



**Ohio Attorney General's Office**  
**Bureau of Criminal Investigation**  
Investigative Report



2023-1614  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 428 Foster Ave,  
Cambridge (L)

To: Chris Kinsler, Section Chief – Special Prosecutions  
Ohio Attorney General's Office  
From: Kyle Douglass #126, Special Agent, Ohio BCI  
Date: December 14, 2023  
Involves: Cambridge Police Department [REDACTED]  
BCI Case Numbers: 2023-1614  
BCI Laboratory: 23-15932

**Investigative Request**

On June 15, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) to investigate an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred near 428 Foster Avenue in Cambridge, OH. It was reported that CPD officers were involved in an encounter with Taurean Brown (Brown) at this location. During the encounter, a CPD officer discharged his firearm. Brown was later discovered inside the residence deceased, with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

*Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the June 15, 2023 officer-involved critical incident in Guernsey 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 some 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 Kyle Douglass

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA James Mulford
- SA James Poole
- SA James Gore

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents/Investigators:

- SA Shawn Rowley (lead)
- Special Agent Supervisor Josh Durst

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- SAS Kevin Barbeau

**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:

- Interviews conducted and/or written statements received from officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the individuals potentially involved in the incident
- 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)
- 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

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- 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:
  - Firearm identification testing of involved firearm and casings
- 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
- Collected and reviewed autopsy, toxicology, and coroner's reports

**Incident Summary/Overview**

During the investigation, BCI was informed of the following information regarding the incident. On June 15, 2023, at approximately 1537 hours, CPD officers were attempting to apprehend Taurean Brown (Brown), who was suspected of breaking and entering and assault of a female victim earlier that day. Personnel from responding agencies included CPD, Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), Byesville Police Department (BPD), and the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP). After arriving at 428 Foster Avenue, CPD officers were unable to convince Brown to exit the residence and the incident evolved into a "barricade" situation. Brown's mother, Yvette Brown, was also unsuccessful in attempting to persuade Brown to exit the residence. CPD SWAT officers on scene positioned themselves around the residence while negotiations with Brown were conducted. While negotiators attempted to make contact with Brown, CPD SWAT officers in cover on the street were fired upon from the upper level of the residence where Brown had positioned himself. CPD SWAT officers remained in cover. After being fired upon a second time, CPD [REDACTED] ( [REDACTED] returned fire towards the upstairs window where the gunshots had originated from. Several hours passed with no response from Brown, and tactical attempts to extract Brown from the residence were unsuccessful. OSP drones were inserted into the residence, where Brown was found to be deceased with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

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**Subsequent Investigation**

**Coroner and Autopsy Reports**

With the assistance of the Guernsey County Coroner, Dr. Sandra Schubert, BCI Special Agent Shawn Rowley (SA Rowley) examined and photographed the body of Brown. It appeared that Brown had a single gunshot wound to the head. Brown was turned over to the Guernsey County Coroner's Office for transport.

On June 16, 2023, an autopsy of Brown was conducted by Licking County Coroner, Dr. Jeff Lee (Dr. Lee). According to the autopsy report, Dr. Lee determined Brown sustained a "contact perforating gunshot wound to head" from a single shot with one projectile exiting the body. See the autopsy report for additional detail and trajectory paths.

[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 Laboratory Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officer's firearm, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene and vehicles. 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:

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The following firearms were recovered during the incident which reportedly did not belong to any law enforcement officers on scene, and were collected by the BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU):

- Mossberg 500A, 12-gauge shotgun (serial #P449811)
- Ruger SR9c, 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol (serial #339-21298)
- Sar Arms SARK2P, 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol (serial #T110216C01881)

The following firearm was also collected during the incident, which was reported to belong to CPD [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]):

- Sig Sauer SIG-MCX, 5.56 NATO select-fire rifle (serial # [REDACTED])

All recovered firearms were submitted to the lab. Forensic Scientist Briana Barga (FS Barga) identified the firearm with serial #P449811, Mossberg 500A shotgun, registered to [REDACTED] of Cambridge, OH. FS Barga identified the firearm with serial #339-21298, Ruger SR9c pistol, registered to [REDACTED] of Cleveland, OH. FS Barga identified the firearm with serial #T110216C01881, Sar Arms SARK2P pistol, registered to [REDACTED] of Cambridge, OH. The Ruger SR9c was presumptive positive for blood. DNA samples were taken from these firearms but were not forwarded for DNA analysis.

Five (5) unfired 12-gauge shotshells were recovered with the Mossberg 500A. One (1) magazine containing three (3) unfired 9mm cartridges was recovered with the Ruger SR9c. One (1) magazine containing ten (10) unfired 9mm cartridges was recovered with the Sar Arms SARK2P. Two (2) magazines with a total of forty-seven (47) unfired 223 REM cartridges were recovered with the Sig Sauer SIG-MCX.

While processing the scene, CSU recovered additional cartridge cases and fired projectiles in the vicinity of the OICI. A total of one (1) fired shotshell, twenty-five (25) fired cartridge cases, twenty-one (21) unfired cartridge cases, three (3) fired jacketed bullets, two (2) fired bullet jacket fragments and one (1) metal fragment were submitted to the lab for analysis.

