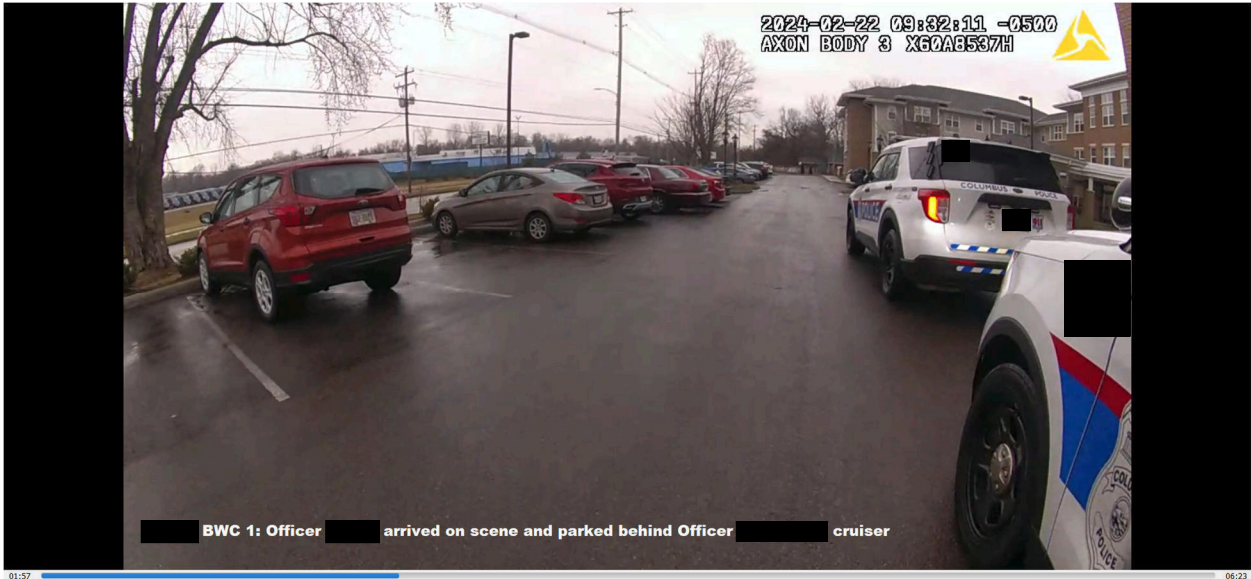
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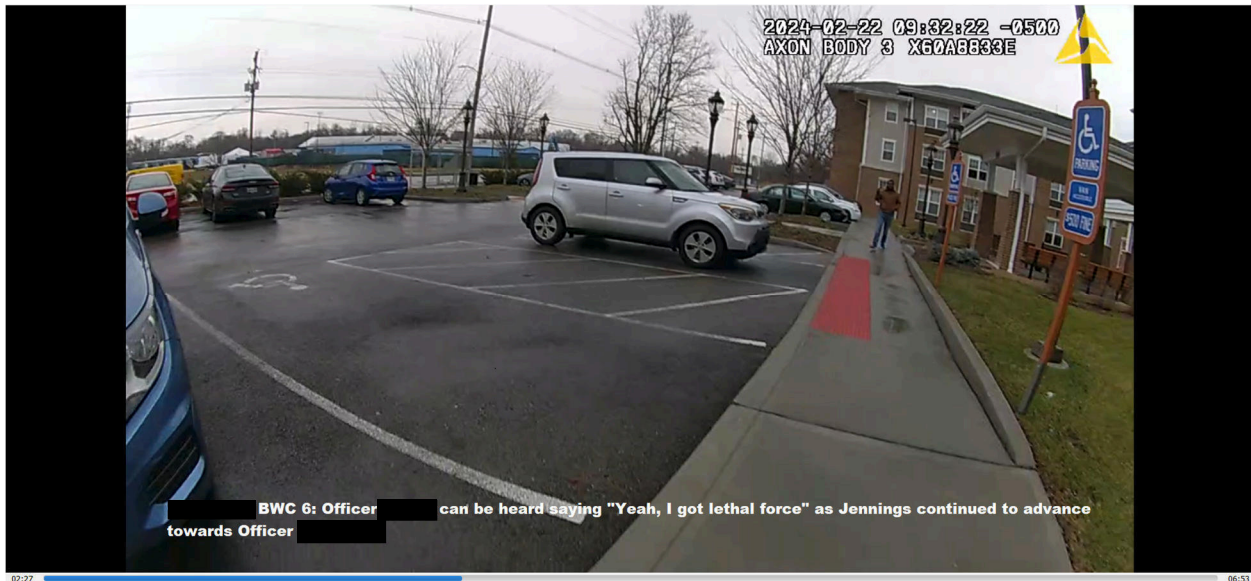
