



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



2021-0957

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 3171 Legion Ln, Columbus

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness

Involves: Myron Hammonds

Activity Date: 4/20/2021

Activity Location: Legion Ln

Authoring Agent: Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 1903 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Myron Hammonds (Myron), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. The interview took place on Legion Lane. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Myron stated he was the father of Ma'Khia Bryant. He further stated the Ma'Khia was in foster care and was living at 3171 Legion Lane. Myron was asked how he'd first become aware of there being an incident.

Myron indicated he'd received a phone call, where he was told there were some girls who had come over there to fight. He did not know the time of the call. Myron further explained how he understood there was a girl who was a former foster child who had brought the girls there to fight one-on-one. Myron said when his mother, Jeanene Hammonds, called him she told him they had already called the police, but weren't there yet. Myron stated that when his mother called, *"...she wanted me just to come to make sure-- cause the girls were actin' kinda erratic. They were in front-- They were in the garage--, mean in the driveway actin' like they were gonna move closer towards into inside the house. So, she was like, well I called the police already but I just want somebody to come sit over there wit us. When I get here, the young ladies--one of them was sitting in the car in the garage. Then one of the was standing out and then I guess her—the lead one that brung um here, which I don't know non of them names—"* SA Collins asked Myron if he could describe each of the women so he understood who he was talking about.

Myron said he arrived in his gray Lexus. Myron stated the person who had started this was wearing a pink sweat-suit. Myron said there were two other younger ladies with her. Myron said that when he first saw them, he believed they were all kids until he walked up and started *"watching everything."* Myron said he heard someone say something about someone having a warrant. When he heard that, he realized they were talking about adults because he believed



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that kids did not have warrants. Myron corrected himself and said he understood kids can have warrants, but it is not common for them to talk about it.

Myron said he did exchange words with the girl in the pink sweat-suit (the female is now known to investigators as Tionna Bonner (Bonner)). Myron said he asked Bonner why they were there at someone else's house. Myron said Bonner told him she was supposed to be *"at this mother F'er."* Myron said Bonner *"flies off the handle start'd gettin' smart, I got smart too. You know how it goes, back and forth with an argument. That's jus- somebody's gonna say somethin' heated, I'm gonna say somethin' back and forth. That was one thing. But it seemed like the moment was de-escalating at that point in time because we were just verbally sayin' somethin'. Nobody actually had made any threat to anybody to say, 'hey, I'll physically do this to ya.' But they had been over here earlier. Like I said previously, making threats, sayin' what they were gonna do..."* Myron continued, stating again, his mother had called him to come there *"..for her security and my daughter's security. Nothing' else. She said, 'I know, I'm not callin' you for back-up cause I already called the police."*

Myron indicated the girls had already fought once before on that day and he believed the girl was back for *"round 2."* Myron said he believed neither of the girls wanted to fight and they both looked scared to him. He further stated it was more peer-pressure brought on by Bonner.

Myron indicated he had pulled up twice to the location. He indicated he approached and spoke with, as described by Myron, the thick girl with a weave (now known to investigators as Shai-onta Craig (Craig)). Myron said he asked Craig, *"Why are you here? They live here. You don't live here anymore."* According to Myron, Craig said they were there with Bonner.

Myron said, *"In the midst of that, they already had my daughter barricaded in the house. Cause she was, I guess 'cause she was scared of the situation cause it was grown women. So after I came, my daughter got a juice of wind and came out. It's when she came out, they got to arguin'—When she came out, first of all, she stormed out. When she stormed out, she came down, it was hard to see but for a little bit, but after a while we end up seein' she had a knife. Her and the girl, they started tusslin'. The girl fell down. When the girl fell down, I'm still standin' over-top of 'em, like tryin' ta- ta deliberate, to make- let and the police let 'em know, hey look, these are kids and this is not really like as bad as it seems. Like somebody could probably tase one of em, hurt 'em and get em outta here but—No, never did I think in a million years that he was gonna pull the gun out. Anyway on a simple dispute where he wasn't even at threatened. Like they were fighting each other. I mean I could a seen him sayin', 'My life was at threatened.' Somebody was comin' at you with a knife, then hell yeah, pull it, shoot it, cause*



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that's your job and you gotta protect yourself. But as you—if you can de-escalate like two people that's actually fightin', one em—My daughter had her back turn towards him. So, by that time all he had to do was, tase from the back and she simply woulda dropped and dropped the knife.” Myron continued by explaining that more police were coming and he (SA Collins took this to mean the officer) could have waited for more police to come.

