



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



2020-3388

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 1062 Oberlin Dr. Columbus, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Sgt. Charles Albers

Activity Date: 12/30/2020

Activity Location: Sgt. Albers' Residence

Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at 1438 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Columbus Police Department (CPD) Sergeant (Sgt.) Charles Albers (Albers), who was accompanied by his attorney, Lathan Lipperman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the residence of Albers. The interview was audio recorded. SA Collins had contacted Albers on December 29, 2020, by phone and explained to Albers that he wished to speak with him about the incident involving CPD and Andre' Hill. Albers asked if he was being investigated. SA Collins explained to Albers that he understood he was a witness to the event/s or was otherwise not involved, therefore he was not the subject of the investigation. However, the purpose of the investigation was to gather the facts related to the actions of all involved. SA Collins and Albers arranged to speak the following day at Albers' residence at 1430 hours. Attorney Lipperman later contacted SA Collins and advised that he would be present for the interview.

When SA Collins arrived to Albers' residence and prior to activating his recorder, SA Collins explained to Albers that this was a voluntary interview and he could not be compelled to speak with SA Collins. Albers, while stating he understood this, also mentioned that it was their policy to speak with investigators. SA Collins explained that this was not the case and Attorney Lipperman further acknowledged/explained to Albers that that was not the case for this type of interview (not an internal interview). Upon that clarification, Albers agreed to provide a statement. Once the recorder was activated SA Collins again asked Albers if he understood the interview was voluntary and that he was not compelled, to which Albers confirmed.

Albers was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the December 22, 2020, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1062 Oberlin Dr, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, Albers did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer. It was further understood, this officer was the officer-in-charge (OIC) on the night of the incident and assigned to the 2nd precinct. His regular



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



2020-3388

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 1062 Oberlin Dr. Columbus, OH

scheduled shift is from [REDACTED] Albers reported to Lt. Greg Perini and Lt. Sanderson.

Albers stated his radio call sign on December 22, 2020, was S-2-C. He utilized CPD Channel 4. He has been employed by the CPD for about fourteen years. He has been a police officer for a total of fourteen years. Prior to his service with CPD, Albers served twenty years in the U.S. Military. He drove CPD unit #S2C, an SUV, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. While this vehicle is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT), it was not utilized. The vehicle was not equipped with an in-car camera. Albers was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) and it was utilized. He did not have any other recording devices.

On December 22, 2020, Albers was the third shift sergeant and was dealing with a matter (5-80 guard) at CPD headquarters (HQ). Albers stated he'd heard officers were dispatched to a disturbance call, involving an SUV starting and stopping in front "their house" for the last couple hours. Albers later heard an officer advise "shots fired" over the radio and he responded, with his emergency lights and sirens activated, to their location. While enroute Albers recalled hearing Sgt. Ward say something on the radio referencing a squad being dispatched to the scene. Albers approximated his arrival from HQ to the scene to be about four (4) minutes.

Albers stated there were several officers already on scene by the time he arrived and he believed he was one of the last units to arrive. Albers stated Sgt. Aaron Ward appeared to have arrived on scene just before Albers. Albers said, as he was exiting his cruiser, he saw Sgt. Ward approaching the scene from his (Ward's) vehicle, as he was walking with and speaking to officers.

Albers said he exited his vehicle and instructed an officer to secure the roadway, so as to not allow any civilian vehicles enter that area. Albers briefly spoke with Sgt. Ward, asking him what he needed from Albers. Albers continued to make sure the scene was secured by officers, as he continued to make his way to the actual scene. While he did not know who all was involved (meaning officers), Albers heard someone mention that officer Amy Detweiler (Detweiler) was one of the officers involved and that she was still in the scene. Albers made his way to Detweiler and told her to "link-up" with Sgt. Ward to get "officer support." Albers stated this was their protocol for officers who were involved in critical incidents.

Albers walked up to the scene and made sure it was secured by officers. He approximated that it took him about thirty (30) seconds to one (1) minute to get from his vehicle to the actual scene. Albers said he had one officer begin rendering aid and assigned officers to "guard posts" around the house to further secure the scene. Albers believed the medics arrived shortly after he had.



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



2020-3388

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 1062 Oberlin Dr. Columbus, OH

Albers had officers approach him and they were providing him with information of potential witnesses.

Albers was asked if he had any conversation with Detweiler and he stated no. He was asked if he had any conversation with Officer Coy and he stated he did not and that he did not know Coy was even involved until later. Albers was asked if he'd heard Coy or Detweiler make any statement to other officers and he stated no. Albers was asked if he'd had any conversations with officers at the scene where they told him what happened. Albers said he'd asked what particular call the incident stemmed from. Albers asked if this was from the report of someone breaking into cars and he was told no, that it was from the call related to the SUV in the road. Albers said he asked if anyone knew what had happened. He recalled there being two or three officers standing there and neither knew what happened. He believed Ofc. Branford was standing there at one point but can't recall if he was one of them standing there at the time of the question or not.

SA Collins brought up (in the form of a question) the point of Albers mentioning he'd asked someone to render aid to the subject and Albers stated, yes. SA Collins asked Albers if he could explain or tell him how that went. Specifically if he had to order someone to do it. Attorney Lipperman stated he was advising Albers not to answer that question. Lipperman suggested if SA Collins were to rephrase the question. SA Collins asked Albers, "Your direction, was it a request or was it an order to render aid?" Albers responded, "I asked a question if, if any—if, if he was deceased and then I said did someone do buddy aid. I use buddy aid as my rendering aid. Uh, and I don't think I got a response and I told that officer to conduct CPR." SA Collins asked, "What did you see that made you believe that medical aid was needed?" Attorney Lipperman stated he was advising Albers not to answer that question. SA Collins then asked, "So did—um, let me ask you this, did you see an injury to the individual, let, can you describe to me where this individual was, that was, lying on the ground? Or?" Albers stated, "He was laying like in the threshold of the garage and the driveway and I did not know where he was struck. I did see, uh, blood on his right thigh. Um, and that's when I asked if anybody had rendered aid or done CPR. I told em do CPR." SA Collins asked, "You witnessed an injury and that's why you were asking that?" Albers responded, "Yes."

Albers was asked if he had made any contacts with anyone, while enroute to the scene or after his arrival to the scene. Albers stated he did not use his phone and believed dispatch had made all the necessary calls.



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



2020-3388

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 1062 Oberlin Dr. Columbus, OH

Albers was asked who all was on scene that he knew of, when he arrived. Albers provided the list below:

- Sgt. Ward
- Ofc. Detweiler
- Ofc. Branford
- Ofc. Alexander
- Ofc. Stevens
- Ofc. Witworth
- Ofc. Holly
- Ofc. Prime
- Ofc. Holton
- Ofc. McPherson
- Ofc. Pritchard

Albers was asked if he were aware of there being any non-LE witnesses. He stated he was only made aware of the home owner and a female who was inside, with the home owner. Albers said he was provided that information by Cruiser 30 and Cruiser 41 (he did not know their names).

The interview concluded at approximately 1503 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.