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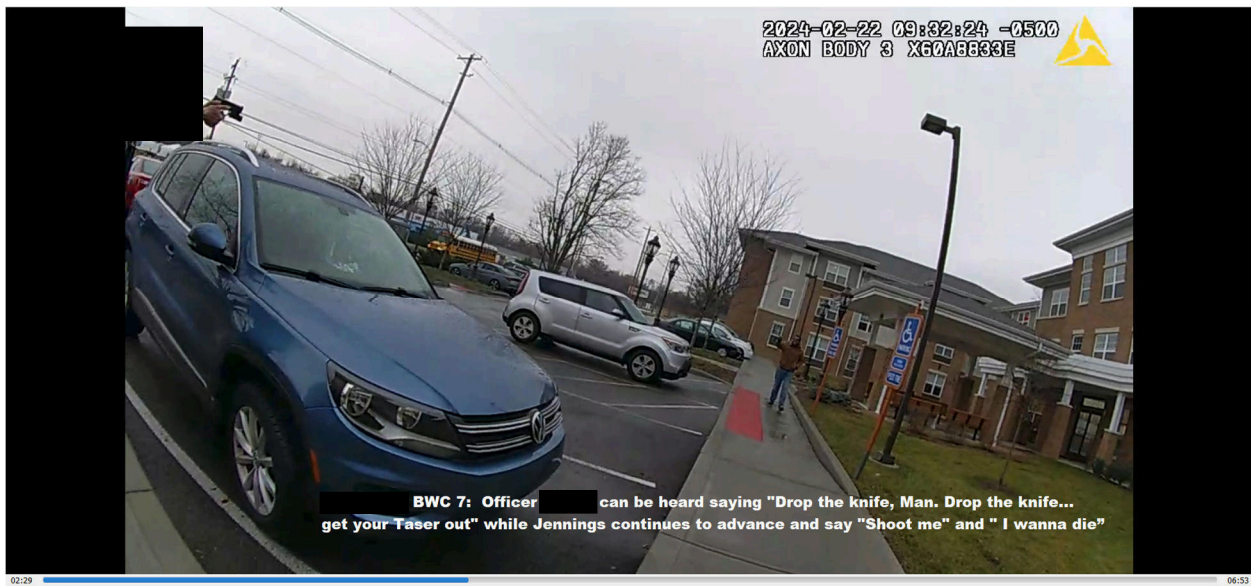
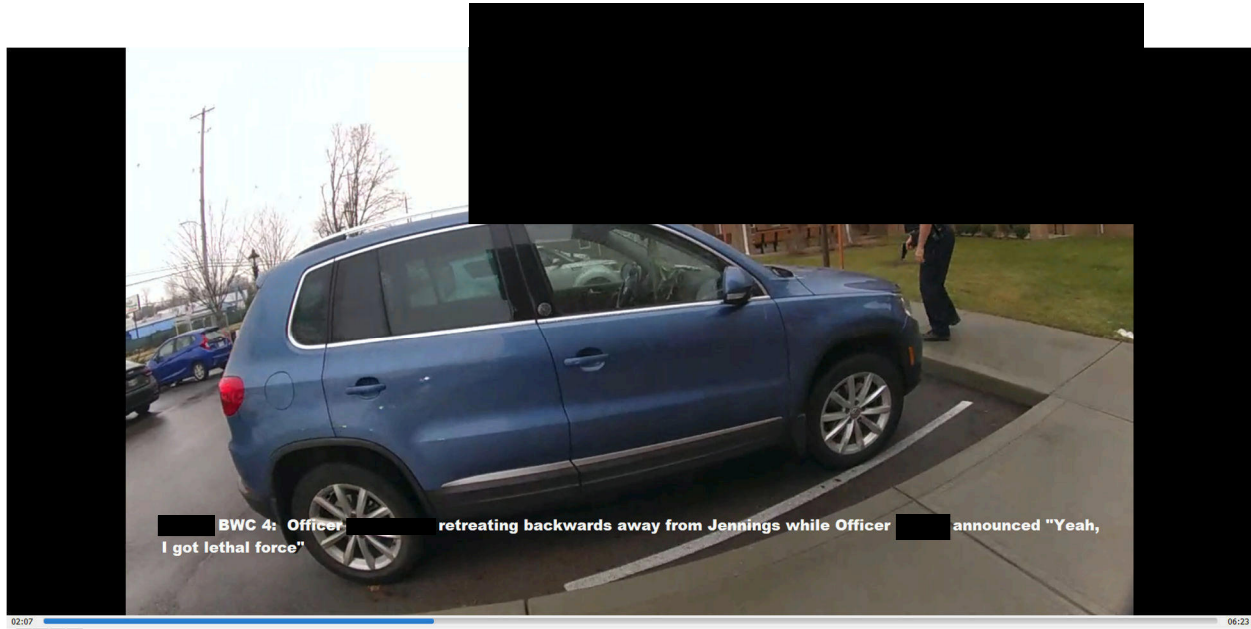
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