



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: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED]
Date of Activity: 09/10/2024
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On September 10, 2024 at approximately 1106 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) [REDACTED] regarding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on August 11, 2024, at 197 West 8th Avenue in Columbus, OH. BCI was requested for assistance by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and the Ohio State University Police Department (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.

The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by [REDACTED]. Also present for the interview was [REDACTED] Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) designated legal counsel, Lathan Lipperman.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to beginning the interview, SA Douglass provided [REDACTED] with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" (CIN) form. SA Douglass advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that CPD may be conducting. [REDACTED] was advised his statement was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. [REDACTED] verbally confirmed he understood the contents of the form and signed the document, acknowledging his understanding of the nature of the interview. A copy of the signed (CIN) is attached to this report.

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.

FOP legal counsel Lathan Lipperman provided SA Douglass with a written statement from [REDACTED] regarding his involvement in the OICI. SA Douglass provided [REDACTED] with a printed map of the location of the OICI scene to reference throughout the interview. [REDACTED] was asked to read aloud his written statement, and then signed his statement provided to BCI, and verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of his recollection of the OICI incident. Please refer to [REDACTED] statement for further details. A digital copy of the signed written statement was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

[REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "Around 8:00 a.m. on the day of this incident, I had recently cleared from a run when I heard an officer (that I believe was either CPD [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]) air something like, "We got someone inside and they won't come out." Moments later [REDACTED] aired "he's got a gun!" There were only a few officers in the area, so I marked on the run. I believe dispatch also assigned Officer Trionfante. The run was classified as a 10-8 (burglary). I believe the address was on Worthington Street near the 8th and 9th Avenue intersections."

[REDACTED] explained his arrival on scene and continued, "A brief time later, one of the officers yelled that he saw the suspect running (I believe) south. I ran in that direction with several other officers, crossing West 8th Avenue. As I approached the alley just south (and parallel to) West 8th Avenue, an officer pointed left (east) and said the suspect ran in that direction. I cut left (east) and moved towards Worthington Street along the alley with several other officers. I believe it was then one or more OSU officers joined us. I repeatedly warned the other officers that the suspect still had the gun in his hand. I continued east along the alley and crossed Worthington Street with several other officers. I believe we stopped at the southeast corner of the first building off that street. One of the officers said he saw the suspect run north of our location. Officers fanned out and searched the vicinity. I moved north to search around some of the houses in that area. A side door to one of those houses was open. (I now know the address of this house to be 197 W. 8th Avenue, but I was not sure of the address at the time.) I yelled out we had an open door. Officers Trionfante and [REDACTED] joined me. That door was elevated about 3-4 steps off the ground. I asked Officer Trionfante to cover me as I moved past the open door. On closer look, the door appeared kicked in: there was debris scattered about and the handle/lock was on the ground."

[REDACTED] then discussed the search of the residence and the shooting incident, "I moved up the steps and stood just outside the entrance. I yelled into the house, "Columbus Police! Sound off!" I quickly peered inside, but I did not see anyone. The house seemed vacant as there was no furniture or signs anyone was living there. I believe Officers Trionfante and [REDACTED] stacked up behind me on the stairs. I yelled "Columbus Police!" a few more times, but I did not see or hear anyone inside. From peering inside, the entranceway led to a hallway about 10-15 feet straight ahead. The hall ran perpendicular to the entrance. There was also an open door immediately to the right of the entrance that led to another room. I told [REDACTED] to cover the hallway and that Officer Trionfante and I would clear the room to the right. I went into the house and cut right into the next room. Officer Trionfante followed closely behind me. [REDACTED] and another officer (who I now know to be OSU [REDACTED]) moved towards the hallway, and I believe started clearing that part of the house. The first room off the entrance had a closet and an opening that led to another part of the house. I quickly cleared the closet, and Officer Trionfante posted near the opening to the adjoining room. She

