



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



2021-2286
 Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 2469 Kimberly Dr

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
 Involves: CPD; Ofc. Steve Balmert, #2480
 Activity Date: 11/3/2021
 Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher
 Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Wednesday, November 03, 2021, at 1253 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) and SA Shane Hanshaw (SA Hanshaw) interviewed City of Columbus-Division of Police (CPD) Officer (Ofc.) Steve Balmert (Balmert), who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Law Firm of Harshman and Wannemacher, Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Balmert read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview. While the term suspect or subject may be used in in the interview with identifying the involved subject, for clarity, knowing that the male subject had been identified as Kyle Veyon (Veyon), his name will be utilized in this report.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: Steven Balmert	Rank: Patrolman (Ptl.)
Badge Number: 2480	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: 9091
Radio Call Sign: 9091	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Collier; S9A
Radio Channel Utilized: Zone 2	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Ford Explorer; SUV	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Hawkins-Driver; Balmert-Passenger
Assignment: Patrol; Z2, D13	Normal Shift: 0900-1900
In-Car Camera: Operational, But Not Used	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized

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Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: 0900-1900	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Sat/Sun/Mon	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No
	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 14 years	Length at Current Agency: Since 7/2007
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Dark blue pants; short sleeve white shirt w/police patches on shoulders	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Click here to enter text.
Ballistic Vest: Concealed Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: Hawkins
Injuries: No	Equipment Damage: No
Training or Areas of Specialty: Instructor	OPOTC Certification: 2008
Military Experience/Training: No	
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: not within 24 of incident

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: S&W	Model: 2.0
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: hip
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17+1
Extra Magazines:	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:
Discharged During Incident? No	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident:	Number of Rounds Fired:

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Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Advised current with qualification	Type of Holster, if any:

Weapon #2

Make: Taser	Model: X26
Tasers are assigned a Cruiser number	Ofc. Balmert utilized #9131
Type: Less-Than-Lethal	Method of Carry: hip
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Advised current with qualifications	

Narrative:

Attorney Wannemacher provided SA Collins with a statement said to be Balmert's, relating to the incident on September 29, 2021. After Balmert read his statement for the record, verifying it was his own, SA Collins asked follow-up questions related to the incident and introduced BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) photographs (4978; 4986; 4987) to Ofc. Balmert.

Balmert stated he was on-duty, but had not yet been assigned a patrol vehicle for his shift so he was getting a ride from CPD Ofc. Andrew Hawkins and going to Groves Road. However, while enroute, Ofc. Hawkins was dispatched to a call at 2469 Kimberly Parkway East. Balmert stated the dispatched information was "vague" and they indicated there was a female who was saying, "quit" or "don't play." Both Balmert and Hawkins agreed the call should be handled prior to dropping Balmert off (two-man unit).

Officers arrived in the area and CPD, Ofc. Brown, had also responded (single-man unit). The two vehicles parked next to each other in the roadway and discussed the call because there was no information relating to which apartment the call was in reference to. Balmert described he and Ofc. Hawkins' vehicle to be facing north while Ofc. Brown's vehicle was facing south. As officers were just receiving additional information related to the incident (a knife was involved



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and it was apartment Q2), a female (Felicia Marshall (Marshall)) approached Ofc. Brown's patrol car from the south and Ofc. Brown began speaking with her. Balmert stated he could hear parts of the conversation and believed he'd heard Marshall stating he was not supposed to be there and had threatened her with a knife.

Balmert stated it was approximately a couple seconds later he heard Ofc. Brown say, "stay right there." Balmert stated he attempted to look back but could not see anyone. Ofc. Hawkins drove their patrol vehicle forward and Balmert exited. Balmert stated he'd moved to the rear of the patrol car and continued around to the driver's side while drawing his weapon. Balmert witnessed Ofc. Hawkins with his handgun drawn, issuing commands to Veyon. Balmert said the command/s was something to the effect of, "get back." Balmert said when Veyon backed up, with his hand up to his neck, Balmert transitioned from his firearm to his taser because Ofc. Hawkins had lethal force back-up. Balmert stated he believed it was reasonable to deploy his taser on Veyon.

Balmert understood he needed to be within 7-15 feet "for optimal deployment of taser." Balmert moved towards Veyon, however, Veyon began running after or "chasing" Marshall. Balmert heard Veyon say, "kill me" as he was chasing Marshall. Balmert believed it was about that time he had deployed his taser at Veyon (at approximately 10-15 feet from Veyon). When asked about his point of aim on Veyon, Balmert stated he was moving so he could get a shot at Veyon's front but due to Veyon turning and running towards Marshall, Balmert does not know where exactly his taser potentially made contact. Balmert stated he deployed his taser because he was in fear for the life of Ofc. Hawkins and Marshall, whom Veyon was chasing. Balmert stated he intended to gain Veyon's compliance and secure him. Balmert recalled seeing the taser wires as Veyon continued to chase after Marshall. Balmert stated the taser appeared to have no effect on Veyon and he was unsure if the darts had even connected with Veyon. Balmert believed Veyon was intending on stabbing Marshall. Balmert stated he recalled hearing Marshall screaming, "like screams of horror. I can't remember if she was saying, 'stop him' or 'get him', but you could tell she was terrified."