Myron went on to state, “...Then everybody would a said at one time, ‘Who’s gonna be the big one to take her down.’ Cause I mean, wit-- this was an unexperienced person. You’re not dealin’ with a uh, uh, killer, by nature. You’re dealin’ with a child so, you have to have some kind a repercussion. She’s got a knife, of course it could hurt somebody, but at the same—at the end of the day it was only because the girl was still comin’ towards her. Still tryin to fight her and her, and her little perimeter. That’s why she felt like maybe—I know how she felt, she felt claustrophobic and closed in, cause they were already on her zone and her driveway....”

Myron stated again the girls had already fought prior to Ma’Khia coming out of the house. He said the hostility was still there and he believed, with his presence, Ma’khia knew the other girls weren’t gonna do anything because he was there to make sure it didn’t happen. Myron said, “But by that time, they had already had took another turn because they already had fought and it was already still the hostility was still there and I think that's when my daughter had got, got pissed again and when she came out with the knife like I said, her and the girl were fighting. She was down, the girl, they were, they were struggling at first. The police, this is my thing. The police sit there and watch the whole situation keep going farther and farther instead of just stepping in then and be like well, and I was tryin' to tell him, why, when he was steppin' up like look man, I'm going to try, I'm goin' grab my daughter 'cause the girl that was down, I mean the, the thick chick she was trying to pull my daughter down and grab her and hold her down and stuff. I kicked her to get her off, so it was going to be alleviated. After that point, I knew she would put the damn knife down because the police was here. But the police snuck up. They never came in front of the house first of all. They came down three or four houses down this way and then they ran up, walked up so by this time she didn't even get the chance to see you guys 'cause if she would see she's just like me. If she had seen the police, she know that hey, this shit's over now. Uh, the, the next go is to jail, or somebody could get hurt. So if she would've known it was the police, she woulda never did it. It was kind a like slick of them not to just pull the whole car up in front of the whole house where the incident that was actually happenin' so the people that was actually tryin' to scare us would have been not, would have been notified that you guys were there and she would a known. But the, my daughter was still kind of in dis, disarray because the police let her, was lettin' her still fight the girl and nobody was still sayin'



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hey, the police is here. They're guns is out but, but when first when, when the, after that, after he did pull his gun out, we all everybody start screamin' hey, she's a kid. Hey, she's a kid. She's a kid. I swear. The guy was walkin'. He was at that second house. He, it's like he had, he was, he had a radar on. He turned his radar on completely the fuck, shut it off. The, every, the rest of the officers, the, another officer that was with him, he was kind a like laid back and tryin' to see, be more observant about the situation. Hey, I'm walkin' up, I'm seein' somethin' that's goin' on, it's lookin' kind of fishy. I do see a weapon and this young lady's hand but I'm still tryin' to, you know, base myself to see what I'm gonna do. The other cop, that came up, that actually did the shooting, he never once for a second tried to say nothin' except once he had the gun out, freeze. He said that to them, of course, if you gonna say freeze to two people that's fighting, there is no way that one person is on top is gonna stop or the other person on the bottom is gonna really understand what's really goin' on because they're still getting' in a fight with somebody in the public. So, in the midst of 'em arguin' and fighting, he did say, uh, he did say, uh, she's got a knife. Or put, I don't even know if he said she has a knife or put the weapon down. Let's get from that point to that point. But I just know that at the end of the whole subject at the end when everybody start ridiculin' and sayin' hey, man, you never gave more than one opportunity to say that. Other people around was sayin' cause I was so in disarray about everything that was goin' on, I couldn't listen and watch for everything that was goin' on. So, I'm study watchin' and say listen, like but as the man walks up, he gots the gun out and when he got the gun out, he, I swear it was like he didn't even wait, enou, enough, a lot, he waited a little bit and let 'em fight but it seemed like he was just gonna let 'em fight and get the fight over with or whatever or let somebody come so the knife can get out but at the end he just took the shit into his own hands. Like literally, and it was no, it was, the situation could have definitely been, it was, it was getting over with 'cause like I said after they got on the ground and the young lady was on the ground and my daughter, she was on top of my daughter. I kicked her on the head and got her up off her like get the hell up off of her. This shit's over. You know what I mean? I was thinkin' by that time after I got her off of her that the police would understand that this is a child with a knife that just got upset that somebody came to the house to fight and so I'm not thinkin' in a million years that since he got his gun out that he's gonna still shoot. I'm thinkin' he got his gun out just to scare the hell out of everybody to make everybody go back to their regular nor, normal routine. Hey, you stand up there, you stand up that's normally what people do when they see the gun anyway is go back to their regular routine and get out of the way. No, they was too much involved in, in, in the spat and tangle that they didn't hear none of the little situation or whatever he might have said or if he did but after that we just started, everybody started sayin' that he did all the wrong moves and he, after that he even came back, he was



