



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 197 West 8th Ave., Columbus,
Ohio 43201 (L)

Investigative Activity: Video Review

Involves:

[REDACTED]

Officer Deann Trionfante (W), [REDACTED] (W)

Date of Activity: 10/31/2024

Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On August 11, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) received electronically the below referenced body worn camera (BWC) footage from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and the Ohio State University Police Department (OSUPD). BWC video footage from involved officers as well as footage from other witness officers was requested by BCI in order to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on August 11, 2024, near 197 West 8th Avenue in Columbus, OH. Video footage was received from BWCs of the following officers from CPD and OSUPD:

- CPD [REDACTED]
- CPD [REDACTED]
- CPD [REDACTED]
- CPD [REDACTED]
- OSUPD [REDACTED]
- CPD [REDACTED]
- CPD Officer Deann Trionfante

BCI was requested for investigative assistance by CPD and OSUPD after officers responded to a forced entry/break-in involving an individual identified as Asante Taaj Omar Miller (Miller). During the encounter, Miller was allegedly in possession of and discharged a firearm at responding CPD/OSUPD officers, and several responding law enforcement personnel reportedly returned fire. Miller was later located in a bedroom closet and found to be deceased with a potentially self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. No responding law enforcement officers were injured during this incident.

SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from CPD [REDACTED] and the following was noted:

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- Video begins with [REDACTED] in the driver seat of his CPD cruiser.
- Radio dispatch provides information indicating Miller is known to carry a firearm.
- Radio traffic states, "We have one inside refusing to come out."
- Radio traffic announces, "He's got a 33 [gun] on him!"
- [REDACTED] notifies dispatch he is in route and activates his lights and sirens.
- Radio traffic from responding officers provides a physical description of Miller and states he is in possession of a black semi-automatic handgun.
- [REDACTED] asks for Miller's current location and unholsters his duty weapon.
- [REDACTED] exits his cruiser and begins searching for Miller on foot with other responding officers.
- [REDACTED] begins running as police verbal commands can be heard, including, "Put the gun down!"
- Officers continue to instruct Miller to put his gun down, Miller can be seen walking through the lower level walkway of the apartment building at 242 West 8th Avenue.
- Miller can be seen facing towards CPD officers who have their duty weapons drawn and continue to instruct Miller to drop the gun.
- Several gunshots can be heard, [REDACTED] begins running towards Miller in pursuit.
- [REDACTED] and other responding officers begin searching for Miller.
- An officer announces Miller's location, [REDACTED] begins running.
- [REDACTED] states Miller still has a gun.
- [REDACTED] announces he sees an open door at 197 West 8th Avenue.
- [REDACTED] states the door appears to have been forced open.
- [REDACTED] calls out, "Columbus Police, you better sound off!"
- [REDACTED] continues to identify himself as police and begins searching the interior of the structure with other responding officers.
- Several gunshots can be heard, another officer yells, "He's in here!"
- [REDACTED] moves behind another officer and raises his weapon, numerous additional gunshots can be heard.
- [REDACTED] asks, "Where's [REDACTED]"
- [REDACTED] can be seen in an adjacent bedroom, [REDACTED] announces Miller's location and instructs [REDACTED] to retreat.
- [REDACTED] loads a new magazine into his duty weapon, and keeps his weapon pointed towards a bedroom door which has swung closed.
- [REDACTED] and other officers issue verbal commands to Miller to surrender.
- [REDACTED] announces he's going to kick the bedroom door open.
- A sound resembling a gun being racked can be heard, [REDACTED] announces he believes Miller is reloading his weapon.
- A single gunshot can be heard, [REDACTED] and other officers retreat and exit the building.
- [REDACTED] describes Miller's location to other officers.
- [REDACTED] and other officers take cover outside of the building and attempt to determine Miller's location.
- Radio traffic can be heard indicating Miller's status is unknown.
- Radio dispatch announces "county" [Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO)] is in route with a drone, [REDACTED] remains in cover outside of the building.
- [REDACTED] reports he was involved in the shooting incident to a CPD supervisor.

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SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from CPD [REDACTED] and the following was noted:

