



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



2024-2718

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 248 E. 11th Avenue,
Columbus, OH 43201 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED]
Date of Activity: 10/11/2024
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton and Lipperman –
Business – 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220
Author: SA James H Gore, #168

Narrative:

On the morning of September 10, 2024 at approximately 0130 hours, six members of the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) were involved in an Officer-Involved Critical Incident in the rear parking lot of the Precinct 4 substation. The officers encountered Lamine Mahmoudi, who was armed with a kitchen knife and a meat cleaver. Mahmoudi was killed during the confrontation. Agents from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) were requested to handle the fatal critical incident matter. The six involved officers were identified as:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

On the morning of October 11, 2024, BCI Special Agents (SAs) James Gore and Kyle Douglass interviewed [REDACTED]. The purpose of the interview was to obtain an account of the critical incident from [REDACTED] perspective. The interview took place at the Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman in Columbus. Present with [REDACTED] was her legal counsel from the Fraternal Order of Police, attorney Lathan Lipperman.

Prior to beginning the interview, SA Gore provided [REDACTED] with a "Criminal Investigation Notification" form, which informed [REDACTED] that the nature of the investigation was not administrative. [REDACTED] acknowledged her rights, and she signed the form.

Mr. Lipperman provided a printed statement from [REDACTED] which summarized her account of the critical incident. SA Gore requested [REDACTED] to read her statement aloud so that she

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could refresh her memory. Upon reading the statement, ██████ agreed that it accurately reflected her memory of the event, and she signed the document.

█████ wrote in her statement that at the beginning of her shift, she learned in of an encounter the prior shift had with Lamine Mahmoudi at his residence:

"During roll call at the start of my shift, Sgt. Van Dusen announced that earlier in the day, second shift officers had responded to a barricade at 235 Chittenden Avenue, very near the substation. Specifically, he relayed that a suspect had threatened others and/or himself with a knife which prompted officers to surround his house. A Mobile Crisis Response Unit (MCR)—a unit consisting of a police officer and civilian mental health expert trained to respond to mental health crises—also responded. At one point, the suspect opened his door before quickly slamming it shut. Ultimately, the suspect refused to leave his house. Once officers determined he was alone, the barricade ended, and officers left his residence."

█████ also wrote in her statement that she and her colleagues were told to remain cautious, because the subject (Mahmoudi) reportedly left in his car, and the substation parking lot was easily accessible.

█████ statement continued:

"Immediately after roll call, dispatch aired that that very suspect reportedly had a knife and was threatening harm to himself and/or others at his house. Sgt. Van Dusen marked me and the other 4 Precinct officers on the call, advising dispatch we would be responding on foot from the substation. I responded with Sgt. Van Dusen and ██████

The other officers and I left the substation on foot. I unholstered my weapon and kept it in a low ready position as we walked north towards the alley that runs east/west behind the substation. The suspect's residence, a duplex, at 235 Chittenden Avenue was only 30–40 yards west of the substation, accessible from the alley. The duplex faces north/Chittenden Avenue, and the back faces the alley. There were two vehicles parked behind the duplex: a white/silver car with dark, tinted windows and a red car."

█████ explained that she and ██████ briefly detained a male from the white vehicle, but he was released once it was determined that he was a neighbor, not Lamine Mahmoudi. ██████ statement continued:

"I moved up and covered the back of the duplex with ██████. Eventually the MCR unit that had responded earlier in the day arrived on scene. That unit had spoken with the suspect on the phone, but he apparently stopped responding. One of the MCR members used an LRAD [long range acoustic device] to make announcements, asking the suspect to come out and assuring him that we only wanted to help. At one point, the suspect opened the back door but then quickly slammed it shut. In that brief time, I could see he was wearing a white t-shirt and possibly jeans, and he had a large knife in one of his hands."