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lookin' like he was remorseful but at the end of the day he said that he's like well, she had a knife and we were sayin' true that she did have a knife but why didn't you use the taser? Why did you use a gun on a 15-year-old kid and not just shoot the gun one time, four, like there's no explanation? That, this character was horrible, his judgement was horrible. There's no way that I still haven't got any update on my daughter whether she's dead or alive. It's just like it's a big ass nightmare. This is a big, really a big nightmare. It's like whatever somethin' happened to this man this morning. He woke up on the side, wrong side of the bed, told another officer this. He woke up on the wrong side of the bed and he brought this shit to him with work. That's what you can't do. Bein' a police officer. You work at Burger King; you can tell the people fuck it. It's your way or my way, you can go the high way. Hey, you can't, you can't, police's lifestyle, bein' a police, you can't go to like, you can't let shit stress you and take that shit with you there because if you do, brother it could have been a civil dispute with him and his wife but I'm just tellin' you that moment when he did it, it was like he was anti-human. He didn't even see, not a revent, a bit of remorse. You didn't see him waitin' on the other, like, he like woke, he made, he passed up the other police instead of just waiting and if you think that somebody, some, somebody's out here and it's a threatening situation, I will wait for my backup. It was like, he's like no, he got out, him and his partner got out of the car at the same time. But he got down to the house first and when I've told you when he got down to the house first, he was in, this, instead of more, doin' more communication back and forth with his partner to see what he thought, 'cause his, his partner didn't pull his gun yet. His partner was still tryin' to deliver, hey, would say well, hey look, three young ladies are fighting if they got a knife and somebody stabs somebody, from that point on somebody's gonna go to jail. But at that point in time, that's what the whole crowd was tryin' to tell him like what made you, what possessed you to just shoot, four times. You had more than enough opportunities, like I said, my daughter's back was turned towards him. Why the scuffle was goin' on. Why he realized there was a knife. Okay, why her back's turned. Tase her and that would have been the end of it. Everybody kept sayin' that. Then after that, he didn't have nothin' to say. He got kind a, you know, just got kind a like quiet and distadent. And they got him out of here 'cause everybody started, the tension started goin' because they started sayin' this is why people are doin' this and doin' that and doin' that then another neighbor came and they were, it was all kind of arguments and stuff– But I'm just tellin' you at the end of the day, man, he was dead wrong. There was no (iaudible) – You know, man, there was no jus – I can see – I told you, I could even see if somebody was comin' at him with the knife. That's, uh, that's justifiable. I understand why would, would somebody has to do that. You have to take it in your own hands and get back home to your kids 'cause he's comin' at you with a knife to harm you, but when two other people are fighting, that gives ya'll, ya'll



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have a motive to be able to do anything because their mind is not focused on you guys. They're still tryin' to get the assailants so if anybody with common sense would've thought, they would've said well hey look, we just go ahead and mace him. Or mace but we'll mace both of 'em. And, and restrain both of them and go on."

Myron again explained what happened, "Because that's why I end up saying what I told you when I walked in, I asked, told the young ladies when I was walking through the driveway, cause I was going up towards the door and they were still in the driveway. I told them I said you ain't got a lot of nerve being in somebody's house and they was like well we're not going nowhere, and this is not your house and we exchanged words but, yeah. So that meant that other oldest daughter that had not yet came out, they were still arguing and still – and saying stuff in front of the house, mouthing, you know how people are? But after that, nobody, nobody wasn't doing anything and then so when I came up, it was like cause they had everybody still barricaded in the house like everybody all barricaded up on the driveway. Like was saying, no, nobody come down. If anybody come down, off the driveway or come on the sidewalk where my mom's car is, is the black car right there –and anybody come down there that they're going to do this, and they don't care. They'll do, they'll beat mom's up too and all this, and grandmas. So that, when I got here, of course, that made kind of like well who's he. You know what I mean? So they were, I was telling them like, uh, I wonder why you all guys said, da, da, da. They started talking stuff to me and then in the midst of them talking to me, stuff to me, within about 5 to 10 minutes, I would rationalize, and that's when my daughter, when daughter popped out, and said, 'hey, what's going on there, look, you, uh, you all, you, you trying to, um, you've been trying to do this and this is what you've been trying to do. I've been telling you to leave me alone. I'm at my house and you keep want, you, you're here' and the lady that, um, the foster care lady was the, she don't even know these particular ladies, girls was here. I jus-, to my, uh, knowledge, when my daughter told me on the phone, my other daughter told me that she only knows about pink sweat suit being here. The pink sweat suit is the one who initially brought the other two other girls, chunky and the miscellaneous girl. And she didn't even know that that was going on. That they was here supposedly. That's what my daughter told me.