said she saw several other doors in the next room. Just as we were preparing to clear those rooms, the sound of gunfire erupted from another part of the house, specifically from where I last saw [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] explained his involvement in the shooting incident, "[REDACTED] yelled 'he's in here!' I quickly doubled back. [REDACTED] was posted at the hallway entrance, firing down the hallway. I yelled 'who's in there?' [REDACTED] I stood right behind [REDACTED], leaned forward, and peered down the hallway. The suspect was standing in a bedroom about fifteen feet directly ahead. He had the gun in his (I believe) right hand with the barrel of the weapon raised and levelled at me and [REDACTED]. It was at that moment I fired at the suspect. I believe I fired only one round as a moment later the bedroom door swung shut and I could not see the suspect. I believed [REDACTED] was trapped in the bedroom with the suspect, and I feared if I continued firing without a clear line of sight I could inadvertently strike her if she tried to escape. [REDACTED] stopped firing a second or two after me. The suspect was not firing at that time. I still believed [REDACTED] was trapped in the bedroom with the suspect. I yelled 'Where's [REDACTED]' and stepped out from behind the wall and kicked open the bedroom door. As I did so, I saw [REDACTED] in my peripheral vision, crouched down in the bedroom immediately adjacent to the bedroom the suspect was in. I did not see the suspect in the bedroom. The bedroom door shut a second later (there were springs on the hinges automatically closing it once opened). Since the suspect was not firing at that moment, I quickly grabbed [REDACTED] and pulled her from the bedroom, through the hallway towards the entrance."

[REDACTED] reported police actions taken after he fired his weapon, "Officer Trionfante, who I believe had been behind me, told [REDACTED] to check herself for gunshot wounds and to get outside. I continued covering the bedroom from behind the wall. I reloaded at Officer Trionfante's suggestion, dropping my used magazine on the ground. I stepped out from behind the wall and kicked open the bedroom door again, but I could not see the suspect. I asked whether he could get to the other bedroom from his location, and [REDACTED] yelled back that she did not think so. I continued covering the bedroom. I believe by that point [REDACTED] had stepped somewhere behind me. In assessing how to extract the suspect, Officer Trionfante said we should wait since we had him contained in the bedroom. A few seconds later, I heard what sounded like the suspect reloading his weapon (i.e., racking a round) followed by a gunshot moments later. I did not know where the suspect fired, but the other officers and I quickly retreated out of the entrance. We took cover around the corner of a neighboring house. Officer Trionfante aired for SWAT, and other officers fanned out as containment around the house. After a few moments, we realized the target house had multiple windows facing our direction, so we moved back. I took cover behind several parked cars in the back (south of) the house. I covered the house as additional officers arrived on scene. I pointed out the house to those officers and held in place. I did not see or hear anything from inside the house during that time."

[REDACTED] wrote in his statement regarding his decision to fire his weapon, "I believe I fired one round during this incident. As I am not overly familiar with the immediate area where this incident occurred, and I have never been inside the house where the suspect was located, I cannot be sure about the direction of my shot. But I believe based on the layout of the residence I fired in a southerly direction. My target was the suspect's center mass. I did not use my

weapon's sights. I fired with a one/right-handed grip. My backdrop was the interior wall behind (south of) the suspect. I believed [REDACTED] could be in the bedroom with the suspect, but she was not in my line of sight when I fired, nor was any other officer. The situation rapidly and chaotically evolved after shots were first fired in the residence: I would estimate that the time between the first shot and [REDACTED] extraction from the bedroom was about fifteen seconds. There was adequate lighting. I was not moving when I fired. I fired standing behind [REDACTED] with the right side of my body partially exposed into the hallway from behind the wall. That wall provided some cover and concealment, but the right side of my body and some of the right side of [REDACTED] body was exposed. And again, I believed [REDACTED] was trapped in the bedroom with the suspect, likely without any cover or concealment given the small size of the room."

