



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: 09/11/2024
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On September 11, 2024 at approximately 1335 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and Aja Chung (SA Chung) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] regarding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on August 11, 2024, near 242 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 Officer Clark. Also present for the interview was [REDACTED] Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) designated legal counsel, Kate Harshman.

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.

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FOP legal counsel Kate Harshman 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, "At just a little after 8:00am on Sunday the 11th, [REDACTED] requested that we be placed on a call dispatched to 1517 Worthington Street, Columbus, Ohio in which a suspect named Asante Miller, an ex-roommate at the address, had reportedly broke into the home through a window. It was believed that he was in the room on the left from the front door. I drove lights and sirens to the address starting south on Olentangy, left (east) on John H Herrick Drive, right (south) on Neil Avenue, left (east) on W 10th Avenue, and right (south) on Worthington Street. I confirmed that the address was 1517 Worthington. It was radioed that the suspect had been known to be violent in the past. I parked on the west side of the street with the passenger door of the cruiser facing the address, which was a two to three-story white house, typical for campus housing, with a large wooden front porch. The front door was open, but I am not sure if the door was forced or merely opened. I followed [REDACTED] up the stairs on the northside of the porch. We both drew our weapons. [REDACTED] went to the southside of the door and told someone inside to put their hands up. When I got into position on the north side of the door, I could see the head of an individual through the doorway directly west (in front of me) of the open front door. I pointed my weapon in his direction and told him to "put his hands up". He did not comply and moved his head behind a wall out of sight. I radioed that we had a person inside the house refusing to come out. [REDACTED] went to the back (west) side of the house. I remained on the front porch covering the front door from the left (south) side of the porch door and heard [REDACTED] air that the suspect had a "33", which is our 10 code for gun. I did not know where the suspect was at the time. I believed he could still be inside the house."

[REDACTED] continued in his statement, "I radioed to ask if [REDACTED] had eyes on the suspect. There were several officers who radioed or yelled that the suspect had a gun. As I walked in the direction (southwest) that I believed [REDACTED] to be, I saw the suspect in-between two houses, which I now know were 226 and 218 W 8th Avenue to the south of the original address. I aimed my weapon at him and told him to put the gun down. He ran. I could hear [REDACTED] repeatedly tell the suspect to put his gun down and I began to follow [REDACTED] east on West 8th. I aired that the suspect was a lightskinned male black approximately 6 feet wearing all black clothing with a bookbag. He had a gun which looked like a black semi-automatic. We turned north back on to Worthington Street. It was aired that the suspect was at Hunter (then Highland) and 8th, which was east of our location. We moved back and forth trying to catch sight of the suspect for several blocks. I eventually saw the suspect at an apartment building off the alley just to the west of the original address. By looking at the map, this appears to be around 240 W. 8th. The suspect was in the lower level of a three (3) story brick apartment building walking north. The first/basement level was sunk down several feet. I could still see he had a gun in his right hand. The gun was tucked into his right side with the barrel pointing in the direction he was walking, parallel to the ground. I, as well as other officers, continued to yell at him to put the gun down. He did not comply and continued north

with his weapon in the same position. He gave no indication that he intended on surrendering to authorities. As the suspect got to the northeast corner of the building, the gun was still tucked into the right side of his body with the barrel parallel to the ground. The suspect turned his body partially in my direction with his right side bladed towards me. It appeared he was looking in my direction or the direction of other officers near me, again with the barrel of his weapon parallel to the ground. I knew there were other officers near my location."

██████████ wrote regarding the shooting incident, "I heard a gunshot. At the time, I believed it was another officer firing at the suspect, but I was not sure who shot or from what location. I fired four (4) times at the suspect. The suspect moved west with his gun still in his right hand. I stopped firing when I could no longer see him. It appeared to me that the suspect had moved to the south on the other side of the apartment building. ██████████ and I were joined by ██████████ and we searched the northwest side of the building believing that he may have hunkered down in a stair well. When it became evident that he was not in the stairwell, we continued to pursue the suspect based upon radio traffic or communication from other officers. Eventually, I again started eastbound on Worthington, turning right on W. 8th. I checked the front door at 197 W 8th Street to see if the suspect could have possibly entered the building. The front door was secured. This was later identified as the address of the 7-A, our 10 code for a forced entry, on a door to the side of the home. After ensuring there were enough officers to enter inside, I remained stationed at the front of 197 W. 8th. I could hear an officer identify himself as Columbus Police more than once. I then heard several shots being fired. I moved to the back of the address and then back to the front. There was a radioed request for a bunker. I eventually posted myself behind a vehicle parked on the south side of W. 8th with other officers. I heard announcements over a loudspeaker and other officers began evacuating the surrounding houses."