SA Collins asked Myron again about him mentioning someone going to the ground when his daughter came outside. SA Collins asked him who. Myron responded, *"She, they both went to the ground. They both went to the ground like, you know how as if you try may the best man win and strong competition. They tried to do the stand off and then, both of them fell at the same time. So it met that nobody was stronger than each other. They tried to do to see who was the strongest. When, when they did that, of course, they both fell but the girl got the*



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better, better fall. Her fall was like on top, and she was started, started saying like what she was getting ready to and started beating people up and all this stuff and I just kicked her." SA Collins asked him if he was referring to 'weaves' (Craig). Myron continued, "Yeah, kicked Weave in her head and got her off and once I got Weave off, that let my daughter to be just right there and he already said why he was saying, tellin' em freeze, he said that I think she, he said she got a knife. She got a knife. Well we were saying to him, like she doesn't have a knife on you though. She doesn't have a knife on you."

SA Collins asked Myron when he had first seen the knife. Myron said, "I seen the knife when she came out. After she came, it took me a second though but right, right before they engaged entangled... It was two, it was like kind of like I didn't see immediately is like when they started getting in like a little bit in entanglement-- I seen the knife then, you know what I mean? But by the time I seen the knife, it was still like the tough man competition. They was going back and forth and then they both fell. I was like okay, now they both fell, this is going to be alleviated real quick cause she's going to be over. The police gots her. I mean the police are still over there when the girl fell and now if I get her off of my daughter, then I know that my daughter is going to listen to everything they say do. Like drop the knife. I knew she would do all of that. Cause she's like me. I knew she was just fierce and mad, but after she did all, I mean after they fell, the girl seemed like she had advantage cause she fell over on top of her. Thick. Thick. The one with Weave. She fell on top of her. So instead of her letting her start beating on my daughter and choking her, doing whatever she was going to try to do, I gave her the ki--, the friendly kick, and kicked her head and got her up off of it. It wasn't nothing violent --but it was something just to let her know. Hey, look at you're at my people's house and I can't just sit here and let you whoop my--daughter's butt in her house."

Myron stated the people present, that he knew of, were his daughter Janiah, his daughter Ma'Khia, and his mother Jeanene.

Myron stated that the shooting incident took place with the officer and Ma'Khia on the passenger side of the gray car pulled into the driveway. He described the officer to be standing in the roadway while Ma'Khia was directly next to the gray car, at the back door and when she fell, her head was under the car, like she was working on the car. SA Collins asked Myron if Ma'khia was on the ground when the officer shot her. Myron state, *"She was, she was, she was a, she was still in the altercation with the girl still. It was kinda like, the altercation was still goin' on—"*



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Myron was asked about how the shots sounded. Whether they were one right after the other or if there was time in between. Myron said, *"It was like pop,pop,pop,pop. It was almost like, like it wasn't even, it was, it was like it was almost like he was, not tryin' to shoot her to get the damn weapon, he was trying to shoot her and kill her. I'd, that was just it, I mean 'cause I know, any, a grown man can get hit with a one bullet and it's, you're gonna sit down, you're gonna give up, you're gonna, you're gonna retreat- you're not gonna do nothin', 'cause you can't. You're not in no position to do anything, after that point. So one shot would have actually concealed the deal that, the knife was, gotten and nobody else was gonna get hurt. But then with multiple shots, I'm like, oh no."*

Myron described other officers running over and giving Ma'khia CPR. Myron was asked if medics were called and he stated yes, but they took a long time to get there.

The interview concluded at approximately 1945 hours.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio and/or video recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview

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