



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: Ofc. Anthony Muscaro (W)
Date of Activity: 08/03/2023
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On Thursday, August 3, 2023 at approximately 1203 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer Anthony Muscaro (Officer Muscaro). BCI was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving CPD which had occurred on July 6, 2023. BCI was informed that CPD officers were involved in a shooting that occurred on I-70 East near the Mound Street exit. The purpose of this interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Officer Muscaro.

Prior to the interview, Officer Muscaro was advised his statement was voluntary as a witness to the OICI. The interview took place at the law office of Kate Harshman, who was also present during the interview as Officer Muscaro's legal counsel. The 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.

Officer Muscaro's employment with CPD began in June 2019. Officer Muscaro's current assignment is "15B12" second shift from 1500 hours to 2300 hours with Thursday's and Friday's off. At the time of the incident, Officer Muscaro was at the CPD substation. He was assigned to CPD cruiser #154 with Officer Luis Valencia (Officer Valencia). Officer Muscaro heard over the radio information about a pursuit which was related to a bank robbery. The suspected vehicle was being pursued on I-70.

Officer Muscaro and Officer Valencia left the substation and headed towards the location of the vehicle pursuit. Officer Valencia was driving the cruiser. Officer Muscaro believed they were behind the pursuit by the time they entered I-70 near Hague Avenue. Officer Muscaro heard on the radio the pursued vehicle was passing the Mound Street exit. As they were approaching the pursuit location, Officer Muscaro heard "10-3, shots fired," on the radio.

Upon arrival, Officer Muscaro observed vehicle traffic was "bunched up" near the location of the pursued vehicle and was afraid they would not be able to get their cruiser any closer. Knowing

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the occupants of the pursued vehicle had allegedly robbed a bank at gunpoint, Officer Muscaro prepared and deployed his rifle. Officer Muscaro exited the cruiser and ran to the location of the incident on foot, a distance he estimated of approximately 60 to 70 yards.

Officer Muscaro stated, "I think the volley of gunfire had lulled just before I got there." Officer Muscaro observed other CPD officers approaching an involved individual who was down on the ground. Officer Muscaro also saw Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] down on the ground, who Officer Muscaro said "didn't look too well." Officer Muscaro indicated he felt he would be best utilized by providing first aid to Officer [REDACTED]. Officer Muscaro reported he has 13 years of experience as a military combat medic. Officer Muscaro applied a tourniquet to Officer [REDACTED] who had apparently sustained a gunshot wound in his leg.

Officer Muscaro recalled he may have seen a firearm on the ground at the scene of the incident, which he assumed belonged to a law enforcement officer. Officer Muscaro believed this firearm was picked up by another CPD officer.

Before he was able to render aid to Officer [REDACTED] Officer Muscaro handed his patrol rifle to another CPD officer. This rifle was collected by BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) investigators while the scene was being processed. Officer Muscaro stated he did not fire this weapon or any other weapon during the incident.

Officer Muscaro rode with several other CPD officers in a cruiser to transport Officer [REDACTED] to Grant Medical Center for emergency medical attention for his injuries. Officer Muscaro was with Officer [REDACTED] until medical professionals at the hospital took over.

Interview concluded at approximately 1216 hours.

After the audio recorded interview had concluded, Officer Muscaro mentioned there was a handgun inside the cruiser he went to the hospital in, and believed this firearm did not belong to a law enforcement officer.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Officer Anthony Muscaro Interview