



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

Author: SA James H Gore, #168

**Narrative:**

On the morning of September 10, 2024 at approximately 0130 hours, Lamine Mahmoudi, of 235 Chittenden Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, confronted officers from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) in the rear parking lot of the CPD Precinct 4 substation. Mahmoudi was armed with a meat cleaver and a kitchen knife during the encounter, and he died as a result of injuries he sustained. No officers were injured during the encounter. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by CPD to handle the Officer-Involved Critical Incident investigation. The six involved officers were identified as:

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

On the morning of October 11, 2024, BCI Special Agents (SA) James Gore and Kyle Douglass interviewed [REDACTED] at the Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman. The purpose of the interview was to obtain an [REDACTED] account of the critical incident. [REDACTED] was accompanied by his legal counsel from the Fraternal Order of Police, attorney Lathan Lipperman.

Prior to beginning the interview, SA Gore read and presented a "Criminal Investigation Notification" form to [REDACTED]. The form advised [REDACTED] of his rights, and it specified that the investigation was not administrative in nature. [REDACTED] acknowledged his rights and signed the form.

Mr. Lipperman provided a printed statement from [REDACTED] which summarized his involvement in the critical incident. [REDACTED] was asked to read the statement out loud for the purpose of refreshing his memory. After reading the statement, [REDACTED]

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Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on  
11/04/2024

confirmed that it was an accurate account of what he recalled from the event.

In his statement, [REDACTED] reported that at the beginning of his shift in roll call, he was advised of a call that the prior shift handled involving a barricaded subject (Lamine Mahmoudi). [REDACTED] explained that the previous shift left the subject inside his residence when officers and members of a Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) unit determined that there were no other persons present.

[REDACTED] statement continued:

*"Right after that briefing, a 33A (suspect with a knife) run came in: I did not have my radio on yet, but Sgt. Van Dusen said that the suspect from the earlier incident was barricaded with a knife making suicidal statements. He told me and the other 4 Precinct officers that we would respond on foot. I quickly grabbed my gear and left the substation with Officers [REDACTED]"*

*The suspect's residence is just northwest of the substation. Specifically, there is an alley that runs east to west behind/ north of the substation, and the suspect lives only about 20-30 yards west of the substation parking lot. He lived in a duplex, on the eastern side of the structure. The duplex faces north and sits on the southern side of Chittenden Avenue such that the back of the building faces the alleyway."*

[REDACTED] stated that he and [REDACTED] encountered a male in a vehicle behind the duplex. [REDACTED] said they detained the subject until they could confirm that he was not the subject of the call (Mahmoudi). [REDACTED] statement continued:

*"While processing the driver, the suspect opened the back door of his duplex and stepped outside. He was saying something, but I could not make it out. Officers were ordering him to drop whatever was in his hands (which I could not see from my vantage point). The suspect went back inside and slammed the door seconds later."*

*The same MCR unit from earlier arrived on scene not long later. The civilian from that unit started making announcements with a PA, repeatedly telling the suspect he was not in trouble and that we only wanted to help; the civilian also instructed the suspect to come outside, unarmed. At some point, one of the officers covering the front of the duplex aired that he saw the suspect inside holding two knives. He also aired that the suspect was wearing, I believe, a black hoodie and gray sweatpants. During the standoff, an officer aired that the suspect had said he wanted the police to kill him."*

[REDACTED] reported that once supervisors on scene determined that there was no one else present with the subject, they again left him alone in his residence. [REDACTED] stated that after the barricade situation was cleared, he and [REDACTED] left the area to handle some other calls. He stated that as they returned, they encountered a vehicle which they deduced was possibly the suspect's (Mahmoudi's).

*"[REDACTED] and I left the substation shortly after and took a run or two. When on our way back to the substation, we stopped at a traffic light behind a red car. We were not far from the substation; the intersection was E. 11th Avenue and Summit Street. The*

driver in front of us had a blinker indicating a left turn, which would have been the wrong way down a one-way street. Once the light turned green, the driver started turning left and [REDACTED] honked (which also automatically activates our beacons). The driver then turned the wheel and went right instead. I realized that the vehicle was very similar or even identical to the suspect's red Hyundai, which I pointed out to [REDACTED]. When we got back to the substation, [REDACTED] and I noticed that the suspect's red car was gone from the back of the duplex, indicating that the driver at the intersection was very likely the suspect.

