



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



2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio  
 44301

Investigative Activity: Interview of Officer Travis Connor  
 Activity Date: August 02, 2022  
 Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, August 02, 2022, at 1143 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Joseph Goudy interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Travis Connor (Connor), who was accompanied by his attorney, Michael Callahan, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Malarcik, Pierce, Munyer, & Will. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio and video recorded.

Officer Connor was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting, which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Connor 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.

Officer Connor stated his radio call sign on June 27, 2022, was Car 22. Officer Connor has been a police officer for approximately four years; prior to that, Officer Connor worked for the Belmont County Sheriff's Office for approximately three and a half years. Officer Connor wore his standard police uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. Officer Connor was the driver of Car 22, a Ford Explorer marked with APD emblems and emergency lights; his partner, Officer Powell, was the passenger. Officer Connor considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he could explain how he became involved in the incident and what actions he took. Officer Connor stated he and Officer Powell were in the area of Summit Street and Furnace Road when Car [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]) broadcasted the traffic stop. Officer Connor explained that his radio was on Channel 1 at the time that Car [REDACTED] broadcasted the traffic stop on Channel 2. Officer Connor advised that Officer Powell alerted him that a "chase was going on." Officer Connor and Officer Powell entered their cruiser and left the area of Furnace Road and Summit Street. Officer Connor stated that they proceeded

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to the area of Martin Luther King Boulevard (MLK) and Summit Street. Officer Connor advised that he heard over the radio that one shot was fired from the fleeing vehicle and that the pursuing officers were okay.

At that point, Officer Connor stated he learned that the pursuit was on Route 8 south, and he and Officer Powell proceeded east on MLK to the area where Route 8 south and MLK merge. At that time, Officer Connor advised he observed the vehicle that officers were pursuing, followed by what Officer Connor believed was APD Car [REDACTED] followed by another APD cruiser. Officer Connor and Officer Powell then proceeded onto Route 8 south and became the third cruiser in "line." Officer Connor stated he followed at a safe distance and used caution because a gunshot had been previously fired from the fleeing vehicle.

Officer Connor explained that as they continued, a few other APD cruisers joined in, trying to "cut off exits." At some point, Officer Connor stated that he believed Car [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]) and Officer [REDACTED] became the primary pursuing vehicle and that the pursuit exited Route 8 onto the Firestone or Archwood exit. Officer Connor advised that the pursuit continued on multiple side streets and eventually ended up on Wilbeth Road, westbound. Later in the interview, Officer Connor was asked how fast the individual was driving during the pursuit. Officer Connor stated he was not exactly sure but felt that it was not in excess.

Officer Connor stated, "Car comes to kind of like a rolling stop, I attempt to get out and there was another cruiser behind us, that I thought was gonna, if I jumped out and ran that would, you know hit me, so I then kind of open it, shut the door, make sure, you know, see how the car proceeds. Once I realize, you know the car kind of stops, the car saw me, I get out. I do hear the Tasers being deployed obviously those weren't effective because obviously the individual continued to run. Um, once we got into the parking lot, I did in fact see the individual turn and reach down into his waistline at that moment officers did discharge their weapons. There was a line of officers in front of me so obviously I wasn't going to try and shoot through them or around them or anything like that so I ended up running around to the uh, last officer in line there and that's when, kind of things settled in, we started rendering first aid."

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*Based upon Officer Connor's body-worn camera footage, the above image is the approximate time when gunfire starts. The body-worn camera footage shows Officer Connor in the area of the shooting.*

Agents then began to ask Officer Connor follow-up questions. SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he recalled a signal being broadcasted during the incident. Officer Connor stated, "There was, I didn't honestly hear the signal 21 but obviously with the press release you could hear the officers, hey you know, Signal 21, one shot fired but at that exact moment, you know adrenaline, even if it's not your chase, you know the adrenaline is kind of rolling. I clearly didn't hear the 21 but I kind of assumed, hey they did call it but I did not physically hear it."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor, if when another car broadcasts that shots are being fired, does that call for an immediate response from other officers. Officer Connor responded, "Absolutely, yeah, I believe, from, I mean, from what it sounded, I mean no one answered the radio that they were going to but you knew the entire city was showing up to them and assist them in any way possible."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor, if when a Signal 21 is called, does that require an immediate response from officers. Officer Connor explained, "You go assist that officer" unless you are on a violent call or a domestic violence situation.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he observed the individual when the individual exited his car. Officer Connor responded, "Yes." SA Momchilov then asked Officer Connor if there was anything unusual about what the individual was wearing. Officer Connor responded,