[REDACTED] also wrote in his statement, "At the time I fired, I believed the suspect posed a deadly threat to my life and to the lives of the other officers in the house, especially to [REDACTED]. Before arriving on scene, I knew the suspect reportedly had a weapon and had fled from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. After I arrived, I encountered the suspect outside an apartment building. He was carrying a black semiautomatic handgun. Multiple officers repeatedly ordered him to drop his weapon and surrender, but he refused to comply. I did not fire at that time, though, and neither did any of the other officers initially, because the suspect did not point his weapon at any of the officers. But several gunshots erupted an instant after the suspect cut around the corner of the building. I could not see him at that time, but I believed he likely either fired his weapon and/or levelled it in the direction of officers, causing them to fire. Before we went into the residence, I loudly and repeatedly yelled "Columbus police!" and ordered the suspect to make himself known. From his location, he would have easily been able to hear those commands. But he did not comply. As I cut right into the house, I saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] moving towards the hallway entrance to my left. Seconds later, several gunshots erupted from that part of the house. Once I cut back to that location, I did not see and could not find [REDACTED], and I feared she was in the bedroom with the suspect engaging in a shootout. I believed the suspect was shooting at her, and when I peered around the hallway, the suspect was standing straight ahead, with the barrel of his weapon aimed at me and [REDACTED]. As I only saw the suspect for a flash, I could not tell whether he was firing at that moment, but I believed he had already shot one or several times at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and that he intended to kill me and those officers, and it was then I fired at the suspect. I did not believe I had any other reasonable option to protect my life or the other officers' lives from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions."

BCI agents asked [REDACTED] several follow-up questions and had him explain where and when he fired his weapon based on a scene sketch of the interior structure where the shooting incident occurred.

[REDACTED] explained he was searching a room at the north side of the building when he heard gunshots. [REDACTED] said he ran to the south side of the interior towards the bedroom where Miller had been located. [REDACTED] indicated he wanted to locate [REDACTED] to make sure she was unharmed. [REDACTED] recalled the bedroom door was open enough to see Miller inside the room with a gun in his hand, pointed towards [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] explained he observed Miller to be stationary near a closet and believed Miller was holding the gun with one hand, pointed towards police. [REDACTED] explained he couldn't

tell if Miller had fired additional shots at him or other police officers when [REDACTED] fired his weapon towards Miller, but confirmed Miller's gun was pointed in their (police) direction. [REDACTED] recalled OSUPD [REDACTED] had fired her weapon as well. [REDACTED] also confirmed hearing Miller manipulating his gun, possibly reloading, and then hearing another single gunshot. After hearing the last single gunshot, [REDACTED] and other officers exited the structure.

[REDACTED] answers to follow-up questions from BCI appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Interview concluded at approximately 1135 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Audio Interview – CPD [REDACTED] 09.10.2024
- Attachment # 02: CIN – [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 03: Signed Statement – [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 04: Google Maps – W 8th Ave
- Attachment # 05: Scene Diagram – 197 W 8th Ave

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.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office (740) 845-2000
Fax (877) 732-1134

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).


Printed Name of Interviewee

9/10/24 11:09a
Date / Time



Kyle Douglass
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature)

Letha Lippman


STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Sunday, August 11, 2024, between approximately 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police (“CPD” or the “Division”) is [REDACTED]. I have never worked for another law enforcement agency. I received my OPOTA certificate when I graduated from the academy about six months after I was hired by CPD. I do not have any military experience.

My regular assignment is [REDACTED]. My duty hours are [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. On the day of this incident, though (my first regularly scheduled day off), I was scheduled to work an [REDACTED]. I did not work any overtime or special duty on the day before this incident.

I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform on this day: navy blue pants and a short sleeved shirt and a navy external vest carrier that displayed my badge and “COLUMBUS POLICE” on the back. I was readily identifiable as a law enforcement officer. I was also wearing a body worn camera (“BWC”) that was mounted to my external vest, just under the right side of my chest. My BWC was on and recording during this incident.