[REDACTED] parked our cruiser in the back of the substation. She backed into a spot along the back/northern wall of the building, facing north and the alleyway. The other 4 Precinct officers were also parked and in their cruisers along that wall. I believe we parked on the right (east) of [REDACTED] and to the left (west) of the other officers. We put down our windows and chatted with the other officers while monitoring radio traffic. I warned them to keep an eye out for the suspect since we had just seen him nearby.

After some time, the suspect pulled into the back of his duplex and parked. Initially, he went inside. But about half an hour later he stepped outside then went back in moments later. The officers and I communicated when he came outside. The suspect never looked in our direction or otherwise indicated that he knew we were in our cruisers. Nor did I see him holding any weapons at that time."

[REDACTED] wrote that after some more time had passed, [REDACTED] spotted the suspect approaching with a knife in each hand. [REDACTED] statement continued:

"I immediately got out of my cruiser and announced I was grabbing my taser. Initially, I did not see the suspect. But moments later he appeared in the alley from behind a CPD Prisoner Transport Vehicle. He was holding a large, edged weapon/knife in each hand. It looked as though one of the knives was a foot in length. At that time, he was approximately 50-60 feet away, walking east in the alley at a moderate pace.

The other officers were also out of their cruisers and had lethal cover on the suspect, loudly and repeatedly ordering him to drop his weapons. The suspect said "no" and kept moving east in the alley, closing the distance to us. [REDACTED] yelled for us to keep moving back as the suspect approached. The other officers and I stepped east, away from the suspect, to try to keep our distance. We were mostly in a line formation. I recall putting my taser into long range mode about that time. At one point I yelled for [REDACTED] who was standing near the alley, to get back because the suspect was closing the gap to him.

The suspect kept approaching, and after a few seconds, he stopped at the edge of the substation parking lot, facing us. He was approximately 20-25 feet from me and the other officers. He was still holding a knife/edged weapon in each of his hands despite officers' repeated commands to drop his weapons. A second or so after he stopped and faced us, he pulled one of his arms back and jerked it forward like he was going to throw one of his knives at us. Officers immediately yelled for him to stop. A moment later, the suspect, while still holding both weapons, started moving south towards me

*and the other officers, and it was then I deployed my taser. Nearly same instant, the other officers fired their weapons, stopping when the suspect collapsed a second later."*

██████████ wrote that he ejected his Taser cartridge, approached the downed suspect, and moved one of the knives while another officer moved the other. ██████████ stated that he began to secure the area with crime scene tape as other officers secured the suspect in handcuffs and rendered first aid.

Regarding his decision to use a Taser, ██████████ wrote:

*"When I fired my taser, I believed the suspect posed an imminent deadly threat to my life and the other officers' lives. My intent in deploying my taser was to incapacitate the suspect so that he could be secured. I wanted to use any possible means available to avoid having to use deadly force. Usually, my training would indicate not to deploy a taser in response to a deadly threat; but a taser can be used if there is time, distance, barrier, lethal force backup and reasonableness, which I believed were met in the instant I deployed my taser.*

*Initially, I did not deploy my taser when the suspect stopped at the edge of the parking lot and faced us since I could not see the second laser projected on him, and I did not know if I had a shot. But moments after the suspect stopped to face us he started moving towards me and the other officers. I still could not see the second laser on the suspect, but he was closing the gap between us, and I knew that was the last possible opportunity to deploy my taser and possibly incapacitate the suspect before the others would need to respond with deadly force. And while the suspect's movements toward us were deliberate, he was not sprinting or lunging such that I believed there was time, though a split second, to deploy my taser. I recall that as the suspect stepped south his torso was essentially parallel to me, creating a large area center mass for a taser deployment. I also believed the suspect was within the taser's 24 feet radius; I knew there was lethal force backup from multiple officers; and I believed the use of my taser was reasonable in the split second I deployed it."*

██████████ stated that he announced that he had his Taser out when he removed it from its holster. He did not yell the command of "Taser" when he deployed the probes, however, because he did not believe he had time to do so during the incident. ██████████ specific Taser model was the Taser 7.

