



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 Witness  
**Involves:** Tonya Darling-Denton (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/06/2023  
**Author:** SA Kyle Douglass, #126

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, July 06, 2023 at approximately 1816 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Tonya Darling-Denton (Denton), relative to the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) officer-involved shooting which took place on Thursday, July 6, 2023. The interview took place on scene at I-70 near Mound Street in Columbus, OH. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual. Denton was identified as a witness of the incident. Denton was accompanied by a female juvenile, who she identified as Tatiana Ludy (Ludy).

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.

Denton was traveling eastbound on I-70 in her black Chevrolet Malibu on her way to a restaurant. Denton explained she was merging when she saw a black Porsche SUV hit the concrete barrier on the right side of the road then swerve back into the freeway lanes. Denton saw "two boys" jump out of the Porsche and jump over the concrete barrier on the south side of the freeway towards Mound Street. Ludy said she believed both of them were wearing black shirts and black shoes.

Denton said she heard several popping sounds, then saw a CPD police officer on foot approaching her vehicle from the rear. Denton recalled the driver of the Porsche exited the vehicle with a gun, then fired at and struck a nearby CPD officer who was near the concrete barrier. Denton described the Porsche driver wearing tan-colored pants and a hoodie. Denton explained the driver ran back to the Porsche, and then away from the vehicle running eastbound on I-70. Denton recalled the Porsche driver then turned around and started walking back towards the Porsche and towards other responding CPD officers who were present. Denton said CPD officers fired numerous shots at the Porsche driver as he walked towards them. The Porsche driver stumbled and then fell to the ground.

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Denton stated all three occupants who had exited the black Porsche had firearms in their hands. Denton and Ludy only saw the Porsche driver fire his gun and CPD officers. Ludy said CPD officers began firing at the Porsche driver as he pointed his gun at them and then fired, striking one CPD officer. The CPD officer who was struck fell to his knees and other responding officers rushed to his position. Denton explained the injured CPD officer slid to the ground against the concrete barrier and continued to fire at the Porsche driver. Denton believed the Porsche driver shot at police first, and they returned fire.

Denton explained she saw the gun in the Porsche driver's hand when he exited the vehicle and shot at CPD officers. After the Porsche driver shot and injured the CPD officer, Denton said the Porsche driver ran around the front of the Porsche and out of sight. When the Porsche driver came back into view and started running eastbound on I-70 she could no longer see whether or not he still had a firearm. Denton was unsure how many shots the Porsche driver fired.

Denton heard CPD officers yelling verbal commands to stop to the individuals who jumped out of the Porsche SUV. Denton did not see what direction the passengers ran after they jumped over the barrier towards Mound Street.

Denton reported CPD officers immediately performed CPR and first aid on the Porsche driver after he fell to the ground. Denton estimated CPD officers rendered medical aid to the Porsche driver for approximately 20 minutes until the paramedics came. Denton and Ludy said paramedics checked the Porsche driver and then stopped working on him. Denton and Ludy assumed the Porsche driver was deceased. Denton explained the CPD officer who had been shot was placed in the back of a police vehicle and then driven away from the scene.

Denton was unsure if her vehicle had been struck by gunfire. Her vehicle windows were not open during the incident. After the incident concluded, CPD officers placed Denton and Ludy in the back of a police vehicle.

Interview concluded at approximately 1842 hours.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Tonya Darling-Denton Interview Audio 07.06.2023