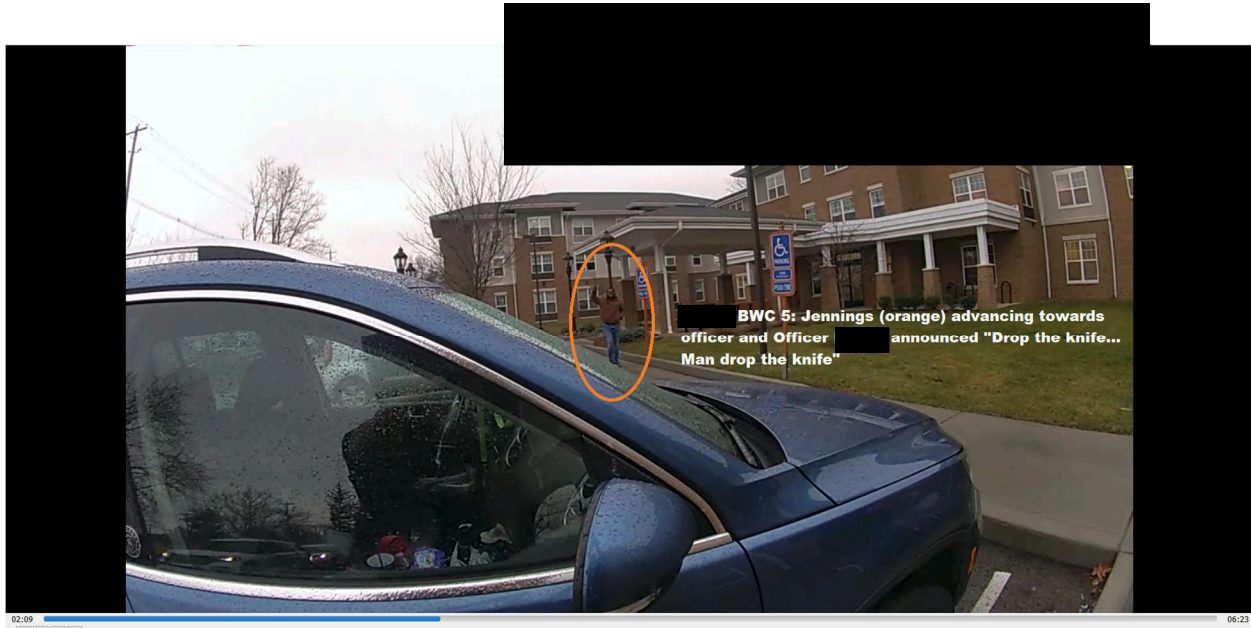
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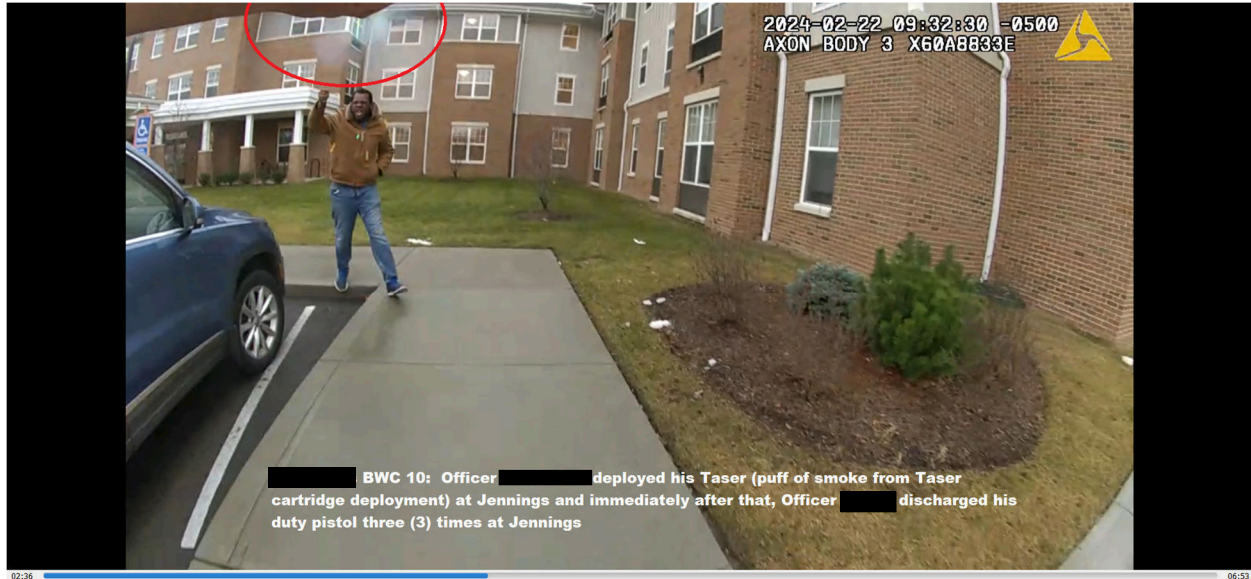