I was carrying my Division-issued Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm handgun, loaded with Division-issued ammunition. My range qualifications were current with that weapon. The magazine for that weapon holds seventeen rounds, and I also carry an additional round in the chamber, totaling eighteen. I was not carrying any backup firearm.

I was not working with a partner, but there were numerous other CPD and Ohio State University (OSU) officers on scene when this incident occurred. CPD Officers Deeann

Trionfante, [REDACTED] and OSU [REDACTED] were with me at the time we engaged the suspect inside the residence at 197 W. 8th Avenue. There were also several other CPD and OSU officers in the immediate area. I was driving a marked CPD SUV, Cruiser [REDACTED]

I do not have any disabilities, and I am in good health. I do not need correctives lenses or hearing aids as my vision and hearing are good. I did not drink any alcohol in the 24 hours before my shift, nor had I taken any prescriptions or over-the-counter medications that could impair the performance of my duties. I arrived at my shift well rested and in good spirits.

Around 8:00 a.m. on the day of this incident, I had recently cleared from a run when I heard an officer (that I believe was either CPD [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]) air something like, "We got someone inside and they won't come out." Moments later [REDACTED] aired "he's got a gun!" There were only a few officers in the area, so I marked on the run. I believe dispatch also assigned Officer Trionfante. The run was classified as a 10-8 (burglary). I believe the address was on Worthington Street near the 8th and 9th Avenue intersections.

I was in the area of Bethel Road and 315 when I marked on the run. I activated lights and sirens and got on 315S. Coincidentally, Officer Trionfante was up ahead, so I followed behind. While enroute, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] described the suspect as a light skinned male black wearing all black with a black bookbag. The suspect was also reportedly carrying a black semiautomatic handgun. From the radio transmissions, I believed the suspect was fleeing on foot as officers were periodically updating the suspect's location.

I got to the area of Worthington Street and 8th Avenue several minutes later. I unholstered my weapon since the suspect was loose in the area. A civilian stopped me at that intersection and told me he saw the suspect running about two blocks ahead. I turned left (north) onto

Worthington Street from 8th Avenue and continued up that road. I got to 9th Avenue and turned right (east). About that time, an officer aird the suspect's location as 9th and Worthington. I continued to Highland Street and made a U-turn, doubling back west on West 9th Avenue. I stopped and parked near the West 9th Avenue and Worthington Street intersection.

I got out and joined [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were walking south onto Worthington Street from West 9th Avenue. I kept my gun unholstered in a low ready position. As we neared an alleyway that branched off west of Worthington Street, suddenly up ahead an officer yelled "put down the gun!" I ran west along the alley with the other officers then cut southwest. About 20-25 yards ahead, I saw an individual matching the suspect's description with a gun in his (I believe) right hand. Initially, he was briskly walking north in a corridor along the exterior of an apartment building. I yelled several times that he still had the gun in his right hand. Multiple officers were yelling for him to drop the gun, but he was ignoring their commands, picking up speed as we approached. At that time, the weapon was in a low ready position, not aimed in the direction of any officers.

I stopped just short of the northeast corner of the apartment building, just as the suspect neared that corner. I lost sight of him momentarily once he cut around the building and ran west. There were several officers to my right (north) such that they could still see the suspect once he ran around the building. And an instant after the suspect cut around that corner, multiple gunshots rang out in rapid succession. I was not sure who fired since I could not see the suspect, and there were multiple officers in the immediate area.

I quickly moved around the northeast corner of the building. By that time, though, officers announced the suspect had cut left (south) around the northwest part of the building, out of my sight. I moved west with the other officers and peered south around the northwest corner

of the building, but I did not see the suspect. [REDACTED] searched the corridor that ran along the western part of the building, and other officers fanned out searching the immediate area, but no one saw the suspect.