Forensic Scientist Daniel Steiner (FS Steiner) identified one (1) fired 12-gauge shotshell (Item 8) as being source identified to the Mossberg 500A shotgun, serial #P449811, which was recovered from the scene in Taurean Brown's vicinity. FS Steiner identified five (5) fired 9mm cartridge cases (Item 7) as being source identified to the Ruger SR9c pistol, serial #339-21298, which was recovered from the scene in Taurean Brown's possession. FS Steiner identified seven (7) fired 9mm cartridge cases (Items 2, 7) as being source identified to the Sar Arms SARK2P

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pistol, serial #T110216C01881, which was recovered from the scene in Taurean Brown's possession. FS Steiner identified thirteen (13) fired 223 REM cartridges as being source identified to the Sig Sauer SIG-MCX rifle assigned to CPD [REDACTED]

FS Steiner documented three (3) fired jacketed bullets (Items 10, 11, 12) as inconclusive. Two (2) fired bullet jacket fragments and one (1) metal fragment were considered unsuitable for testing due to insufficient class and/or individual characteristics present.

**Witness Officer Statements**

During the investigation, BCI received statements from law enforcement officers from responding agencies who were on scene during the incident. The following responders from CPD provided witness statements to BCI regarding their observations during the incident:

1. Ptl. Eric Miller
2. Ptl. Curtis Braniger
3. Ptl. Ryan Oliver
4. Ptl. Adam James
5. Ptl. DJ Gombeda

BCI was advised by legal counsel from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) the following witness officers from CPD did not wish to provide a statement regarding the incident:

1. Ptl. Hunter Sylvis
2. Ptl. Bryan DesGravise
3. Ptl. Bridget Vickers
4. Sgt. Chris Gebhart

BCI was advised by legal counsel from the FOP the following witness officers from CPD did not respond regarding a witness statement:

1. Det. Roy Angler
2. Sgt. Zach Wolfe
3. Sgt. Cody Baker
4. Ptl. Chris Loudin

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BCI received written statements for the following responders from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP):

1. Trooper Colin Acciavatti
2. Sergeant John Beeler
3. Sergeant Mason Boyce
4. Trooper Josh Bumgardner
5. Trooper Hector Burgos
6. Trooper Nadi Graham
7. Sergeant Christopher Castellanos
8. Trooper Samuel Davis
9. Sergeant Erik Lofland
10. Trooper Adam McKenzie
11. Trooper Daniel Saultz
12. Trooper Andre Thomas

BCI received written statements for the following responders from the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO):

1. Sergeant Kyle Colopy
2. Deputy Tanner Morton
3. Deputy Cody Kelly
4. Deputy Timothy Simon
5. Deputy Brice Swiney
6. Chief Deputy Jeff LeCocq
7. Deputy Dustin Prouty
8. Sergeant Ryan Dodson
9. Deputy Jason Harmon
10. Deputy Stacy Fleegle

BCI received written statements for the following responders from Byesville Police Department:

1. Chief Daulton Dolan
2. Officer Andrew Stewart

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**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.

**CPD Patrolman Jarod Eubanks**

CPD Patrolman Jarod Eubanks (Ptl. Eubanks) provided a verbal statement to BCI regarding his recollection of the incident. In his statement, Ptl. Eubanks explained he was approaching cover behind a gold Chevy Tahoe SUV where other CPD SWAT officers were positioned. Ptl. Eubanks observed multiple gunshots from inside the residence where Brown was located. Ptl. Eubanks said the shots were fired in quick succession. Ptl. Eubanks observed a round strike the roadway near where Sgt. Cody Baker and SWAT medic Steve Helton were positioned close to a patrol vehicle facing the residence. Ptl. Eubanks retreated to cover behind another vehicle, and as he did, he witnessed the rear windshield of the gold Chevy Tahoe shatter and heard several additional gunshots. Ptl. Eubanks believed Brown was aiming directly at the CPD officers behind the gold SUV. Ptl. Eubanks then observed ■■■■■ returned directive fire with his rifle to the upstairs window where the threat appeared to be coming from inside the residence. Ptl. Eubanks was unsure exactly how many rounds ■■■■■ fired. Ptl. Eubanks recalled ■■■■■ ordered other CPD officers with him near the gold Chevy Tahoe to retreat while he provided them cover. Ptl. Eubanks then provided cover to ■■■■■ so he could retreat as well. Ptl. Eubanks did not recall seeing or hearing any additional gunshots. Ptl. Eubanks confirmed Brown was later discovered inside the residence with a gunshot wound which appeared to be self-inflicted.

**CPD ■■■■■ ■■■■■**

On January 3, 2023, BCI received confirmation via email from FOP legal counsel stating ■■■■■ did not wish to provide a verbal or written statement to BCI regarding his involvement in the OICI which occurred at 428 Foster Avenue in Cambridge on June 15, 2023.

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**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 which might be deemed to be necessary to the investigation.

**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 Kyle Douglass. SA Douglass can be reached via email at [Kyle.Douglass@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Kyle.Douglass@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone, at 614-949-6278.

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