██████████ wrote in his statement about firing his weapon, "I now know that I fired four (4) times. When I fired, I fired from a standing position with both hands. I did not use my sights. I fired at the suspect's center mass, which included the suspect's right side as he was bladed in my direction. It was full day light and I did not use my weapon's light. I fired in a westerly direction. I did not see any officers or civilians in my backdrop. My backdrop would have the side of the brick building and sidewalk beyond. I know I heard another officer fire at least once. I didn't have the time, distance, or barrier necessary to successfully deploy less than lethal force. When I fired, dispatch had reported that the suspect had previously been violent. The suspect had been seen with a gun multiple times and ordered to drop the gun on numerous occasions by numerous officers, failed to comply, and fled. He was holding his gun parallel to the ground tucked against his body with the barrel pointed about 3 feet above the ground. Several officers were to my right. He turned his body in my direction. I heard what I believed to be another officer fire, I fired four (4) times. I stopped firing when I could no longer see the suspect. When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my fellow police officers, the public, and myself from imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm as the suspect had a weapon in his hand pointed parallel to the ground, he could have very easily shot at officers by just pulling the trigger, and repeatedly refused to follow commands."

BCI agents asked ██████████ several follow-up questions and had him explain where and when he fired his weapon using printed maps of the area where the incident occurred.

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██████████ confirmed he was the first to fire his weapon, and was unsure if Miller had fired his gun at ██████████ or any other law enforcement officers on scene. ██████████ explained he and other responding officers spent several minutes giving Miller numerous verbal commands, to which Miller did not respond or comply. ██████████ confirmed he could see a gun in Miller's hand during the entirety of ██████████ encounter with Miller.

██████████ confirmed hearing multiple exchanges of gunfire from inside the structure at 197 West 8th Avenue.

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

Interview concluded at approximately 1350 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Audio Interview – ██████████ 09.11.2024

Attachment # 02: CIN – ██████████

Attachment # 03: Signed Statement – ██████████

Attachment # 04: Google Maps – W 8th Ave



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

9/11/24 1:37p

Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

Kyle Douglass

BCI Agent (Printed)

BCI Agent (Signature)

Signature

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Sunday, August 11, 2024, between 8:00 and 8:30 am.

I was hired by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) in [REDACTED] I do not have any previous law enforcement experience. I do not have any prior/current military service. My regular assignment at CPD is Patrol [REDACTED] I have been in that assignment for approximately 3-4 years. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. On Sunday, August 11th I was on my regular assignment. I was dressed in the patrol uniform of the day. I was armed with a department-issued Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm 2.0 with standard department-issued ammunition. My weapon has a TL-1 HL light made by Streamlight. I am current in my range qualifications with my sidearm and the light. I was not carrying any backup weapons. I was driving CPD Cruiser [REDACTED]

I am right-hand dominant. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I was not taking any medication that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I had not worked special duty for the twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to the incident. I had plenty of sleep prior to my shift. I was not under any unusual stress. I do not wear a hearing aid, nor do I have any problems with my hearing. I do not wear glasses, nor do I have any problems with my sight.

At just a little after 8:00am on Sunday the 11th [REDACTED] requested that we be placed on a call dispatched to 1517 Worthington Street, Columbus, Ohio in which a suspect named Asante Miller, an ex-roommate at the address, had reportedly broke into the home through a window. It was believed that he was in the room on the left from the front door. I drove lights and sirens to the address starting south on Olentangy, left (east) on John H Herrick Drive, right (south) on Neil

Avenue, left (east) on W 10th Avenue, and right (south) on Worthington Street. I confirmed that the address was 1517 Worthington. It was radioed that the suspect had been known to be violent in the past.

I parked on the west side of the street with the passenger door of the cruiser facing the address, which was a two to three-story white house, typical for campus housing, with a large wooden front porch. The front door was open, but I am not sure if the door was forced or merely opened. I followed [REDACTED] up the stairs on the northside of the porch. We both drew our weapons. [REDACTED] went to the southside of the door and told someone inside to put their hands up. When I got into position on the north side of the door, I could see the head of an individual through the doorway directly west (in front of me) of the open front door. I pointed my weapon in his direction and told him to "put his hands up". He did not comply and moved his head behind a wall out of sight. I radioed that we had a person inside the house refusing to come out. [REDACTED] went to the back (west) side of the house. I remained on the front porch covering the front door from the left (south) side of the porch door and heard [REDACTED] air that the suspect had a "33", which is our 10 code for gun. I did not know where the suspect was at the time. I believed he could still be inside the house.