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

#### References:

No references

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**Attachments:**

- 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 11:57AM  
Date / Time

[Redacted]

JAMES CARO #168

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

Lathan Lippman  
[Signature]

**STATEMENT OF [REDACTED], BADGE NO. [REDACTED]**

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at approximately 1:30 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 got my Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certificate about six months later when I graduated from the CPD Police Academy. I have never worked for another law enforcement agency. I have never enlisted in the armed forces.

My regular assignment is [REDACTED]. I am assigned to [REDACTED] shift, [REDACTED] until [REDACTED]. My regular days off are [REDACTED]. I did not work any overtime or special duty before my shift. But I worked a special duty shift at a mental health facility the day before from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. That shift was uneventful.

I was wearing the CPD summer patrol uniform and was readily identifiable as a police officer. My uniform consisted of navy pants and a navy short-sleeved shirt that displayed my badge. I was also wearing a hat that said "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the front as well as an external vest carrier that stated "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the back. Finally, I was equipped with a body worn camera (BWC) mounted to my chest. My BWC was on and recording during the incident.

I was carrying my Division-issued service weapon: a Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm handgun, loaded with Division-issued ammunition. My range qualifications were current with that weapon. I did not fire that weapon during this incident, however. I did not have any backup firearm.

I was also carrying my Division-issued taser, which I deployed during this incident. That taser is a new model which was only issued within the last year. That taser has both a short distance and long distance mode. The default is short distance, but if the taser is canted to the side, it automatically switches to long distance mode and can deploy up to 24 feet. The weapon uses a red and green laser sight system such that each laser projects onto the target, indicating where each probe is aimed. For the taser to be effective, both probes must connect with the body.

I was working with a partner: [REDACTED] We were operating in Cruiser [REDACTED] a marked patrol SUV. [REDACTED] was driving. There were also several other CPD officers present when this incident occurred: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I do not have any disabilities. I am in good health. I also have good vision and hearing and do not need corrective lenses or hearing aids. I was not taking any medication that could impair the performance of my duties. Nor did I drink any alcohol in the 24 hours before my shift. I arrived at my shift well rested and in good spirits.

During roll call at the start of my shift, Sgt. Devan Van Dusen gave a briefing on a barricade earlier that day: He said that B Company officers had responded to a report of a suspect threatening to harm himself or others with a knife. Apparently, the suspect lived nearly next door to the substation at 235 Chittenden Avenue. Officers had surrounded the suspect's house and a specialized unit for mental health emergencies, Mobile Crises Response (MCR), had also responded. The suspect refused to come out, but once officers confirmed he was alone, the barricade was called off and officers left the scene.

I was shown the suspect's BMV photo: He appeared to be in his mid-30s and of Middle Eastern descent. He was mostly bald and had a beard. I was given the suspect's name, but I

cannot recall it. I knew that I did not know him, though, and to my knowledge had never encountered him before. The suspect reportedly owned a red Hyundai car and had left the residence once the barricade ended. It was not known whether he came back. Sgt. Van Dusen warned me and the other officers to be cautious since he lived so close.

Right after that briefing, a 33A (suspect with a knife) run came in: I did not have my radio on yet, but Sgt. Van Dusen said that the suspect from the earlier incident was barricaded with a knife making suicidal statements. He told me and the other 4 Precinct officers that we would respond on foot. I quickly grabbed my gear and left the substation with [REDACTED]

The suspect's residence is just northwest of the substation. Specifically, there is an alley that runs east to west behind/ north of the substation, and the suspect lives only about 20-30 yards west of the substation parking lot. He lived in a duplex, on the eastern side of the structure. The duplex faces north and sits on the southern side of Chittenden Avenue such that the back of the building faces the alleyway.