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Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent (Colin August Jennings) was obtained from the Franklin County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

All three (3) fired cartridge cases (BCI #1, Scene #1) recovered from the incident scene and all three (3) fired bullets (Scene #4, Item #1) recovered from autopsy of Colin Jennings (Jennings) were source matched to Officer [REDACTED]'s Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm duty pistol.

Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsized below.



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2024-02-22 Christopher Stone Interview (IR-5)

On February 22, 2024 at approximately 1225 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) conducted an interview with Christopher Stone (Stone) as a witness to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on February 22, 2024, involving Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and Colin Jennings (Jennings) in the parking lot of 500 North Nelson Road.

Stone reported he has been living at Creekside Place Apartments (Creekside) at 500 North Nelson Road since January 27, 2024. Prior to residing at Creekside, Stone lived at 1543 Cordell Avenue in Columbus, OH. Stone explained he met Jennings while working at a Goodwill store on North High Street in Columbus, and the two eventually developed a relationship. Stone said he and Jennings have been in a relationship since November 2021.

Stone and Jennings live together at Creekside in Apartment 105. Stone explained Jennings was already living at Creekside before Stone moved there. Stone stated Jennings has a history of suicidal behavior. Stone also said Jennings was often dishonest, which caused frequent contention between them. Stone reported he just got out of prison due to a parole violation involving Jennings and did not want to be involved in any further situations which might result in Stone going back to prison. Stone recalled incidents in the past during which Jennings displayed suicidal behavior such as swallowing excessive amounts of pills, drinking chlorine bleach, and attempting to jump in front of a moving bus. Stone said Jennings had been seeing a therapist weekly and has seen psychiatrists before as well.

Stone recalled a previous incident which occurred approximately two weeks ago, when CPD had to be called to due Jennings's behavior. Stone had an argument with Jennings, allegedly about Jennings's deceptive behavior. Stone believed Jennings had swallowed several entire bottles of pills. Stone immediately called 911. Stone advised 911 that Jennings was in possession of a knife. When police arrived, Jennings still had a knife which he ended up dropping on the ground. Due to Jennings potentially overdosing on the pills he had taken; he was transported via ambulance to Grant Medical Center (Grant). Stone rode with Jennings in the ambulance. Jennings was discharged from the hospital later that evening. Stone and Jennings returned home, and Jennings was still upset.

On the morning of the date of the OICI, Stone claimed he and Jennings were arguing about lies Jennings had been telling. Stone told Jennings he was leaving, then Jennings



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began making suicidal statements and was displaying self-harming behavior by pushing a kitchen knife against his wrists attempting to puncture the skin. Stone told Jennings to stop, then Jennings started "raking" the knife up and down his arm between his wrist and elbow. Stone again told Jennings to stop before he hurt himself bad enough to have to go to the hospital again. Stone called 911 and Jennings tried to stop Stone and take the phone from him. Stone said the 911 operator was on the phone and could hear everything Jennings was saying.

Stone moved from inside the apartment into the hallway, with Jennings grabbing his arm in an attempt to prevent Stone from leaving. Stone explained there were security cameras in the hallway, which he wanted to ensure captured his interaction with Jennings. Jennings fell to the floor and latched onto Stone's leg. Stone was still on the phone with 911 at the time and asked them to have CPD who were en route to "step it up" because the altercation was becoming physical. Stone recalled shoving Jennings away when Jennings grabbed him. Stone was prepared to restrain Jennings to prevent him from hurting himself or someone else.

Stone estimated CPD arrived five to seven minutes after he had dialed 911. Stone recalled Jennings ran past him and exited the building through the front door. Stone was unsure where Jennings went after he exited the building. Stone did not see or hear any of Jennings's interaction with CPD when they arrived. Stone said he looked outside through a window on the first floor and saw police vehicles on scene with flashing lights. Stone initially thought CPD had tased Jennings and did not realize at the time that Jennings had been shot. Stone said the property manager (female), an unknown male, and possibly another individual were also looking outside. Stone believed the property manager ran outside to see what was happening, and Stone described her demeanor as "not very happy" when she came back inside. Stone denied hearing gunshots and said he could not hear what anyone outside the building was saying.

Stone believed Jennings had not been taking his prescribed medications since he was discharged from Grant approximately two weeks ago. Stone denied Jennings threatened him directly or came after him with the knife. Stone explained Jennings went back into the apartment and changed into a brown coat and blue jeans before he ran outside, which is when Stone believed Jennings may have grabbed the knife.

Stone confirmed he had been physically threatened by Jennings in the past, specifically with a knife. Stone claimed Jennings made a statement, "*Bitch I'll stab you*" to Stone. Stone estimated this occurred approximately a year and a half ago. Since then, Jennings has made threats to harm himself as well as threats towards law enforcement. Stone remembered after the previous time the police had been called due to Jennings's behavior, Jennings had stated he "*should've stabbed a cop*".