I radioed to ask if [REDACTED] had eyes on the suspect. There were several officers who radioed or yelled that the suspect had a gun. As I walked in the direction (southwest) that I believed [REDACTED] to be, I saw the suspect in-between two houses, which I now know were 226 and 218 W 8th Avenue to the south of the original address. I aimed my weapon at him and told him to put the gun down. He ran. I could hear [REDACTED] repeatedly tell the suspect to put his gun down and I began to follow [REDACTED] east on West 8th. I aired that the suspect was a light-skinned male black approximately 6 feet wearing all black clothing with a bookbag. He had a gun

which looked like a black semi-automatic. We turned north back on to Worthington Street. It was aired that the suspect was at Hunter (then Highland) and 8th, which was east of our location. We moved back and forth trying to catch sight of the suspect for several blocks. I eventually saw the suspect at an apartment building off the alley just to the west of the original address. By looking at the map, this appears to be around 240 W. 8th.

The suspect was in the lower level of a three (3) story brick apartment building walking north. The first/basement level was sunk down several feet. I could still see he had a gun in his right hand. The gun was tucked into his right side with the barrel pointing in the direction he was walking, parallel to the ground. I, as well as other officers, continued to yell at him to put the gun down. He did not comply and continued north with his weapon in the same position. He gave no indication that he intended on surrendering to authorities. As the suspect got to the northeast corner of the building, the gun was still tucked into the right side of his body with the barrel parallel to the ground. The suspect turned his body partially in my direction with his right side bladed towards me. It appeared he was looking in my direction or the direction of other officers near me, again with the barrel of his weapon parallel to the ground. I knew there were other officers near my location.

I heard a gunshot. At the time, I believed it was another officer firing at the suspect, but I was not sure who shot or from what location. I fired four (4) times at the suspect. The suspect moved west with his gun still in his right hand. I stopped firing when I could no longer see him. It appeared to me that the suspect had moved to the south on the other side of the apartment building. [REDACTED] and I were joined by [REDACTED] and we searched the northwest side of the building believing that he may have hunkered down in a stair well.

When it became evident that he was not in the stairwell, we continued to pursue the suspect based upon radio traffic or communication from other officers. Eventually, I again started eastbound on Worthington, turning right on W. 8th. I checked the front door at 197 W 8th Street to see if the suspect could have possibly entered the building. The front door was secured. This was later identified as the address of the 7-A, our 10 code for a forced entry, on a door to the side of the home. After ensuring there were enough officers to enter inside, I remained stationed at the front of 197 W. 8th. I could hear an officer identify himself as Columbus Police more than once. I then heard several shots being fired. I moved to the back of the address and then back to the front. There was a radioed request for a bunker. I eventually posted myself behind a vehicle parked on the south side of W. 8th with other officers. I heard announcements over a loudspeaker and other officers began evacuating the surrounding houses.

After approximately thirty (30) minutes, I went to the original scene where I had fired and let Sergeant Ferenz know the location of the initial shooting. At the time, I believed I had fired three (3) times and showed them where the casings were. I had no further involvement in the incident.

I now know that I fired four (4) times. When I fired, I fired from a standing position with both hands. I did not use my sights. I fired at the suspect's center mass, which included the suspect's right side as he was bladed in my direction. It was full day light and I did not use my weapon's light. I fired in a westerly direction. I did not see any officers or civilians in my backdrop. My backdrop would have the side of the brick building and sidewalk beyond. I know I heard another officer fire at least once. I didn't have the time, distance, or barrier necessary to successfully deploy less than lethal force.

When I fired, dispatch had reported that the suspect had previously been violent. The suspect had been seen with a gun multiple times and ordered to drop the gun on numerous occasions by numerous officers, failed to comply, and fled. He was holding his gun parallel to the ground tucked against his body with the barrel pointed about 3 feet above the ground. Several officers were to my right. He turned his body in my direction. I heard what I believed to be another officer fire, I fired four (4) times. I stopped firing when I could no longer see the suspect. When I fired, I did not believe that I had any other reasonable alternative other than to fire to protect my fellow police officers, the public, and myself from imminent danger of death or severe bodily harm as the suspect had a weapon in his hand pointed parallel to the ground, he could have very easily shot at officers by just pulling the trigger, and repeatedly refused to follow commands.

I know the suspect's name was Asante Miller. I do not remember having any prior interactions with the suspect either personal or professional.

Upon review of the video of the incident, I can see that the suspect's left hand moves up as the suspect turned in my direction. I can hear another officer fire after my volley of four (4). My directions of movement, streets, and addresses (with the exception of the 1315 Worthington and 197 W. 8th) were not known to me at the time and are the result of review the video and the use of google maps. Otherwise, the videos do not materially alter my recollection of events.

This statement consists of five (5) pages.