A brief time later, one of the officers yelled that he saw the suspect running (I believe) south. I ran in that direction with several other officers, crossing West 8th Avenue. As I approached the alley just south (and parallel to) West 8th Avenue, an officer pointed left (east) and said the suspect ran in that direction. I cut left (east) and moved towards Worthington Street along the alley with several other officers. I believe it was then one or more OSU officers joined us. I repeatedly warned the other officers that the suspect still had the gun in his hand.

I continued east along the alley and crossed Worthington Street with several other officers. I believe we stopped at the southeast corner of the first building off that street. One of the officers said he saw the suspect run north of our location. Officers fanned out and searched the vicinity. I moved north to search around some of the houses in that area. A side door to one of those houses was open. (I now know the address of this house to be 197 W. 8th Avenue, but I was not sure of the address at the time.) I yelled out we had an open door. [REDACTED] Trionfante and [REDACTED] joined me. That door was elevated about 3-4 steps off the ground. I asked Officer Trionfante to cover me as I moved past the open door. On closer look, the door appeared kicked in: there was debris scattered about and the handle/lock was on the ground.

I moved up the steps and stood just outside the entrance. I yelled into the house, "Columbus Police! Sound off!" I quickly peered inside, but I did not see anyone. The house seemed vacant as there was no furniture or signs anyone was living there. I believe [REDACTED] Trionfante and [REDACTED] stacked up behind me on the stairs. I yelled "Columbus Police!" a few more times, but I did not see or hear anyone inside.

From peering inside, the entranceway led to a hallway about 10-15 feet straight ahead. The hall ran perpendicular to the entrance. There was also an open door immediately to the right of the entrance that led to another room. I told [REDACTED] to cover the hallway and that Officer Trionfante and I would clear the room to the right. I went into the house and cut right into the next room. Officer Trionfante followed closely behind me. [REDACTED] and another officer (who I now know to be OSU [REDACTED]) moved towards the hallway, and I believe started clearing that part of the house.

The first room off the entrance had a closet and an opening that led to another part of the house. I quickly cleared the closet, and Officer Trionfante posted near the opening to the adjoining room. She said she saw several other doors in the next room. Just as we were preparing to clear those rooms, the sound of gunfire erupted from another part of the house, specifically from where I last saw [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] yelled "he's in here!" I quickly doubled back. [REDACTED] was posted at the hallway entrance, firing down the hallway. I yelled "who's in there?" [REDACTED] I stood right behind [REDACTED] leaned forward, and peered down the hallway. The suspect was standing in a bedroom about fifteen feet directly ahead. He had the gun in his (I believe) right hand with the barrel of the weapon raised and levelled at me and [REDACTED]. It was at that moment I fired at the suspect. I believe I fired only one round as a moment later the bedroom door swung shut and I could not see the suspect. I believed [REDACTED] was trapped in the bedroom with the suspect, and I feared if I continued firing without a clear line of sight I could inadvertently strike her if she tried to escape.

[REDACTED] stopped firing a second or two after me. The suspect was not firing at that time. I still believed [REDACTED] was trapped in the bedroom with the suspect. I yelled

“Where’s [REDACTED]” and stepped out from behind the wall and kicked open the bedroom door. As I did so, I saw [REDACTED] in my peripheral vision, crouched down in the bedroom immediately adjacent to the bedroom the suspect was in. I did not see the suspect in the bedroom. The bedroom door shut a second later (there were springs on the hinges automatically closing it once opened). Since the suspect was not firing at that moment, I quickly grabbed [REDACTED] and pulled her from the bedroom, through the hallway towards the entrance.

Officer Trionfante, who I believe had been behind me, told [REDACTED] to check herself for gunshot wounds and to get outside. I continued covering the bedroom from behind the wall. I reloaded at Officer Trionfante’s suggestion, dropping my used magazine on the ground. I stepped out from behind the wall and kicked open the bedroom door again, but I could not see the suspect. I asked whether he could get to the other bedroom from his location, and [REDACTED] yelled back that she did not think so.

