



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



2024-1513
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 6382 Georges Creek Drive,
 Columbus, OH 43110 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: ██████████ ██████████
Date of Activity: 05/30/2024
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman –
 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220
Author: SA Chad Holcomb, #61

Narrative:

On Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 1501 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) ██████████ who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the attorney’s office in Columbus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

██████████ was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 16, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred around 6382 Georges Creek Drive, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, ██████████ 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.

██████████ has been employed by the Columbus Division of Police since ██████████ He does not have any prior law enforcement. During the incident, ██████████ wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove CPD unit # ██████████, a Ford Taurus, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

██████████ stated that he and other officers were finishing a call at the Dollar General which was about a mile from the scene location. They were made aware of a call regarding a male who was intoxicated. The male was tearing up the house and threatening people inside the house and himself with a firearm. Officers then went to the scene which was about 3–4 minutes away.

When officers arrived on scene, they parked on the shoulder of Gender Road at the entrance to the apartment. Officers approached the scene on foot. ██████████ checked behind the first apartment building. After not seeing anything, he then went back around front and met up with

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the other officers.

The officers then approach the building address. Officer Ryan Cale (Ofc. Cale) and Officer Brady Thomas (Ofc. Thomas) were positioned at the corner of the building. Noise was heard and ██████ ██████ believed it to be Rafael Warfield (Warfield). ██████ got behind a 4-door car as cover. Ofc. Thomas had then begun to give commands to Warfield to drop his weapon and come out. ██████ was about 15-20 feet ahead of ██████ also taking cover behind a vehicle.

██████ then heard gunfire and ducked behind the vehicle for about 2-3 seconds. He thought Warfield fired three shots. When he came back up, he saw a huge cloud of smoke in front of him. ██████ could not see Warfield. Commands to Warfield were given again.

██████ then tried to move closer to ██████ and took a position next to the dumpsters. The officers were then certain that Warfield was on the ground and officers began to approach Warfield. ██████ initially saw a pool of blood behind Warfield's head and that there was a pistol in his hand. He said his initial thought was that Warfield had shot himself due to the pool of blood and the firearm in his hand. He said that he shouldn't have jumped to any conclusions. ██████ never performed first aid on Warfield but stated that other officers were administering aid.

██████ then helped clear the residence and located two females inside. When he came back out, he saw the wound to Warfield's chest and then believed it wasn't self-inflicted.

SA Holcomb asked if ██████ ever saw Warfield with a firearm in his hand. He replied with no. ██████ was asked why he never discharged his firearm. He replied with, "I couldn't identify where he was. I couldn't identify him uh the smoke and there was like a 6-foot wooden fence there." He continued to say, "... If you can't identify the target, you can't fire."

SA Holcomb asked if ██████ followed CPD policies and procedures that day; he replied with yes.

The interview concluded at approximately 1522 hours.

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

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-05-30 - ██████ ██████ (2024-1513) (2)

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