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Officers kept containment around the house for about 30–45 minutes. Besides briefly opening then slamming the back door, the suspect did not come outside or surrender. Once officers determined the suspect was alone and therefore did not pose a threat to anyone inside, Lt. Ingles and Sgt. Van Dusen terminated the barricade. I left the suspect's residence and walked back to the substation with the other 4 Precinct officers."

██████████ explained that after the barricade incident, she and ██████████ (partnered together in the same vehicle) were dispatched to a few unrelated calls. She reported that while returning to the substation, she and ██████████ observed a vehicle which they later concluded was Lamine Mahmoudi's. ██████████ wrote:

"...While returning to the substation, we stopped at a red light at the intersection of E. 11th Avenue and Summit Street. When the light turned green, a red car in front of us tried to turn the wrong way down a one way street. I honked my horn (which also activates my lights) and the driver went the other way instead. ██████████ pointed out that it looked like the same red car the suspect drove. When we got back to the substation, we noticed the red car was no longer parked behind the suspect's duplex, indicating it was likely the suspect on the road."

██████████ explained that she and the other involved officers had their vehicle backed into parking spaces behind the substation, where they chatted and completed paperwork. ██████████ statement continued:

"...At some point not long after I parked, the suspect returned in his red car and parked behind his duplex before going back inside. I could see the upper portion of the backdoor to the suspect's residence from my cruiser. Several times after returning he came out that door before going back inside. One of the times he came outside ██████████ announced that he had changed clothes: He was now wearing darker colored clothing, what appeared to be a jogger suit.

I had been parked behind the substation for about 30–60 minutes when out of the corner of my eye I saw the suspect walking east in the alley, towards the substation. He was holding a large knife and was approximately 50 feet away. I immediately yelled that the suspect was approaching, got out and unholstered my weapon. The other officers got out of their cruisers, too. I aired that the mentally disturbed suspect from earlier was walking towards the substation with a knife and requested backup. At first, I only saw one knife, but once out of my cruiser I realized the suspect had a knife in each hand: one appeared to be a large meat cleaver, and the other looked like a large butcher's knife."

██████████ stated that she and the other officers formed sort of a semi-circle in the parking lot as they faced Mahmoudi, who was in the alley. ██████████ explained in her statement:

"The suspect stopped at the threshold of the parking lot and faced us. The other officers and I were still in front of our cruisers. I would estimate the suspect was about 20–25

feet away. We were still giving commands to drop the knives, but he was not complying or otherwise responding. Instead, he quickly cocked back one of his arms and flinched like he was going to throw one of his knives at us. Officers yelled "don't do it!" It seemed like he might comply, but a second later the suspect looked at the officers on the eastern side of the line (who I believe were closest to him) and stepped into the parking lot, moving towards those officers. I believed he intended to attack me and the other officers with the deadly weapons he was wielding and that I and those officers would be grievously injured or killed, and it was at that moment I fired my weapon. In seemingly the same instant the other officers also fired their weapons.

I now know I fired five rounds. I fired those rounds in rapid succession: I would estimate I fired those rounds in about one second. I fired in a northerly/northeasterly direction. My target was the suspect's center mass. There were no officers or civilians in my line of fire. I believe I was on the far left/western end of the line, and the rest of the officers were to my right/east in a semi "U" formation. My backdrop was a transformer behind/north of the suspect. I do not recall whether I used my weapon's sites. I fired with a two-handed, right-strong grip. There was plentiful lighting from several streetlights. I was standing when I fired. I had no cover or concealment. And I do not believe any of the other officers did, either."

██████████ reported that she assisted detaining Mahmoudi in handcuffs, then she began chest compressions in an effort to render first aid. She continued chest compressions until she was relieved by other officers and medics who arrived.

██████████ said she later had an opportunity to watch her body-worn camera (BWC) footage. She stated that the footage was an accurate representation of what she recalled experiencing during the encounter.

