



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



2023-2080
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 45 Great Southern Blvd.,
 Columbus, OH 43207

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sergeant Griffin Bluestone (W)
Date of Activity: 08/09/2023
Activity Location: CPD 12 PCT – 950 E. Main St. , Columbus, OH 43205, Franklin County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On August 9, 2023, the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Crime Scene and Special Investigation Units respond to 45 Great South Blvd., Columbus, Ohio, in reference to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident. It was reported to BCI that CPD Officers [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] responded to a robbery in progress call for service in the parking lot of the above location and were met by the involved subject, later identified as Austin Huntzinger (Huntzinger), who reportedly was armed with a firearm. Officer's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reportedly exchanged gunfire with Huntzinger resulting in Officer [REDACTED] being shot in the leg and Huntzinger being killed.

BCI Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole) and Craig Call (SA Call) responded to the above location to assist with the investigation and were informed there were potential witness officers from the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) and CPD currently waiting at Precinct 12. SA Poole and SA Call responded to Precinct 12 to meet with the officers in order to obtain witness statements.

Prior to any questioning, SA Poole informed FCSO Sergeant Griffin Bluestone #S68 (Sergeant Bluestone) BCI’s investigation was third party and not a part of any internal review of the incident by CPD or the FCSO and any statement they provided would be free and voluntary. Sergeant Bluestone acknowledged and agreed to be interviewed. The audio recording began at approximately 1100 hours.

Sergeant Bluestone stated he was driving his assigned cruiser into work from his home of record when he heard over the radio “Officer down.” He immediately responded to the location at 45 Great South Blvd., running lights a sirens. Sergeant Bluestone explained when he arrived he saw a CPD officer down on the ground while other CPD officers were applying a tourniquet

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to his leg. He also described a male White, later identified as Austin Huntzinger (Huntzinger), on the ground with a black handgun next to him. Sergeant Bluestone stated an officer was giving Huntzinger CPR. Sergeant Bluestone said he then replaced the officer and continued to give Huntzinger CPR until the Hamilton Township Medics arrived.

When asked to describe the scene, Sergeant Bluestone stated it was an open parking lot in a strip mall with a parked grey vehicle that had broken glass around it. He believed there were two (2) CPD cruisers, a CPD wagon, and another CPD SUV at scene before he arrived. Sergeant Bluestone also explained Huntzinger had a lot of blood on his shirt, but he did not identify where his wounds were. He also stated there were multiple shell casings surrounding Huntzinger on the ground.

Sergeant Bluestone explained since he was the only sergeant on scene at the time he ordered the incoming deputies and officers to set up scene tape and security. Sergeant Bluestone stated he believed there was one female witness in the back of a CPD cruiser and several surrounding businesses that had surveillance cameras.

SA Poole asked if Sergeant Bluestone had his body-worn camera and cruiser dash camera on during the incident. He stated, "Yes."

SA Poole asked if Sergeant Bluestone ever fired his weapon. He stated, "No."

Sergeant Bluestone also added that Huntzinger was unconscious the entire time and did not say anything.

The interview ended at 1108 Hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023.08.09 Sgt Griffin Bluestone interview