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Stone had two cell phones in his possession. Stone described one as an "internet phone" which he only uses on Wi-fi, and another cell phone he uses for phone calls and text messages. Stone said there was an audio recording on his internet phone of a previous incident with Jennings making threats to kill himself. Stone agreed to provide the audio recording to BCI. Stone was asked about a parole violation he had previously mentioned. Stone explained he had served a ten-year prison sentence for convictions of kidnapping and aggravated robbery and is currently on parole after being released in 2021. Stone said he had violated his parole due to Jennings being in possession of an airsoft gun, which had been observed by Stone's parole officer during a home visit. Stone went back to prison for nine months and was released on January 27, 2024.

Stone explained Jennings's mother, Yolanda Jennings (Yolanda), lives in Philadelphia, PA. Stone believed Jennings had most recently spoken to his mother several days ago on the phone. Stone did not know Yolanda's phone number.

At the conclusion of the interview, Stone provided verbal and written consent for BCI to obtain a digital copy of the aforementioned audio recording from his internet phone. SA Holcomb received the audio recording file via email, which was uploaded to the Evidence.com case management system.

2024-03-13 Officer [REDACTED] Interview (IR-11)

On March 13, 2024 at approximately 1008 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Ryan Scheiderer (SA Scheiderer) and Special Matt Collins (SA Collins) obtained written and recorded audio statements from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] regarding a February 22, 2024 shooting incident between CPD officers and Colin Jennings (Jennings) that occurred at 500 N. Nelson Road, Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). Jennings was fatally shot by Officer [REDACTED] during that encounter. Officer [REDACTED]'s Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Nicole Wannemacher (Attorney Wannemacher) was present and Officer [REDACTED] signed a BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form affirming his decision to provide a voluntary statement to BCI regarding the incident. The following is a summation of the contact with Officer [REDACTED] and additional details can be found in the audio recording of the interview and Officer [REDACTED]'s signed written statement. *(It should be noted that the officer referred to Colin Jennings as "Suspect" and that verbiage may have been used throughout the interview, but it was understood by all parties that "suspect" and "subject" referenced Jennings.)*

Excerpts from written statement:



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"Since the information relayed over the radio involved a knife, I drew my firearm as I walked toward the building. Officer [REDACTED] was approximately 15-20 feet ahead of me. I saw a male black walking west down the main pathway with the cover roof that led into the apartment complex. Just as he was reaching the parking lot at the end of the pathway and turned left (south) towards Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] aird that he had a knife in his hand and I responded that I had lethal force. Officer [REDACTED] was walking backwards to create space between himself and the suspect. There was a small SUV parked in the last parking space (south) and I took a position at the passenger side door, with my weapon pointed over the vehicle towards the suspect."

"I yelled at the suspect to "Drop the knife!" I believe the suspect was repeatedly yelling "Shoot me!" He was quickly advancing south on the sidewalk towards us with a large knife raised up in his right hand. I told Officer [REDACTED] to get out his taser and tase him while I provided lethal cover. I saw Officer [REDACTED] with the taser in his hand the one of the dots on the suspect. The suspect was quickly closing the gap between us and I took a couple steps back(west). As I stepped backwards, I saw Officer [REDACTED] flip/rotate his wrist with the taser in it. My weapon was still pointed at the suspect and he continued advancing towards us. I repeated "tase him" to Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect reached the front corner (driver's side) of the SUV. I said, "back up" and I stepped back a couple feet. I was now a couple feet behind and slightly south off the rear passenger side of the small SUV."

"The suspect quickly went around the front of the SUV—advancing towards us—with the knife raised in his right hand. It is at that moment that I fired my weapon at the suspect, He went down onto the sidewalk and dropped the knife. He was laying on his stomach with his head towards us. I approached him with my weapon still drawn and kicked the knife away. I then holstered my weapon and secured him while Officer [REDACTED] went to get first aid equipment. I put on gloves and Officer [REDACTED] and I rendered aid until medics arrived. I left the scene with Officer Support and went to the Wellness Center where I waited for BCI Agents to arrive. This ended my involvement in this incident."

"I believe I fired 3 shots during this incident. I fired in rapid succession and I would estimate that I fired all 3 rounds in approximately 1 second, I fired using a two-handed grip and I believe I utilized my sights. I fired from a standing position a couple feet southwest of the rear passenger corner of the SUV. My target was the suspect's center mass. The direction of my shots was east to slightly southeast. My backdrop was the exterior brick wall. I would estimate that I was approximately 10-12 feet from the suspect when I fired. I did not have any cover or concealment when I fired."

"At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of Officer [REDACTED]. Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had exited the apartment complex with a large knife in his hand and came directly towards Officer [REDACTED]."