██████████ said she initially thought that she fired three rounds during the incident, but when her weapon was collected by BCI and a round count was conducted, she realized that she actually fired five times. Similarly, ██████████ said she was certain that ██████████ was armed with a Taser; during the encounter, however, she did not recall hearing anyone give an audible warning of "Taser!" which is a common verbalization for its deployment.

██████████ concluded that her response to the immediate threat that Lamine Mahmoudi posed to the officers was consistent with her training.

Copies of the Criminal Investigation Notification form, ██████████ printed statement, and audio-recorded interview are available for further review as attachments to this report.

References:

No references

Attachments:

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Attachment # 01: Criminal Investigation Notification CPD [REDACTED] 10-11-2024
Attachment # 02: CPD [REDACTED] written statement 10-11-2024
Attachment # 03: 10-11-2024 CPD [REDACTED] Interview – SA Gore, SA Douglass

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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 not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted]
Printed Name of Interviewee

10/11/24 11:08AM
Date / Time

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

JAMES GERZ 168
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

Lathan Lippman
[Signature]

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at approximately 1:25 a.m. I am providing this voluntary statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I received my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certification on [REDACTED]

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police ("CPD" or the "Division") on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I do not have any law enforcement experience at another agency, nor have I ever been in the military.

My regular assignment is [REDACTED] I work [REDACTED] shift hours, [REDACTED] My regular days off are [REDACTED] I did not work any overtime or special duty on the day of, or day before, this incident.

On the day of this incident, I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants, a navy short-sleeved shirt, and a navy external vest carrier that displayed my badge on the front and "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the back. I was also wearing a CPD hat. Finally, I had a body worn camera ("BWC") mounted to my vest. My BWC was on and recording during this incident.

I was carrying my Division-issued primary service weapon, a Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm handgun. That weapon was loaded with Division-issued ammunition. My range qualifications were current. The gun was equipped with a Division-approved light mounted to the underside of the frame. I did not have any backup firearm.

I was partnered with CPD [REDACTED] We were operating in a marked CPD patrol SUV, Cruiser [REDACTED] I was driving. There were also several other CPD

officers involved in this incident: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am in good health, and I do not suffer from any disabilities. I do not need glasses/contacts or hearing aids as I have good vision and hearing. I did not drink any alcohol in the 24 hours before my shift, nor was I taking any medication that could negatively affect the performance of my duties. I got plenty of rest before my shift and arrived in good spirits.

During roll call at the start of my shift, Sgt. Van Dusen announced that earlier in the day, second shift officers had responded to a barricade at 235 Chittenden Avenue, very near the substation. Specifically, he relayed that a suspect had threatened others and/or himself with a knife which prompted officers to surround his house. A Mobile Crisis Response Unit (MCR)—a unit consisting of a police officer and civilian mental health expert trained to respond to mental health crises—also responded. At one point, the suspect opened his door before quickly slamming it shut. Ultimately, the suspect refused to leave his house. Once officers determined he was alone, the barricade ended, and officers left his residence.

Sgt. Van Dusen also showed us a picture of the suspect from OHLEG: He appeared to be middle-aged and was bald with a beard. I was given his name, but I do not presently recall it. I do know, though, that I did not recognize the suspect's name as anyone I knew. I also do not believe I had ever previously encountered him.

The suspect reportedly drove a red car. Once the barricade ended, he left in the red car, but Sgt. Van Dusen did not know whether he had since come back. Sgt. Van Dusen warned us to be aware of our surroundings since the suspect lived nearly adjacent to the substation and the parking lot was easily accessible and not gated.

Immediately after roll call, dispatch aired that that very suspect reportedly had a knife and was threatening harm to himself and/or others at his house. Sgt. Van Dusen marked me and the other 4 Precinct officers on the call, advising dispatch we would be responding on foot from the substation. I responded with Sgt. Van Dusen and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The other officers and I left the substation on foot. I unholstered my weapon and kept it in a low ready position as we walked north towards the alley that runs east/west behind the substation. The suspect's residence, a duplex, at 235 Chittenden Avenue was only 30-40 yards west of the substation, accessible from the alley. The duplex faces north/ Chittenden Avenue, and the back faces the alley. There were two vehicles parked behind the duplex: a white/silver car with dark, tinted windows and a red car.