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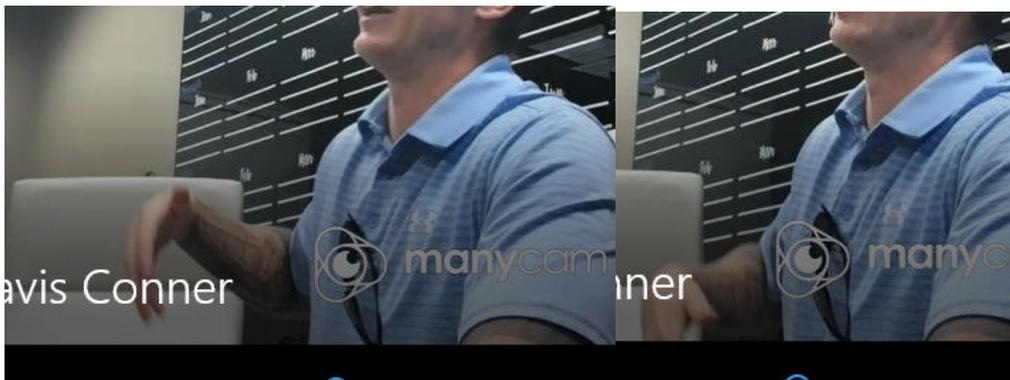
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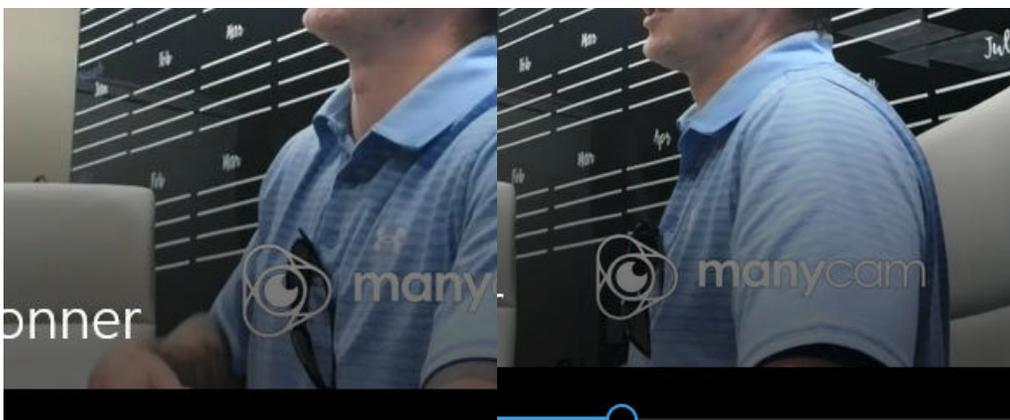
“Honestly, I didn’t really catch everything that he was wearing, obviously with him stopping that kind of got the adrenaline going a little bit more and, so I mean I just saw him hop out of the car and just start running. I didn’t see head to toe what he was wearing.” Officer Connor advised that he was still in the cruiser when the individual exited his car.

SA Momchilov stated, Officer Connor, “I believe you said other officers start chasing (on foot) and you chased as well.” Officer Connor responded, “Correct.” SA Momchilov then asked, “How far away was the individual from you, did you know?” Officer Connor responded, “15 to 20 yards maybe, they were still relatively close.”

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he could demonstrate the motion that Officer Connor previously stated the individual made.



Officer Connor stated, “He took his right hand down towards his waist.



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Officer Connor, "As he was turning, I didn't see if his hand continued to raise."