Balmert stated he'd thought about drawing his firearm, but saw Ofc. Hawkins come from his right towards Veyon still with his (Hawkins) weapon drawn. Balmert witnessed Ofc. Hawkins yelling at Veyon to "stop" or "stop it." Balmert stated Veyon was screaming, "kill me!" Balmert said he attempted to load a new cartridge into his taser when he witnessed Veyon begin to "aggressively advance (he was taking big, fast steps, screaming, 'kill me!') towards Officer Hawkins, while Officer Hawkins was retreating backwards down the street. I saw the suspect get to approximately 5 feet from Officer Hawkins and I heard three gunshots."

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Balmert stated Veyon fell backwards to the ground. Balmert stated he quickly approached Veyon and his knife toward Ofc. Hawkins. Balmert began to render aid to Veyon and he heard, he believed it was Ofc. Brown, request a medic to their location and advise of shots fired. Balmert and Ofc. Brown continued to provide aid to Veyon, as did Sgt. Collier, when he arrived on scene.

Balmert stated other officers began to arrive and secured the scene and he located Marshall to ensure she did not require medical aid. Balmert was asked if he knew Marshall and he stated no. He was asked what she was wearing. Balmert stated he believed she was wearing a blue Amazon Prime shirt and black cargo shorts. He'd further stated he did not know Veyon. Balmert was asked if Marshall had indicated what had happened prior to their arrival. Balmert said Marshall indicated there had been domestic issues before, but he had never come at her with a knife before. Balmert said, "if I remember right, she was scared that he was going to kill her inside that apartment."

Balmert stated the incident involving Veyon, beginning when he first approached to when Ofc. Hawkins fired his weapon, lasted approximately one (1) minute. Balmert further described, "The entire event occurred rapidly and at no time did the suspect ever comply with the repeated commands given to him."

The interview concluded at approximately 1344 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and statement is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.



Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Steve Balmer
Printed Name of Interviewee

11/3/21
Date / Time

[Signature] #2481
Signature of Interviewee

SA Matt Collins
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #151
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER STEVEN BALMERT, BADGE NO. 2480

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Wednesday, September ~~22~~²⁹ 2021, between approximately 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m., at 2469 Kimberly Parkway East. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD or the Division) On July 15, 2007. I obtained my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) certification approximately 6 months later. I do not have any other law enforcement experience before joining CPD. I do not have any military experience. I have never had a use of force that has been determined to be outside of policy.

My regular assignment is Z2D13. My regular duty hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. My regular days off are Saturday, Sunday and Monday. At the time of this incident, I was wearing the CPD summer patrol uniform which consists of dark blue pants and a short sleeved white shirt with police patches on both shoulders. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted to the side of my shirt. My BWC was activated during this incident.. I was also wearing an internal ballistic vest. I was carrying my Division-issued Smith and Wesson 2.0 9mm pistol loaded with Division-issued ammunition. I carry that weapon with a full magazine (17 rounds) plus an additional round in the chamber. I am current on my qualifications with this weapon. I was not carrying any backup firearm. I was also carrying a taser and I am current on my taser qualifications.

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my uncorrected vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I had not taken any medication, over the counter or prescription, that would impair my abilities as a police officer.

I did not consume any alcohol in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to this incident. I did not work any special duty in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to this incident and I arrived at the start of my shift well rested.

On the date of this incident, I had not yet been assigned a cruiser. Officer Hawkins and I left the 9th precinct substation in cruiser 9091. Officer Hawkins was driving me to Groves Road so that I could pick up a cruiser. On our way to Groves Road, Officer Hawkins was dispatched on a call for service at 2469 Kimberly Parkway East. Dispatch stated that there was a female on the line saying “quit” or “don’t play” or some words to that effect. It was very vague information and I do not believe he was provided an apartment number, just an address. Officer Hawkins stated he would like to respond on this call before we went to Groves Road and I agreed.

Officer Hawkins and I drove through the apartments on Kimberly Parkway East, but nothing caught our attention. We were then driving north on Kimberly Parkway East when we saw Officer Brown driving in his cruiser south on Kimberly Parkway East. Officer Hawkins pulled up next to him with their doors parallel to each other and rolled down his window to speak with Officer Brown. Right around that time, apartment Q2 came up on the dispatch and I believe that along with the apartment number, dispatch now relayed that the individual had a knife. While we were receiving this additional information, a black female approached Officer Brown’s cruiser and began speaking with her. I was not able to hear the entire conversation, but I believe she told Officer Brown that he was not supposed to be there and that he had a knife and was threatening her.