No one was inside the red car. But the white car was running, and I could see the silhouette of someone in the driver's seat, through the driver's side mirror. The other officers and I found cover behind the vehicle. I ordered the driver to put his hands out the window as if we were conducting a felony stop. He complied, and I noticed that he looked like the suspect from the photo I had seen. I ordered him to get out of the car. He again complied and was placed in handcuffs. [REDACTED] and I escorted the driver to a cruiser parked in the alley while the other officers surrounded the duplex.

The driver was fully cooperative and told us that he lived next door to the suspect. While we verified his identity, officers from other precincts arrived. Several other officers pulled up cruisers as cover, blocking the alleyway. The driver gave identification proving he was not the suspect. [REDACTED] and I requested that he stay back from the scene until the situation

was resolved. During the standoff, another neighbor walked up to the scene, and I requested he stay away for the time being and to avoid his neighbor.

I moved up and covered the back of the duplex with [REDACTED] Eventually the MCR unit that had responded earlier in the day arrived on scene. That unit had spoken with the suspect on the phone, but he apparently stopped responding. One of the MCR members used an LRAD to make announcements, asking the suspect to come out and assuring him that we only wanted to help. At one point, the suspect opened the back door but then quickly slammed it shut. In that brief time, I could see he was wearing a white t-shirt and possibly jeans, and he had a large knife in one of his hands.

Officers kept containment around the house for about 30-45 minutes. Besides briefly opening then slamming the back door, the suspect did not come outside or surrender. Once officers determined the suspect was alone and therefore did not pose a threat to anyone inside, Lt. Ingles and Sgt. Van Dusen terminated the barricade. I left the suspect's residence and walked back to the substation with the other 4 Precinct officers.

A brief time later, [REDACTED] and I left the substation and took a run or two. While returning to the substation, we stopped at a red light at the intersection of E. 11th Avenue and Summit Street. When the light turned green, a red car in front of us tried to turn the wrong way down a one way street. I honked my horn (which also activates my lights) and the driver went the other way instead. [REDACTED] pointed out that it looked like the same red car the suspect drove. When we got back to the substation, we noticed the red car was no longer parked behind the suspect's duplex, indicating it was likely the suspect on the road.

I parked our cruiser in the back/northern lot of the substation. Specifically, I backed into a parking space immediately behind, and roughly in the middle of, the building. Our cruiser was

facing north/ the alley. [REDACTED] were in their cruisers parked behind the substation when we pulled in. They also had their cruisers backed in, facing north. [REDACTED] was parked to our left/west, and [REDACTED] were parked to our right/east.

The other officers and I chatted from our cruisers while I started completing some paperwork. At some point not long after I parked, the suspect returned in his red car and parked behind his duplex before going back inside. I could see the upper portion of the backdoor to the suspect's residence from my cruiser. Several times after returning he came out that door before going back inside. One of the times he came outside [REDACTED] announced that he had changed clothes: He was now wearing darker colored clothing, what appeared to be a jogger suit.

I had been parked behind the substation for about 30-60 minutes when out of the corner of my eye I saw the suspect walking east in the alley, towards the substation. He was holding a large knife and was approximately 50 feet away. I immediately yelled that the suspect was approaching, got out and unholstered my weapon. The other officers got out of their cruisers, too. I aired that the mentally disturbed suspect from earlier was walking towards the substation with a knife and requested backup. At first, I only saw one knife, but once out of my cruiser I realized the suspect had a knife in each hand: one appeared to be a large meat cleaver, and the other looked like a large butcher's knife.

The other officers and I were standing in a line in front of our cruisers, in a somewhat semicircle formation. We were loudly and repeatedly yelling for the suspect to drop his weapons and that we only wanted to help him. But he continued towards us in the alley. I repeatedly told the officers to move back. We took several steps east, trying to create distance from the suspect.

