



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



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Case Title: OICI Interstate 270 Northbound on Big Walnut Creek Bridge

Case Number: 2021-0584

Preface

The following prosecutor summary serves as an overview into the criminal investigation of an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Interstate 270 Northbound on Big Walnut Creek Bridge, Columbus, Ohio, involving Andrew Teague (Teague) and law enforcement officers from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). Teague died as a result of gunshot wounds sustained from this altercation. BCI Crime Scene and Special Investigation Agents were assigned the OICI investigation. CPD handled the traffic investigation and all other related allegations concerning Teague.

This report only summarizes the investigative activity and information gathered by BCI. Every fact, detail, and full summary of all interviews is not presented in this report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Audio and/or video recordings exist for some of the interviews conducted revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

Synopsis of Incident:

On February 2, 2021, Teague reportedly discharged multiple rounds from a firearm into an individual's house. The incident is captured on a doorbell camera and subsequent charges are filed on Teague by CPD of Felonious Assault in Franklin Municipal Court Case# 2021CRA1382.

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Soon after, an additional arrest warrant for Teague is requested through the Ohio Adult Parole Authority for the violation behavior.

The victim of the felonious assault, informs investigators that Teague has threatened to kill him, the mother of his children, and their children. The victim states he is in fear for his life and his family's lives and filed for a protection order against Teague. Investigators contacted Columbus Division of Police SWAT to assist with the apprehension and arrest of Teague. Investigators began using various investigative techniques in attempt to locate Teague, but were unsuccessful.

On February 25, 2021, Blendon Township Police Department attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a vehicle for a speeding violation. The driver was identified as Andrew Teague. Shortly after the stop was initiated, Teague fled from the traffic stop. Blendon Township Police Department filed an arrest warrant for Fleeing & Eluding (F4) and Felony Obstructing of Official Business (F4) in Franklin Municipal Court Case#2021CRA2388.

On March 5, 2021, Teague made contact with a female associate telling her he is going to kill her and her 16 year old son. She contacted Columbus Division of Police to escort her to her residence due to the threats. Investigators initiated and established surveillance to ensure the safety of the female associate and to attempt to locate Teague.

Later that day, investigators establish surveillance at a new suspected location and identify vehicles registered to Teague and to a newly identified female associate. Prior to the arrival of CPD SWAT, investigators observe Teague leaving the apartment and drive away in the car registered to the new female associate. Investigators proceed to conduct mobile surveillance and follow from a safe distance in effort to track the whereabouts of Teague. A CPD helicopter unit and several marked cruisers obtain a visual of Teague's vehicle and begin their pursuit.

The pursuit continued for quite some time with Teague driving at a high rate of speed throughout the city of Columbus. Officers and deputies attempted multiple times to deploy stop sticks with no success. The pursuit was soon called off by CPD due to the danger to citizens. The CPD helicopter followed Teague throughout the entire pursuit and continued to maintain a visual after the pursuit had initially ended.

Teague was later seen on Interstate 270 near the 256 exit by FCSO deputies and officers from The Mifflin Township Police Department. Deputies radioed they witnessed Teague in possession of a handgun. Law enforcement reinitiated pursuit with Teague failing to comply. Teague then traveled the wrong way into oncoming traffic on I-270. Again, due to Teague's reckless actions, FCSO cancelled the pursuit because of the danger to the public. Teague then crashed into multiple vehicles on the interstate and exited his vehicle.

A confrontation between Teague and law enforcement ensued with shots being fired. Teague fired multiple shots in the direction of law enforcement with FCSO Deputy Michael Severance and CPD Officer Kifer responding by returning fire. Teague died on the scene as a result of those gunshot wounds.

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Summary of Investigative Process:

- OICI scene processed by the BCI Crime Scene Unit
- Autopsy completed by Franklin County Coroner's Office; evidence gathered and submitted to BCI
- Firearms, casings, and projectiles examined at the BCI laboratory
- Obtained written letter of request for BCI assistance
- Obtained multiple body camera footage from law enforcement
- Obtained multiple dash camera footage from law enforcement
- Obtained cellphone camera footage from witnesses
- Reviewed BWC, ODOT, helicopter, and dash cam footage
- Attained training records/personnel records for FCSO Deputy Michael Severance and CPD Officer Kifer
- Retrieved dispatch logs, detail call sheet, radio recordings, Uniform Incident Report, witness statements, and Crime Scene Log
- Obtained FCSO Use of Force policy
- Obtained EMS Run Reports
- Obtained all other known pertinent records or recordings

Investigative Interviews:

Several individuals were interviewed as part of the investigation, including the following people who were part of the shooting or witnessed at least a portion of the shooting incident: FCSO Chief Deputy Jim Gilbert, FCSO Deputy Michael Severance, CPD Sgt. Steven Redding, CPD Officer Kifer CPD Officer Greg Kellough, MT Officer Cody Palmer, CPD Officer Glen Keeton, MT Officer Matthew Peddicord. In addition, numerous involved motorists were interviewed. Furthermore, written statements/incident reports were gathered from EMS and other involved parties.