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██████████ Officer ██████████ and I were the only officers on scene and we were both at the south end of building. The suspect came directly towards us, with the knife raised, yelling at us to shoot him. Initially, I told Officer ██████████ to tase him as we had time, distance, barrier, lethal force backup and it was reasonable. However, once the suspect came around the front of the SUV and was directly in front of us, we no longer had time, distance, or barrier and therefore it was no longer reasonable. Before I fired my weapon, I saw Officer ██████████ flipping/rotating his wrist with the taser in his hand. We had just received these tasers approximately a week earlier and they are different from our prior tasers. The new tasers have two sets of pronged darts: one for short range and one for longer range. The way you switch between the two distances is by flipping/rotating the taser. I thought that potentially the taser was malfunctioning. I did not know he discharged the taser until after I had fired my weapon and I saw the wires.”

“Immediately before I discharged my firearm, the suspect had rounded the front of the SUV and was within 10-12 feet of us. We had already attempted to deescalate by stepping back to create more distance but the suspect continued to aggressively come towards us with the knife raised in his hand yelling to shoot him. In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal and just two days before this incident an officer was seriously injured and almost killed when he was stabbed by a suspect. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of Officer ██████████ from the suspect’s deadly threat at the time I fired my weapon.”

“I now know that the suspect is Colin Jennings. I do not recognize this person as anyone I have ever had any prior encounters with, professionally nor personally. I had the opportunity to review the footage of this incident after this event. After doing so, I realized that when I fired Officer ██████████ was south and east of me when I fired. I thought he was directly beside me. Also, at some point, I thought the suspect had the knife in his left hand as well but from the video it appears that it was always in his right hand.”

Follow-up Questions:

Agents asked a series of clarifying questions- after receiving Officer ██████████’s official written statement. The following is a summation of the information obtained from those questions.

Officer ██████████ has not attended Crisis Intervention Training. Officer ██████████ stated he received a “brief” description of Jennings while responding to the incident location but couldn’t remember if the description came from the radio or the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) in his cruiser. Officer ██████████ remembered the description given was male/Black wearing a blue shirt that had locked himself in a bathroom inside the apartment and had changed clothing.



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Officer [REDACTED] explained that Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] was armed with a Taser X7 which has two cartridges. One cartridge is for close quarters (6ft – 10ft) deployment and the second is for greater distances (10ft to 25ft) (distances were approximated). Officers can switch between which cartridge they intend to deploy by “canting” the Taser and then “flipping” it back up. The Taser X7 is set up so that when it is first turned on, the close quarters cartridge is the default. Officer [REDACTED] was not aware Officer [REDACTED] had deployed a Taser when he discharged his firearm. Officer [REDACTED] never observed any behaviors from Jennings consistent with him being affected by a successful Taser deployment. Officer [REDACTED] was asked if there was anything other than using deadly force he could have done to resolve the situation with Jennings. Officer [REDACTED] answered, “In hindsight, I feel like I could have given more verbal commands.” Officer [REDACTED] clarified he issued Jennings commands on February 22nd, but Jennings didn’t comply.

Officer [REDACTED] was asked about two notations in his CPD Internal Affairs Bureau Employee Report (201306-0319 dated 3/28/2013 and 201310-0070 dated 6/01/2013) that documented the allegations “Violation of Policy, Injury to prisoner” with dispositions “Outside of Policy”. Officer [REDACTED] stated he wasn’t certain about those notations but believed the one involved him transporting a prisoner and when they had to unload the prisoner, there was a use of force. Officer [REDACTED] stated the use of force was found to be within policy, but he hadn’t activated the backseat camera and that was found to be outside policy. Officer [REDACTED] believed the other incident involved another prisoner transport where an officer used a Taser, but he didn’t recall anyone being found outside policy regarding that incident. (It should be noted that SA Scheiderer had previously asked CPD for the records regarding both notations and due to retention policies, neither had any available records to review.)

Officer [REDACTED] was asked about the comment “In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal and just two days before this incident an officer was seriously injured and almost killed when he was stabbed by a suspect” found in his written statement. Officer [REDACTED] explained that in the academy, officers are taught that suicidal suspects are very frequently homicidal, and if they are willing to take their own life, they could take the life of another. Officer [REDACTED] clarified that regarding an officer being stabbed, he had heard a news report on the radio that another local jurisdiction’s officer had been stabbed in the head by a suspect. Officer [REDACTED] was aware of that incident prior to encountering Jennings on February 22nd . Officer [REDACTED] was asked about his comment heard on his Body Worn Camera (BWC) video regarding him telling Officer [REDACTED] he had lethal coverage and for Officer [REDACTED] to use a Taser. Officer [REDACTED] explained the five-prong assessment officers utilize when considering the use of a Taser and because he was able to cover Jennings with his firearm, there was distance between officers and Jennings, and the fact Officer [REDACTED]



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had a barrier (parked vehicle) between him and Jennings, he felt Officer [REDACTED] may be able to utilize a Taser to immobilize Jennings. Officer [REDACTED] stated that due to Jennings quickly closing the distance between himself and officers, Jennings moving around the barrier (parked vehicle) between him and officers, and the fact that he had a knife, that changed and caused Officer [REDACTED] to utilize his firearm.