The suspect stopped at the threshold of the parking lot and faced us. The other officers and I were still in front of our cruisers. I would estimate the suspect was about 20-25 feet away. We were still giving commands to drop the knives, but he was not complying or otherwise responding. Instead, he quickly cocked back one of his arms and flinched like he was going to throw one of his knives at us. Officers yelled "don't do it!" It seemed like he might comply, but a second later the suspect looked at the officers on the eastern side of the line (who I believe were closest to him) and stepped into the parking lot, moving towards those officers. I believed he intended to attack me and the other officers with the deadly weapons he was wielding and that I and those officers would be grievously injured or killed, and it was at that moment I fired my weapon. In seemingly the same instant the other officers also fired their weapons.

I now know I fired five rounds. I fired those rounds in rapid succession: I would estimate I fired those rounds in about one second. I fired in a northerly/northeasterly direction. My target was the suspect's center mass. There were no officers or civilians in my line of fire. I believe I was on the far left/western end of the line, and the rest of the officers were to my right/east in a semi "U" formation. My backdrop was a transformer behind/north of the suspect. I do not recall whether I used my weapon's sights. I fired with a two-handed, right-strong grip. There was plentiful lighting from several streetlights. I was standing when I fired. I had no cover or concealment. And I do not believe any of the other officers did, either.

I stopped firing at nearly the same time as the other officers, right as the suspect fell in the parking lot. He had fallen onto his (I believe) right side. [REDACTED] fired shots and I requested medics. The suspect was not moving or saying anything. I holstered my weapon and quickly put on gloves so I could render aid. I approached with the other officers. Initially, I could

only see one of the weapons; but as [REDACTED] rolled the suspect to his left side, the other weapon was found and kicked away.

I helped [REDACTED] handcuff the suspect, then we rolled him onto his back. There was a taser probe connected to, I believe, the left side of his chest. (Before then I was not aware a taser had been deployed.) He had several wounds to his head, torso, and legs. I quickly checked for a pulse, found one, and started chest compressions. [REDACTED] kept pressure on his head wounds. The suspect was not saying anything, and his breathing was labored. Other officers started putting up tape and blocking off the scene. I did chest compressions for a few minutes until another officer relieved me, right as medics got to the scene. This ended my involvement with this incident.

I gathered by the substation with the other involved officers. I was transported from the scene to the Zone 4 Midwatch Substation before eventually going to the CPD Training Academy. There I met with investigators from BCI who took photos and collected my weapon as evidence for the investigation.

At the times I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect intended to grievously injure or kill me and the other officers and that he in fact posed a deadly threat to my life and the other officers' lives. Before the suspect approached, I knew that at least twice that day officers had responded to a barricade at his residence next door to the substation. Both times the suspect had threatened harm with a knife to himself and/or others. And both times officers and a unit specializing in mental health disturbances pled with the suspect to come outside and get help. But he refused those opportunities.

When he approached me and the other officers, he was carrying a large, deadly edged weapon in each hand. The suspect was given numerous commands to put down his weapons, but

he never complied. The officers and I initially started moving away from the suspect to create distance, but our backs were already up against our cruisers and the back of the substation, leaving very little room to move. When the suspect stopped at the edge of the parking lot, I would estimate he was within about 20-25 feet of me and the others. He was possibly closer to the officers on the eastern end since we were in a half "U" formation.

Right before I fired, the suspect acted like he was going to throw one of his knives at us. When officers yelled for him to stop, I thought for a moment that he might comply and surrender, but an instant later he turned his head and looked at the officers on the eastern side of the line and stepped south into the parking lot towards those officers, closing the gap. I believed he intended to attack me and the others with the deadly weapons he was carrying in each of his hands. I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life or the other officers' lives from the deadly threat presented by the suspect and it was then that I fired.

This concludes my statement.

