

Investigative Report

2024-3862

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 234 Mansfield Avenue, Shelby, Ohio 44875, Richland County



Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness SPD Sergeant Nolen

Involves: Sergeant Sean Nolen (W)

**Activity Date:** 12/18/2024

Activity Location: 31 Mack Avenue, Shelby, Ohio

Authoring Agent: SA John P. Tingley

#### Narrative:

On Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 1150 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) and SA Jesse Bynum (SA Bynum) interviewed Shelby Police Department (SPD) Sergeant Sean Nolen (Nolen), who was accompanied by his attorney, Bob Sauter, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the SPD located at 31 Mack Avenue, Shelby, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Sergeant Nolen was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the December 7, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred at 234 Mansfield Avenue, Shelby, Richland County, Ohio. Reportedly, Sergeant Nolen did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

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 of the 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 nor is it a word for word translation of either the questions or answers. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify and content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Sergeant Nolen read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form which had been shown and explained to him by SA Tingley.

SA Tingley then had Sergeant Nolen read a written statement that he had prepared prior to his interview. After Sergeant Nolen read his statement, agents asked several

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



Investigative Report







additional questions related to the incident. A summary of that information from the written statement and questions asked and answered are detailed below.

Sergeant Nolen stated that he was at home when he received a call from SPD Dispatch on December 7, 2024, at approximately 2319 hours, which advised that SPD Sergeant Kocher had been shot. Sergeant Nolen responded to the SPD where he got a brief update on the incident. Sergeant Nolen then went to the incident scene at Arby's in a marked SPD Cruiser.

Upon entering the Arby's through the southeast public entrance door, he stated: "I saw Sergeant Kocher standing against a table with blood on his face and neck." (01:56 mark of the recorded statement)

Sergeant Nolen also observed Tyler Jacobs lying in the employee cooking area where he was receiving medical aid from SPD Officer Ewing. Sergeant Kocher then escorted Sergeant Kocher out of Arby's to an ambulance. Sergeant Nolen then returned inside of Arby's and assisted Officer Ewing with providing medical aid to Tyler Jacobs.

Once Tyler Jacobs was removed from Arby's, placed into an ambulance, and transported to OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, Sergeant Nolen took over scene security and maintained the scene until the scene was turned over to BCL.

SA Tingley asked Sergeant Nolen if Sergeant Kocher had said anything to him. Sergeant Nolen stated that when he entered Arby's and asked Sergeant Kocher where Tyler Jacobs was at, Sergeant Kocher simply pointed. After Sergeant Nolen had escorted Sergeant Kocher to the ambulance, Sergeant Nolen asked Sergeant Kocher if he wanted Sergeant Nolen to go with him to the hospital. At this, Sergeant Kocher said "No"

SA Tingley continued and asked Sergeant Nolen if Tyler Jacobs had said anything to him while he was assisting with the medical aid for Tyler Jacobs. Sergeant Nolen replied that he only remembered Tyler Jacobs saying that he could not take a "negative breath".

SA Tingley then asked Sergeant Nolen if he had any contact with the other employee, who was working at the time of the incident. Sergeant Nolen said that he had contacted the other employee and had him write out a brief witness statement after which the other employee left Arby's.

The interview then concluded at approximately 1156 hours.

The interview was audio-recorded and was attached to this report as Reference Item C. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and signed written statement

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



**Investigative Report** 



2024-3862 Officer Involved Critical

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 234 Mansfield Avenue, Shelby, Ohio 44875, Richland County

are also attached to this report. Please see the attachments and audio recordings for further details.

#### **References:**

Ref Item C - Stored in Evidence.com - Officer Interview

#### **Attachments:**

- 1. Sergeant Nolen Criminal Notification Form
- 2. Sergeant Nolen Written Statement

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.





### **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 <u>not</u> a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Printed Name of Interviewer

Signature of Interviewee

BCI Agent (Printed)

BCI Agent (Signature)

20241218/1149 MRS

On December 7th, 2024, at approximately 2319 hours, I was contacted by the officer who was sitting desk, Officer Benjamin Chambers. Officer Chambers frantically told me that Sgt. Noah Kocher had been shot. I was asked to come in to assist as the shift was on minimum staffing, two officers. The other officer on shift, Officer Dominic Ewing, was not reported to have been injured.

I drove my personal vehicle to the police department where I secured a patrol car and spoke to Officer Chambers. Officer Chambers only told me that Sgt. Kocher was shot and was not certain the status of the suspect involved. I arrived before additional units and EMS could respond. I made entry into the southeast public entrance to Arby's. I observed Sgt. Kocher standing against a table with blood on his face and his neck. Sgt. Kocher was holding his neck with his hand and pointed toward the employee cooking area where I observed the suspect laying on the ground. Officer Ewing was performing medical aid and appeared to be securing tourniquets onto the suspects legs.

I noticed that EMS was on scene so I grabbed Sgt. Kocher and dragged him out to the squad where EMS took over. I went back inside to assist Officer Ewing with medical aid for the suspect, Tyler Jacobs. I had Officer Ewing start cutting off clothing at which time I observed an additional bullet entry hole in Jacob's back, to the left of the spine toward the lower back. I radioed to dispatch twice informing them I needed an additional ambulance and EMS personnel for the suspect. I placed an Israeli Bandage on the wound until additional units arrived. Two deputies from Richland County provided a chest seal to apply on the back wound. Volunteer FireFighter Donnie Ostrander arrived and took over medical aid until an additional squad arrived to transport Jacobs to the hospital. I then maintained security of the scene until it was turned over to Ohio BCI.