Officer [REDACTED] was not aware of the February 04, 2024 (Jennings taking pills and making comments that officer would have to shoot him) and February 14, 2024 (well-being check) calls for service involving Jennings at 500 N. Nelson Road prior to his contact with Jennings on February 22nd, but did learn of them after the shooting incident.

Officer [REDACTED] stated that his actions on February 22nd were consistent with the training he received from CPD and his experiences as a police officer at CPD. Officer [REDACTED] denied anyone telling him what to say or asking him to lie or fabricate information regarding his statement.

2024-03-13 Officer [REDACTED] Interview (IR-12)

On March 13, 2024 at approximately 1045 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Ryan Scheiderer (SA Scheiderer) and Special Matt Collins (SA Collins) obtained written and recorded audio statements from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] regarding a February 22, 2024 shooting incident between CPD officers and Colin Jennings (Jennings) that occurred at 500 N. Nelson Road, Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). Jennings was fatally shot by Officer [REDACTED] during that encounter. Officer [REDACTED] Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Nicole Wannemacher (Attorney Wannemacher) was present and Officer [REDACTED] signed a BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form affirming his decision to provide a voluntary statement to BCI regarding the incident. The following is a summation of the contact with Officer [REDACTED] and additional details can be found in the audio recording of the interview and Officer [REDACTED] signed written statement. *(It should be noted that the officer referred to Colin Jennings as "Suspect" and that verbiage may have been used throughout the interview, but it was understood by all parties that "suspect" and "subject" referenced Jennings.)*

Excerpts from written statement:

"As I was driving, I was listening to the radio updates and they aired that the caller was outside the apartment complex. I reached the apartment complex in approximately 5 minutes. Due to the caller reporting the suspect was armed with the



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knife, this is a 2-officer run. I pulled into the parking lot and I parked the cruiser at the south end of the building. I knew that Officer [REDACTED] would be just a few seconds behind me so I exited my cruiser and began walking north towards the main entrance. The apartment complex is 3 stories high and shaped like a wide "U". In the middle there is a covered patio/walkway that leads from the parking lot to the main entrance doors."

"I was about 10-15 feet from the main walkway that leads directly into the apartment building when a male black quickly exited the complex walking west towards the parking lot."

"Within a second or two I realized that he had a large knife in his right hand. I immediately stopped and quickly started moving backwards while drawing my firearm. I aired that the suspect had a knife in his hand."

"The suspect kept repeating "Shoot me! Shoot me!" He was quickly advancing south on the sidewalk towards me with a large knife raised up in his right hand. I heard Officer [REDACTED] gave him verbal commands to drop the knife. He stated that he had lethal force and to get my taser out. I saw Officer [REDACTED] out of the corner of my eye with his gun pointed at the suspect. As I continued stepping backwards, I holstered my firearm and drew my taser. The suspect was quickly closing the gap between us and I reached the end of the sidewalk that goes south and I turned west and continued to back up along the sidewalk that was directly next (south) to the parked SUV."

"I was just issued a new taser approximately a week earlier and it has two settings and two sets of pronged darts. The default is close range. When I initially pointed my taser (there is a red and green dot representing the two darts) at the suspect, I did not have a good spread due to the distance. I rotated my wrist while holding the taser to switch to the long-range deployment. As I did this, the suspect reached the front of the SUV that was separating us. Officer [REDACTED] yelled to backup and I took another step or two backwards (west). The suspect quickly rounded the front of the SUV and was approximately 10-15 feet in front of us. He had the knife raised in his right hand and continued advancing towards us. It was at that moment that I deployed my taser at the suspect."

"Simultaneously with firing the taser, I heard gunshots. The suspect dropped the knife while falling to the sidewalk. He was lying face down, with his head towards us. Officer [REDACTED] approached the suspect and kicked the knife away. He aired "shots fired" and for a medic. I assisted Officer [REDACTED] in securing the suspect and then went to the cruiser to get first aid equipment. I put on gloves, as did Officer [REDACTED] and rendered aid until medics arrived. I left the scene with Officer Support and went to the Wellness Center where I waited for BCI Agents to arrive. This ended my involvement in this incident."



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"I deployed one set of pronged darts at the suspect. I fired using a two-handed grip and I used the red and green dot sights. I fired from a standing position a couple feet southwest of the rear passenger corner of the SUV. My target was the suspect's center mass. The direction of my taser deployment was east to slightly southeast. My backdrop was the exterior brick wall. I would estimate that I was approximately 10-12 feet from the suspect when I deployed my taser. I did not have any cover or concealment when I deployed. It would generally not be reasonable to use a taser when a suspect is armed with a knife, as a knife is a deadly weapon. However, because Officer ██████ had lethal force backup and we initially had the SUV between us and the suspect (which provided the required barrier) the attempted use of the taser was reasonable. It did not appear that the taser was effective as the darts did not appear to fully penetrate the thick jacket he was wearing."