A couple of seconds later, I hear Officer Brown say, “stay right there,” or words to that effect. I tried to look in the review mirror and behind me, but I did not initially see anyone.

Officer Hawkins quickly put the car in drive and moved the car a couple feet forward and to the left, close to the west side of Kimberly Parkway East. I immediately exited the cruiser and went around the passenger's side and around the rear of the cruiser, while drawing my weapon. The suspect was at the front of the cruiser, with what appeared to be a knife in his right hand that he was holding up to his neck. I saw Officer Hawkins was out of the cruiser and had his gun drawn and pointed at the suspect. The suspect was within a couple feet of Officer Hawkins (who was at the rear driver's side of the cruiser), and I heard Officer Hawkins giving him commands to "get back" or words to that effect. The suspect backed up a couple feet, towards the front of the cruiser, and at that time, I transitioned from my firearm to my taser, as I knew I had lethal force cover from Officer Hawkins and I thought it was reasonable to attempt a taser deployment on the suspect.

I walked up the driver's side of the cruiser towards the suspect because I needed to be within 7-15 feet for optimal deployment of the taser. Suddenly, the suspect turned and ran around the front of the cruiser and began chasing the female (I am not sure where she came from or where she was immediately before this), while screaming "kill me!" I believe this is when I deployed my taser, but I am not 100% certain. I recall seeing the wires as he ran after her, but I do not believe both darts made contact. The taser did not appear to have any impact on him. He continued to chase the female and I believed he was going to stab her. Just as I was about to grab my firearm, I saw Officer Hawkins run from my right (east) towards the suspect with his weapon drawn. He was yelling at the suspect to "stop" or "stop it." The suspect continued to scream, "kill me!" I was trying to load a new cartridge into my taser when I saw the suspect aggressively advance (he was taking big, fast steps, screaming, "kill me!") towards Officer

Hawkins, while Officer Hawkins was retreating backwards down the street. I saw the suspect get to approximately 5 feet from Officer Hawkins and I heard three gunshots.

The suspect fell backwards onto the street. I quickly approached the suspect and kicked his knife towards Officer Hawkins. I immediately begin to check the suspect to locate his wounds and render aid. I heard someone (I believe Officer Brown) air for a medic and that shots had been fired. I did not have any medical supplies and I used gloves to try to apply pressure to his wounds. Officer Brown began chest compressions while I kept pressure on the wounds. Sergeant Collier arrived and began assisting with chest compressions until medics arrived. Additional officers arrived and began securing the scene. I found the female victim to make sure that she had not been stabbed or injured with the knife. The victim's grandmother arrived at the scene and she asked that I let her grandmother know that she was not harmed. I went and spoke with the victim's grandmother.

I returned to the 9th precinct substation. I remained there until I returned to the scene to meet with Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) agents. I was willing to provide a walk through with the agents, however, they did not wish to conduct one. This ended my involvement in this incident.


I believe that I was approximately 10-15 feet from the suspect when I deployed my taser. Typically, our training would not be to deploy a taser in a deadly force situation. However, if we have time, distance, barrier, lethal force backup and it is reasonable, we may deploy the taser. In this instance, I thought it was reasonable to attempt a taser deployment as Officer Hawkins had lethal force back up, I had the distance and time to deploy it, as the suspect had taken a couple of steps backwards (away from Officer Hawkins) at that time.

At the time I deployed my taser, I was in fear for the life of Officer Hawkins and then the female victim when he began to chase her. When I deployed my taser, my intention was to tase the suspect to gain compliance to secure him. However, my taser deployment was not successful and the suspect chased the female victim with a knife and he then turned his attention towards Officer Hawkins and began advancing on Officer Hawkins with the knife still in his hand. By the time I realized how quickly the suspect had advanced on Officer Hawkins, Officer Hawkins had fired his weapon at the suspect. The entire incident, from the time the suspect approached the cruiser, until shots were fired, was approximately a minute. The entire event occurred rapidly and at no time did the suspect ever comply with the repeated commands given to him.

I have now had an opportunity to watch the Body Worn Camera video footage of this incident. After reviewing this footage, it appears that I said, "is that a knife?" to Officer Hawkins. I do recall thinking that I was initially unsure if it was a knife because he was moving it across his neck but I did not see any blood but I was uncertain.

I know now that the suspects name is Kyle Anthony Veyon, however, I believe that dispatch had stated his name was Kyle Dean. I do not believe I have ever had any prior encounters, personal or professional, with him.

This concludes my statement. I am prepared to answer any follow-up questions you may have at this time.

 #2480

Officer Steven Balmert, Badge #2480

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11/5/11