I continued covering the bedroom. I believe by that point [REDACTED] had stepped somewhere behind me. In assessing how to extract the suspect, Officer Trionfante said we should wait since we had him contained in the bedroom. A few seconds later, I heard what sounded like the suspect reloading his weapon (i.e., racking a round) followed by a gunshot moments later. I did not know where the suspect fired, but the other officers and I quickly retreated out of the entrance. We took cover around the corner of a neighboring house. Officer Trionfante aired for SWAT, and other officers fanned out as containment around the house.

After a few moments, we realized the target house had multiple windows facing our direction, so we moved back. I took cover behind several parked cars in the back (south of) the house. I covered the house as additional officers arrived on scene. I pointed out the house to

those officers and held in place. I did not see or hear anything from inside the house during that time.

After about twenty minutes, CPD Sgt. Graber asked whether I had fired, and instructed me to meet the other involved officers at the W. 9th Avenue and Worthington Street intersection. I walked to that location, and a short time later I was transported to the 4 Substation with the other involved officers. There I met with an investigator from BCI who processed my weapon and took photographs as part of the investigation. This ended my involvement in this incident. I later learned that the suspect was found deceased inside the residence and had what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head.

I believe I fired one round during this incident. As I am not overly familiar with the immediate area where this incident occurred, and I have never been inside the house where the suspect was located, I cannot be sure about the direction of my shot. But I believe based on the layout of the residence I fired in a southerly direction. My target was the suspect's center mass. I did not use my weapon's sights. I fired with a one/right-handed grip. My backdrop was the interior wall behind (south of) the suspect. I believed [REDACTED] could be in the bedroom with the suspect, but she was not in my line of sight when I fired, nor was any other officer.

The situation rapidly and chaotically evolved after shots were first fired in the residence: I would estimate that the time between the first shot and [REDACTED] extraction from the bedroom was about fifteen seconds. There was adequate lighting. I was not moving when I fired. I fired standing behind [REDACTED] with the right side of my body partially exposed into the hallway from behind the wall. That wall provided some cover and concealment, but the right side of my body and some of the right side of [REDACTED] body was exposed. And

again, I believed [REDACTED] was trapped in the bedroom with the suspect, likely without any cover or concealment given the small size of the room.

At the time I fired, I believed the suspect posed a deadly threat to my life and to the lives of the other officers in the house, especially to [REDACTED]. Before arriving on scene, I knew the suspect reportedly had a weapon and had fled from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. After I arrived, I encountered the suspect outside an apartment building. He was carrying a black semiautomatic handgun. Multiple officers repeatedly ordered him to drop his weapon and surrender, but he refused to comply. I did not fire at that time, though, and neither did any of the other officers initially, because the suspect did not point his weapon at any of the officers. But several gunshots erupted an instant after the suspect cut around the corner of the building. I could not see him at that time, but I believed he likely either fired his weapon and/or levelled it in the direction of officers, causing them to fire.

Before we went into the residence, I loudly and repeatedly yelled "Columbus police!" and ordered the suspect to make himself known. From his location, he would have easily been able to hear those commands. But he did not comply. As I cut right into the house, I saw [REDACTED] moving towards the hallway entrance to my left. Seconds later, several gunshots erupted from that part of the house. Once I cut back to that location, I did not see and could not find [REDACTED] and I feared she was in the bedroom with the suspect engaging in a shootout. I believed the suspect was shooting at her, and when I peered around the hallway, the suspect was standing straight ahead, with the barrel of his weapon aimed at me and [REDACTED]. As I only saw the suspect for a flash, I could not tell whether he was firing at that moment, but I believed he had already shot one or several times at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and that he intended to kill me and those officers, and it was then I fired at the

suspect. I did not believe I had any other reasonable option to protect my life or the other officers' lives from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.

After this incident, I learned the suspect's name: Asante Miller. I do not know Mr. Miller, and I do not believe I have ever previously encountered him. I do not recall hearing him say anything during this incident.

This concludes my statement.