- Video begins with [REDACTED] in the driver seat of his CPD cruiser.
- Radio traffic states, "We have one inside refusing to come out."
- Radio traffic announces, "He's got a 33 [gun] on him!"
- [REDACTED] begins driving and activates his lights and sirens.
- [REDACTED] reports to radio dispatch he is in the area.
- Radio traffic from responding officers provides a physical description of Miller and states he is in possession of a black semi-automatic handgun.
- [REDACTED] reports via radio seeing Miller walking eastbound near Highland and 8th.
- [REDACTED] advises via radio to set up a perimeter and asks for additional cars.
- [REDACTED] exits his cruiser and begins searching for Miller on foot with other responding officers.
- [REDACTED] unholsters his duty weapon and continues searching for Miller.
- [REDACTED] begins running, other responding officers can be heard shouting verbal commands to Miller to drop his gun.
- [REDACTED] takes cover behind a vehicle, raises his duty weapon and appears to fire multiple gunshots.
- "Shots fired" is announced on the radio.
- Numerous responding officers can be seen pursuing Miller near the apartment building at 242 West 8th Avenue.
- [REDACTED] and other officers attempt to locate Miller.
- [REDACTED] advises via radio to set up a perimeter in the area of 9th Avenue and Worthington Street and asks for an additional cruiser.
- Radio dispatches announces there is a "7A" [open door/window] in the area, later announced to be 197 West 8th Avenue.
- Officers can be heard announcing themselves at 197 West 8th Avenue, instructing Miller to make his location known.
- [REDACTED] provides a physical description of Miller via radio.
- Multiple gunshots can be heard, [REDACTED] announces "shots fired" via radio.
- Officers inside the residence at 197 West 8th Avenue can be heard talking to each other and attempting to locate Miller.
- An officer requests a bunker [ballistic shield] via radio.
- A single muffled gunshot can be heard, officers inside the building can be heard retreating outside.
- [REDACTED] and other responding officers take cover behind a neighboring residence.
- An officer can be heard stating Miller had a handgun during the gunfire exchange.
- Officer Trionfante announces via radio multiple officers returned fire at Miller, and it was unknown if Miller had been struck.
- Multiple PA announcements can be heard instructing Miller to come out of the house, unarmed with his hands up.
- Officers continue to attempt to make contact with Miller.
- [REDACTED] makes contact with residents at 1517 Worthington Street.
- Residents provide information regarding Miller to [REDACTED], including having heard Miller "cock" a gun when police arrived and ran out the back door.
- [REDACTED] reports to a CPD supervisor he discharged his weapon during the incident.

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SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from CPD [REDACTED] and the following was noted:

- Video begins with [REDACTED] in the driver seat of his CPD cruiser, [REDACTED]
- Radio dispatch announces Miller had broken into 1517 Worthington Street.
- [REDACTED] activates his lights and sirens.
- Radio dispatch announces Miller is know to carry a "33" [gun].
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] exit the cruiser and approach 1517 Worthington Street.
- [REDACTED] can be seen at the front door with his duty weapon unholstered and states, "Asante, put your hands where I can see them."
- [REDACTED] raises his duty weapon into the door frame and states, "Put your hands up!"
- [REDACTED] announces via radio, "We have one inside refusing to come out."
- Radio traffic can be heard announcing, "He's got a 33 [gun] on him!"
- [REDACTED] runs into the parking lot area behind 1517 Worthington Street.
- [REDACTED] can be seen raising his weapon and states, "Put the gun down!"
- [REDACTED] provides a physical description of Miller on the radio and confirms Miller is in possession of a handgun.
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] search the area for Miller.
- [REDACTED] announces via radio he sees Miller walking and begins pursuing Miller.
- Other officers are heard giving Miller verbal commands including, "Put the gun down!"
- [REDACTED] is seen pointing his weapon and commanding Miller to put his gun down, [REDACTED] also raises his weapon and commands Miller to drop his gun.
- [REDACTED] pursues Miller to the parking lot area at 242 West 8th Avenue.
- Miller can be seen near the passenger side of a white Kia SUV in the parking lot.
- [REDACTED] points his weapon at Miller and continues to give him verbal commands to drop his gun, Miller walks down into the lower walkway of the apartment building.
- Miller is seen walking to the corner of the apartment building and appears to have an object in his right hand, [REDACTED] continues to command Miller to put the gun down.
- [REDACTED] raises his weapon and appears to fire multiple shots towards Miller, Miller can be seen running away from CPD officers.
- "Shots fired" is announced on the radio.
- [REDACTED] and other responders attempt to locate Miller.
- [REDACTED] announces there is a "7A" [open door/window] at 197 West 8th Avenue.
- Multiple gunshots can be heard, [REDACTED] announces "shots fired" via radio and moves to the rear of 197 West 8th Avenue.
- An officer requests a bunker [ballistic shield] via radio.
- [REDACTED] takes cover behind a vehicle parked on West 8th Avenue.
- Radio traffic indicates officers are pulling out of 197 West 8th Avenue, Miller is inside and may be reloading his gun.
- Multiple PA announcements can be heard instructing Miller to come out of the house.
- Officers can be seen evacuating occupants from adjacent residences.
- Radio traffic indicates Miller fired his gun, and responding officers returned fire.
- [REDACTED] reports the location where he discharged his weapon during the incident to a CPD supervisor.

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SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from CPD [REDACTED] and the following was noted:

- Video begins with [REDACTED] in the driver seat of her CPD cruiser.
- Radio traffic states, "We have one inside refusing to come out."
- Radio traffic announces, "He's got a 33 [gun] on him!"
- [REDACTED] notifies dispatch she is in route and activates her lights and sirens.
- Radio traffic from responding officers provides a physical description of Miller and states he is in possession of a black semi-automatic handgun.
- Radio traffic announces Miller is seen walking eastbound on West 8th Avenue near Highland Street.
- [REDACTED] exits her cruiser and begins searching for Miller on foot.
- [REDACTED] begins running with her duty weapon unholstered.
- [REDACTED] runs to the area behind 1517 Worthington Street, shouting can be heard followed by several gunshots.
- [REDACTED] asks, "Is he down?"
- [REDACTED] and other responding officers search the area for Miller.
- Radio traffic can be heard indicating Miller is running, [REDACTED] and other responding officers begin running.
- [REDACTED] states there is an open door on the side of 197 West 8th Avenue.
- [REDACTED] states the door appears to have been forced open.
- [REDACTED] calls out, "Columbus Police, you better sound off!"
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] enter the open door and begin searching.
- [REDACTED] indicates she is going left and searches several rooms.
- As [REDACTED] pushes a bedroom door open, gunshots can be heard.
- Miller can be seen briefly near a closet on the far side of the room.
- [REDACTED] states, "He's in here!" and moves to the doorway of an adjacent room.
- Miller can be partially seen again, [REDACTED] appears to fire several gunshots with a one-handed grip in Miller's direction.
- [REDACTED] says, "Get out here [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] retreats outside of the building.
- [REDACTED] reloads her duty weapon.
- Officers attempt to call Miller out of the bedroom.
- [REDACTED] announces he believes Miller is reloading his weapon before a single gunshot can be heard, [REDACTED] and other officers retreat and exit the building.
- [REDACTED] and other officers take cover outside of the building at a neighboring house and attempt to determine Miller's location.
- Officer Trionfante announces via radio shots have been fired.
- Officer Trionfante checks [REDACTED] for injuries.
- [REDACTED] states Miller fired shots [gunshots] at her.
- [REDACTED] states she did not see any injuries on Miller when she saw him and was unsure if she struck Miller when she fired her duty weapon.
- Multiple PA announcements can be heard instructing Miller to come out of the house, unarmed with his hands up.
- [REDACTED] calls a resident at 1517 Worthington Street to obtain Miller's phone number and background information.
- [REDACTED] informs OSUPD [REDACTED] they have been requested to report to another location and exits the scene area.

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SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from OSUPD [REDACTED] and the following was noted:

- Video begins with [REDACTED] in the driver seat of her OSUPD cruiser.
- [REDACTED] exits her cruiser and draws her duty weapon.
- [REDACTED] joins other responding officers who are searching for Miller.
- [REDACTED] reenters her cruiser and relocates, then exits.
- [REDACTED] yells, "He's up here, he's up here!" and begins running.
- Responding officers begin searching for Miller near 197 West 8th Avenue.
- Officers announce "7A" [open door/window] at 197 West 8th Avenue.
- [REDACTED] joins CPD officers as they prepare to enter the residence.
- [REDACTED] calls out, "Columbus Police, you better sound off!"
- [REDACTED] confirms the door appears to have been forced open.
- [REDACTED] follows [REDACTED] and begins searching the house.
- Several gunshots can be heard, and [REDACTED] states, "He's in here!"
- [REDACTED] appears to fire her weapon as several additional gunshots are heard.
- [REDACTED] says, "Get out here [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can be seen moving to the outside of the building.
- [REDACTED] reloads her weapon.
- Officers give Miller several verbal commands to which there appears to be no response.
- [REDACTED] announces Miller is reloading his weapon before a single gunshot can be heard, [REDACTED] and other officers retreat to the exterior of the building.
- [REDACTED] takes cover behind a neighboring residence.
- PA announcements can be heard instructing Miller to come out of the house unarmed.
- Officers can be seen evacuating occupants at neighboring residences.
- [REDACTED] informs OSUPD [REDACTED] they have been requested to report to another location and exits the scene area.

SA Douglass reviewed BWC video from law enforcement witnesses CPD [REDACTED] and CPD Officer Deann Trionfante (Officer Trionfante). BWC video from these witness officers appeared consistent with their verbal statements given to BCI regarding the incident.

SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from [REDACTED] and the following was noted:

- [REDACTED] makes contact with Miller at 1517 Worthington Street, Miller can be seen peeking around a wall looking at CPD officers at the front door.
- [REDACTED] observes Miller with an object in his right hand at the rear of the residence and announces via radio, "He's got a 33 [gun] on him!" as Miller walks away.
- [REDACTED] locates Miller at the south side of 226 West 8th Avenue and instructs Miller to put his gun down numerous times.
- [REDACTED] locates Miller again at the rear side of 1517 Worthington Street and commands Miller to drop his gun, Miller runs away.
- [REDACTED] pursues Miller to the parking lot area of 242 West 8th Avenue, where the first shooting incident occurs.
- [REDACTED] points his duty weapon at Miller several times but does not appear to fire.

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SA Douglass reviewed BWC video footage from Officer Trionfante and the following was noted:

- Officer Trionfante enters the residence at 197 West 8th Avenue with other responding officers to search for Miller.
- Officer Trionfante is positioned behind other officers when they exchange gunfire with Miller inside of 197 West 8th Avenue.
- Officer Trionfante has her weapon unholstered but does not appear to fire her weapon during the incident.
- Officer Trionfante uses a PA system to attempt to make contact and negotiate with Miller, asking Miller to come out of the house unarmed.

All video evidence from this incident can be accessed electronically on Evidence.com, a website operated by Axon to store and maintain BWC video files. Please review the video footage in its entirety for specific details.

Attachments:

No attachments.

References:

No references.