Involved Deputy Interviews:

Deputy Severance wrote in his statement, "He stopped and raised his right arm and hand, which held an auto pistol pointed in a southwest direction. I yelled that the suspect had a gun. The suspect fired at least once, maybe twice, in a southwest direction. I took cover at the northeast corner of a white Ford F150 pickup, which had stopped in the right/easternmost lane. I was still north of the suspect. At the time, I was unsure if the suspect had fired at civilians or police officers, but I heard return fire. Upon the return fire, the suspect changed directions, appearing to crouch down slightly, and turned towards my location with his weapon. His weapon was pointed forward in my direction. As he headed towards me, I stepped out from behind the cover of the vehicle and fired three times in quick succession.

Furthermore, Deputy Severance detailed "When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect the citizens surrounding the scene and my fellow officers, whose lives were in imminent danger of being killed or severely wounded as the suspect had already fired and could continue firing in any direction at any time. I also felt that my life was in imminent danger of being killed or severely wounded, as the suspect was turning toward me with his arm and gun raised at the time I fired."

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Officer Kifer wrote in his statement, "I quickly exited my cruiser, while unholstering my weapon. As soon as I exited my cruiser, I heard shots being fired. Initially I could not see the suspect and I did not know who had fired. I ran northbound on the left (west) side of the hammer lane on I-270N. I ran several yards and I just ran past a white SUV, when I saw the suspect running southbound in the berm of I-270 with a silver gun in his right hand. I saw the suspect rack the slide of the gun, as if he was clearing a jam or had just loaded another magazine. I backed up and went to the rear passenger corner of the white SUV for some concealment. I believe that there was a driver in the SUV but I do not believe there were any passengers. I peaked out with just enough of my head to see the suspect running past the passenger side of a vehicle in the far right (east) lane with his gun pointed in my direction. It is at the moment that I began firing my weapon. I believe I fired two shots and the suspect ducked back behind the vehicle that was in front of him. I edged closer to the rear edge of the white SUV I was behind and within a second or two, I saw the suspect's head peak back up from the front passenger side door of vehicle with the gun still in his hand and I immediately fired at the suspect again. I stopped firing because I saw the suspect go down."

Furthermore, Officer Kifer detailed, "At the time I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life as well as the lives of the civilians in the area. I knew that the suspect was wanted out of a felonious assault in which he was alleged to have fired multiple rounds. Immediately before I fired my shots, the suspect had refused to stop for officers for over 90 minutes, drove the wrong way down the freeway causing a head on collision, bailed out of the car after the accident and ran down the interstate with a gun in his hand trying to flee. I also heard rounds being fired several seconds before I encountered the suspect and when the suspect saw me, he tried to take cover behind a vehicle and leveled his gun directly at me, I did not believe I had any other choice to protect my life and the lives of the other people in the area at the time I fired my weapon."

Subsequent Investigation:

BCI Firearms Laboratory Reports:

Two projectiles (fired bullets) retrieved from the body of Andrew Teague during the autopsy were submitted to the BCI Firearms Laboratory. The laboratory report confirms that one fired bullet was confirmed to have been fired from CPD Officer Kifer's Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm caliber semi-automatic pistol, and the other recovered projectile was identified as being fired from FCSO Deputy Severance's Smith & Wesson 3313 9mm caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Furthermore, all submitted cartridge cases recovered from the scene were confirmed to have been fired from law enforcement or from the recovered pistol believed to have belonged to Andrew Teague.

Post-mortem examination/autopsy:

The autopsy of Teague was completed by Franklin County Coroner's Office. The final report is still pending.



Summary:

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed, and all known records have been obtained and reviewed. BCI has striven to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into this Officer Involved Critical Incident. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. It would appear that BCI's investigation into this Officer Involved Critical Incident would be concluded, unless such new information/witnesses would be identified through Grand Jury or other processes.

As always, we remain available for consultation and will look forward to your assessment of this investigation and your decision as to any additional efforts, processes, or further assistance/involvement you might determine to be necessary.