"At the time I fired the taser at the suspect, I was in fear for my life as well as the life of Officer ██████. Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had exited the apartment complex in an agitated and came directly towards me with a large knife raised in his hand, yelling "shoot me!" Despite backing up and trying to create distance, and Officer ██████ giving commands to drop the knife, the suspect continued to quickly advance towards me with the knife raised in his hand. Immediately before I discharged the taser, the suspect had rounded the SUV—with the knife raised in his hand—and was within 10-12 feet of us. In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal and just two days before this incident an officer was seriously injured and almost killed when he was stabbed by a suspect."

Follow-up Questions:

Agents asked a series of clarifying questions after receiving Officer ██████ official written statement. The following is a summation of the information obtained from those questions.

Officer ██████ has not attended Crisis Intervention Training. Officer ██████ recalled being told the "suspect" was a male/Black who had locked himself in a bathroom and that the caller, according to Dispatch, was a female and would be outside the apartment building.

Officer ██████ clarified that the first time he observed Jennings, was when he observed the front entrance door "fling open" and Jennings exited. At that time, Officer ██████ had not identified the subject as Jennings, but based on how the subject exited "forcibly", he believed it was the subject the call was about. Officer ██████ immediately noticed the subject had a "large" knife in his hand. Officer ██████ did not observe Jennings standing inside the building waiting at the front door entrance prior to the door opening.



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Officer [REDACTED] explained how the Taser X7 works regarding the two separate cartridges and how one is for close quarters deployment and the other for extended ranges. Officer [REDACTED] explained that due to the way the Taser's laser dot sight appeared on Jennings, he decided to use the extended range cartridge. Officer [REDACTED] stated that for it to be reasonable for him to use a Taser against Jennings, he needed lethal force "backup", which he did by Officer [REDACTED] having his pistol aimed at Jennings.

Officer [REDACTED] was asked about the comment in his written statement regarding an officer who had just been stabbed. Officer [REDACTED] clarified that a couple days prior to his encounter with Jennings, he saw a story on the news about a local township officer who had been stabbed in the head during a non-adversarial call for service.

Officer [REDACTED] was asked if there was anything, other than deploying his Taser at Jennings, he could have done to resolve the situation. Officer [REDACTED] responded, "I don't believe so". Officer [REDACTED] commented he couldn't believe how fast the incident occurred. Officer [REDACTED] believed that from the time he first observed Jennings with a knife until shots were fired, only approximately ten (10) seconds had elapsed. Officer [REDACTED] clarified that he initially drew his pistol after seeing Jennings with the knife and transitioned to his Taser after retreating behind the parked vehicle where Officer [REDACTED] was located.

Officer [REDACTED] was not aware of the February 04, 2024 (Jennings taking pills and making comments that officer would have to shoot him) and February 14, 2024 (well-being check) calls for service involving Jennings at 500 N. Nelson Road prior to his contact with Jennings on February 22nd.

Officer [REDACTED] wasn't sure if the Taser was effective against Jennings due to everything happening so quickly and the gunshot happening almost simultaneous to him deploying the Taser. However, once Officer [REDACTED] began evaluating Jennings' injuries, he observed that it didn't appear that the Taser's probes ever fully penetrated Jennings' thick jacket.

Officer [REDACTED] was asked about the comments in his written statement "In our training we are taught that suicidal is homicidal" and he clarified that officers are trained that if someone is willing to kill themselves, they are willing to kill someone else.

Officer [REDACTED] was asked if he had any training involving subjects armed with a knife. Officer [REDACTED] confirmed he had been trained regarding that and that what occurred with Jennings was almost identical to many scenarios used in their training. Officer [REDACTED] further explained that a subject with a knife acting in an aggressive



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manner is considered a “deadly force” situation. Officer ██████ stated that had he been alone when he encountered Jennings, he would not have retrieved his Taser, because it was a deadly force situation, and he would have drawn his pistol. Officer ██████ confirmed him hearing Officer ██████ stating he had lethal force was the determining factor on him transitioning to his Taser. Officer ██████ confirmed none of the training he had received indicated a knife was not a deadly weapon.

Throughout the contact with Officer ██████ he made several comments about how fast or quickly everything occurred. Officer ██████ stated that his actions on February 22nd were consistent with the training he received from CPD and his experiences as a police officer at CPD. Officer ██████ denied anyone telling him what to say or asking him to lie or fabricate information regarding his statement.

When asked if he had anything he wished to add to his statement, Officer ██████ responded “*I just think it was an unfortunate incident. You know, for Mr. Jennings, but umm... he created that situation and it just happened so fast, we weren't left with any other options for our own safety.*”

Summary

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this officer-involved critical incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Ryan Scheiderer. SA Scheiderer can be reached via email at Ryan.Scheiderer@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 740-506-5157.

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