I approached the back of the structure with Sgt. Van Dusen and the other officers. There were two vehicles parked behind the duplex: One was a silver or white car and immediately next to (east of) it was a red Hyundai matching the description of the suspect's car. We quickly cleared the red car, finding no one inside. But the white/silver car was running and there was someone in the driver's seat. The other officers and I took cover behind that car and performed what essentially was a felony stop. I unholstered my taser and the other officers kept lethal cover. [REDACTED] and I were standing behind the driver's side of the car. [REDACTED] ordered the driver to put his hands out the window. He complied, and I was able to see his face. He looked like the suspect, largely matching the description from the photo I saw.

We ordered the driver to get out and walk back to us. He complied and got out, unarmed. I holstered my taser, patted him down for weapons, then placed him in handcuffs. [REDACTED] and I escorted him to a cruiser south of the duplex. The driver was very cooperative and explained that he was the suspect's neighbor and was aware of the earlier barricade. While we verified his identity, officers surrounded the duplex as containment. And officers from other precincts arrived on scene.

While processing the driver, the suspect opened the back door of his duplex and stepped outside. He was saying something, but I could not make it out. Officers were ordering him to drop whatever was in his hands (which I could not see from my vantage point). The suspect went back inside and slammed the door seconds later.

The same MCR unit from earlier arrived on scene not long later. The civilian from that unit started making announcements with a PA, repeatedly telling the suspect he was not in trouble and that we only wanted to help; the civilian also instructed the suspect to come outside, unarmed. At some point, one of the officers covering the front of the duplex aired that he saw the suspect inside holding two knives. He also aired that the suspect was wearing, I believe, a black hoodie and gray sweatpants. During the standoff, an officer aired that the suspect had said he wanted the police to kill him.

[REDACTED] and I verified the driver's identity, confirming he was not the suspect. We uncuffed him and told him to stay clear of the scene and to avoid his neighbor. [REDACTED] and I moved up towards the white/silver car and covered the back of the structure. After we had been on scene for about 30-45 minutes, officers confirmed the suspect was by himself. Besides briefly stepping out his back door, the suspect did not come out or respond to MCR's announcements. Lt. Ingles and Sgt. Van Dusen decided to end the barricade once officers confirmed the suspect

was not a threat to anyone inside. Officers started clearing the scene, and the 4 Precinct officers and I walked back to the substation.

██████████ and I left the substation shortly after and took a run or two. When on our way back to the substation, we stopped at a traffic light behind a red car. We were not far from the substation; the intersection was E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Summit Street. The driver in front of us had a blinker indicating a left turn, which would have been the wrong way down a one-way street. Once the light turned green, the driver started turning left and ██████████ honked (which also automatically activates our beacons). The driver then turned the wheel and went right instead. I realized that the vehicle was very similar or even identical to the suspect's red Hyundai, which I pointed out to ██████████. When we got back to the substation, ██████████ and I noticed that the suspect's red car was gone from the back of the duplex, indicating that the driver at the intersection was very likely the suspect.

██████████ parked our cruiser in the back of the substation. She backed into a spot along the back/northern wall of the building, facing north and the alleyway. The other 4 Precinct officers were also parked and in their cruisers along that wall. I believe we parked on the right (east) of ██████████ and to the left (west) of the other officers. We put down our windows and chatted with the other officers while monitoring radio traffic. I warned them to keep an eye out for the suspect since we had just seen him nearby.

After some time, the suspect pulled into the back of his duplex and parked. Initially, he went inside. But about half an hour later he stepped outside then went back in moments later. The officers and I communicated when he came outside. The suspect never looked in our direction or otherwise indicated that he knew we were in our cruisers. Nor did I see him holding any weapons at that time.

Some more time passed when suddenly [REDACTED] yelled that the suspect was approaching with a knife in his hand. I immediately got out of my cruiser and announced I was grabbing my taser. Initially, I did not see the suspect. But moments later he appeared in the alley from behind a CPD Prisoner Transport Vehicle. He was holding a large, edged weapon/knife in each hand. It looked as though one of the knives was a foot in length. At that time, he was approximately 50-60 feet away, walking east in the alley at a moderate pace.

