



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 John Kifer (W)
Date of Activity: 07/06/2023
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On Thursday, July 06, 2023 at approximately 1930 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) K-9 Officer John Kifer (Officer Kifer), badge #1401. BCI was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving CPD which had occurred earlier that day. 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 Kifer.

The interview took place near the scene of the incident on I-70. 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 Kifer's current assignment is second shift from 1400 hours to 2100 hours with Sundays and Mondays off. At the time of the incident, Officer Kifer was in CPD marked police vehicle #K9-7. Officer Kifer had heard over the radio Whitehall Police Department (Whitehall PD) was pursuing a vehicle suspected of robbing a bank.

Officer Kifer began pursuing the suspected vehicle on I-70 eastbound near Wilson Road. Officer Kifer pursued the vehicle to the location of the OICI. When he heard shots being fired, Officer Kifer exited his vehicle. Officer Kifer took cover behind a nearby vehicle, which may have been a Chevy Malibu, with his duty weapon unholstered. Officer Kifer trained his weapon on the unidentified subject, who was already down on the ground and not moving. Officer Kifer did not see or hear any additional gunfire. Officer Kifer did not fire his weapon.

Officer Kifer saw the subject down on the ground, and also saw a CPD officer down who appeared to be wounded. Officer Kifer observed other CPD officers approach the unidentified subject to secure him. Officer Kifer then moved to the downed CPD officer, who appeared to have sustained a gunshot wound. As other CPD officers applied a tourniquet on the injured officer, Officer Kifer took a rifle from CPD Officer Muscaro (badge #3145). The injured

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CPD officer was loaded into a police cruiser and evacuated from the scene for medical treatment. Officer Kifer provided scene security while other CPD officers rendered first aid to the unidentified subject.

Officer Kifer took his K-9 dog to the area where two other individuals had fled the scene. The K-9 dog located a black hoodie and searched the area, but neither individual could be located.

BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) agents photographed and collected the rifle Officer Kifer had been handed by Officer Muscaro. Officer Kifer reported the rifle had not been fired during the incident.

Interview concluded at approximately 1938 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: CPD K9 Officer John Kifer Interview Audio 07.06.2023