Officer Connor continued, "I mean it was, people running in between but I could definitely see him turn and reach towards his waistband and then shortly after, maybe a second or so after that, that's when shots were being fired."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he could tell who was firing. Officer Connor responded, "I absolutely had no clue who was even in front of me, who was firing, I just heard the gunshots and that's when I realize, obviously can't shoot through the people and I didn't want to run up and try to split people, obviously."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if the individual's back was towards him and then the individual turned around. Officer Connor replied, "I think I saw him as he was kinda facing sideways, essentially turning, kinda look back and took his hand down but when he did turn to reach for his waist, he was directly facing us."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he would of fired if he had a line of sight. Officer Connor responded, "I would have, yes." SA Momchilov later asked Officer Connor if he had his firearm out when he exited the cruiser. Officer Connor stated he kept his firearm in the holster until he got relatively close to the line of officers. Officer Connor explained that he did not want to run with his firearm in his hand or muzzle flash the officers in front of him.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he observed the individual after the individual was struck. Officer Connor advised, by the time he got in line with the other officers, the individual was on the ground. SA Momchilov then asked if the individual was still making movements when he was on the ground. Officer Connor stated, "The only movements I saw was at the very end once we had stopped firing, he did raise his right arm and you can kind of see his fingers twitching like he was possessing a gun, but you can see his hand twitching then I kind of fall back down to the ground but other than that I, nothing of any other body part that I could see was moving."

SA Momchilov then asked Officer Connor if the individual was still being shot at after he was on the ground. Officer Connor responded, "Yes he was, yes." SA Momchilov then stated, "So you saw the individual when he was on the ground and other officers were firing. Was he making any movements at that point?" Officer Connor responded, "From my angle, I couldn't see what his hands were doing, obviously I could only see the left side of his body, his left hand wasn't moving but I couldn't see what his left, or what his right hand was doing, how it was moving or anything like that."

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SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he had a conversations or discussions with officers who had fired their weapon. Officer Connor responded, "I did, obviously, like I said, I had no idea of who was actually involved so there was a few I walked up to and I'm like, hey, you know, you guys good, you know, not hurt or anything like that and I were just kind of like, hey, were you guys involved um, I was informed, obviously yes, so at that point it was okay, lets figure out, lets obviously inform a supervisor that, you know, you guys were involved and get you guys separated and into a cruiser."

SA Momchilov responded, "The officers informed you that they fired but did they give you specifics of why they fired or what caused them to fire, what they saw." Officer Connor advised that once he learned that the involved officers were involved, he did not ask any further questions.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he had been involved in any previous vehicle pursuits. Officer Connor stated he had. SA Momchilov then asked Officer Connor if there was anything unusual about where this individual stopped. Officer Connor stated that it didn't seem to be a completely random or obscured place to exit the vehicle.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he had been involved in any previous foot pursuits. Officer Connor stated that he had. SA Momchilov asked if it is typical for someone to run into an open parking lot area. Officer Connor explained that the majority of foot pursuits occur in more residential areas and this individual ran into more of a business area. Officer Connor advised that it was "kinda weird" for the individual to run into an open parking lot but felt that the individual may have been limited in options of where to run.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he had any involvement with searching or clearing the individual's vehicle after the shooting. Officer Connor stated that the individual's vehicle continued to roll after he exited and eventually rolled into a church. After the shootings, Officer Connor advised that "a couple people" called out that they were not sure if someone else was in that vehicle. Officer Connor ran toward the individual's vehicle and then was advised that the vehicle was clear and no one was inside. Officer Connor then stated he then went back and then follow the individual's "flightpath" to see if the individual had dropped anything.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if he reviewed his body-worn camera footage. Officer Connor stated he viewed it once. Officer Connor stated he did watch the body-worn camera footage from the officer who "called out the chase." Officer Connor stated that video was from the press release.

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SA Momchilov asked Officer Connor if the statement that he is providing is from his memory or from what he observed on the body-worn camera footage. Officer Connor responded, "Both."

After the interview, Officer Connor was afforded the opportunity to view his body-camera footage again. Afterward, no further statements were obtained.

**Reference Items:**

The video recordings of the interview were placed onto a DVD and were labeled as Reference Item L.

**Attachments:**

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this report.

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