The other officers were also out of their cruisers and had lethal cover on the suspect, loudly and repeatedly ordering him to drop his weapons. The suspect said "no" and kept moving east in the alley, closing the distance to us. [REDACTED] yelled for us to keep moving back as the suspect approached. The other officers and I stepped east, away from the suspect, to try to keep our distance. We were mostly in a line formation. I recall putting my taser into long range mode about that time. At one point I yelled for [REDACTED] who was standing near the alley, to get back because the suspect was closing the gap to him.

The suspect kept approaching, and after a few seconds, he stopped at the edge of the substation parking lot, facing us. He was approximately 20-25 feet from me and the other officers. He was still holding a knife/edged weapon in each of his hands despite officers' repeated commands to drop his weapons. A second or so after he stopped and faced us, he pulled one of his arms back and jerked it forward like he was going to throw one of his knives at us. Officers immediately yelled for him to stop. A moment later, the suspect, while still holding both weapons, started moving south towards me and the other officers, and it was then I deployed my taser. Nearly same instant, the other officers fired their weapons, stopping when the suspect collapsed a second later.

I quickly ejected my taser cartridge, holstered my taser, and put on gloves. Another officer aired shots fired and requested medics. The suspect had fallen onto his (I believe) right side in the northern end of the parking lot. He was not moving or saying anything. I approached and grabbed one of the knives and threw it away from the suspect. Another officer grabbed the second weapon and did the same. Officers handcuffed the suspect and started to render aid. As they did so, I started to put up tape around the scene. I blocked off part of the alley west of the substation and the suspect's residence before being relieved by another officer. This ended my involvement with this incident.

I was transported with the other involved officers to the Midwatch Substation on Olentangy River Road. Later that night, Officer Support took me to the CPD Training Academy where I met with investigators from BCI. They took photographs and processed my taser as part of the investigation.

I fired only 1 taser cartridge during this incident. I would estimate that I was about 20 feet from the suspect when I did so. I deployed the cartridge in a northerly direction. I believe my taser was in long distance mode. I fired with a two-handed (right strong grip). I recall standing in the middle of the line of officers such that there were, I believe, two officers to my left/west and three officers to my right/east. The officer on the far right/eastern side (who I believe to be [REDACTED]) was positioned closest to the suspect at the time I deployed my taser.

Before approaching the substation, the suspect had earlier threatened himself and/or others with a knife, prompting two barricades in a single day. He also communicated that he wanted police to kill him. At the time he approached, he was carrying a large, edged weapon in each hand. He refused to drop either of those weapons despite multiple loud and repeated commands to do so. The suspect also communicated he would not drop the weapons.

When I fired my taser, I believed the suspect posed an imminent deadly threat to my life and the other officers' lives. My intent in deploying my taser was to incapacitate the suspect so that he could be secured. I wanted to use any possible means available to avoid having to use deadly force. Usually, my training would indicate not to deploy a taser in response to a deadly threat; but a taser can be used if there is time, distance, barrier, lethal force backup and reasonableness, which I believed were met in the instant I deployed my taser.

Initially, I did not deploy my taser when the suspect stopped at the edge of the parking lot and faced us since I could not see the second laser projected on him, and I did not know if I had a shot. But moments after the suspect stopped to face us he started moving towards me and the other officers. I still could not see the second laser on the suspect, but he was closing the gap between us, and I knew that was the last possible opportunity to deploy my taser and possibly incapacitate the suspect before the others would need to respond with deadly force. And while the suspect's movements toward us were deliberate, he was not sprinting or lunging such that I believed there was time, though a split second, to deploy my taser. I recall that as the suspect stepped south his torso was essentially parallel to me, creating a large area center mass for a taser deployment. I also believed the suspect was within the taser's 24 feet radius; I knew there was lethal force backup from multiple officers; and I believed the use of my taser was reasonable in the split second I deployed it.

I did not believe there was time or that it would have been reasonable to announce my taser deployment before firing the cartridge, though I did announce when I first unholstered my taser. The other officers fired their weapons at nearly the same time I deployed my taser.

This concludes my statement.

