



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Asante Taaj Omar Miller
(S)

Investigative Activity: Scene Processing
Involves: Asante Taaj Omar Miller
Activity Date: 08/11/2024
Activity Location: 242 W. 8th Avenue, Columbus, OH (Scene 2)
197 W. 8th Avenue, Columbus, OH (Scene 3)
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Aja Chung, #86

On August 11th, 2024, the Columbus Police Department (CPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) with an officer involved critical incident. It was reported by a resident at 1517 Worthington Street that Asante Miller (Miller) forced entry into the house and had a gun. CPD and Ohio State University Police Department (OSU PD) units responded to the address and came in contact with Miller behind the residence. According to body worn camera footage, the orders given to Miller to drop his gun were not followed and he fled on foot to the area of 242 West 8th Avenue, an apartment complex behind 1517 Worthington Street. Shots were fired at that location. Miller continued to evade officers and forced entry into a vacant residence located at 197 West 8th Avenue. Officers followed Miller to that residence, located him inside a first-floor bedroom and more gunfire was exchanged. Shortly thereafter, a single gunshot was heard and units retreated. CPD SWAT responded for negotiations. A Franklin County Sheriff's Office deputy deployed a drone into the residence where Miller was discovered unresponsive from a suspected gunshot wound to his head. BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) Special Agent (S/A) Aja Chung, S/A Mathew Austin with Crime Scene Technician (CST) Holly Ryczek and CST Dylan Wical were assigned to the assistance request. BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) agents also responded.

S/A Chung arrived to the scene at 1400 hours and made contact with CPD Lieutenant Truax and other BCI personnel inside the CPD Mobile Command Bus. Search warrants had been obtained and body worn camera footage was observed. A walk through of the scene was conducted due to the size/expansion.

S/A Chung requested S/A Austin and CST Wical respond to CPD substation 4 (248 East 11th Avenue, Columbus, OH) to photograph and collect pertinent evidence from the involved officers. For ease of reference, officer documentation was designated as 'Scene 4'. Please refer to S/A Austin's report labeled Processing of Officers for further information.

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.



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Asante Taaj Omar Miller
(S)



(Google maps showing scene expansion)

Scene 2

After the walk through was completed, S/A Chung documented the parking lot of 242 West 8th Avenue (scene 2). The parking lot was directly west behind 1517 Worthington Street. Orange cones were placed over evidentiary items initially marked by CPD units. S/A Chung replaced the orange cones with yellow number placards and the items collected are reflected in the table below.

Item #	Description	Location found
1	One 9mm casing	Near 1523 Worthington St.
2	Four 9mm casings	Near garbage dumpster

A projectile was located the following day and turned over to CPD Officer Orban. Marie Aufderheide, the owner of a gray Kia Soul, Ohio license plate HNC 6393 located the projectile in the front door seam of the vehicle after she had left the scene. SA Chung

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.



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Asante Taaj Omar Miller
(S)

collected the projectile from CPD Officer Howard on 8/12/2024 at 1600 hours. The projectile was labeled as item 3.

Scene 3

SA Chung then documented 197 West 8th Avenue through photography. There was no hiatus between processing the parking lot of 242 West 8th Avenue (scene 2) and 197 West 8th Avenue (scene 3). The vacant residence consisted of four floors however the shooting incident was contained to the first floor. Forced entry door damage was evident on the side door. The door handle was observed on the floor and the door was broken where the handle used to be. Scene 3 was further documented with a Leica 3D scanner.

Upon entry into the side of the house, SA Chung observed two pistol magazines and multiple casings. A Glock magazine that contained 10 cartridges was collected as item 1. A Smith and Wesson magazine that contained 16 cartridges was collected as item 2. Further into the room, SA Chung collected one 9mm casing (item 3) and two 9mm casings (item 4) that were found near the hallway. Eleven 9mm casings (item 5) were located in the hallway and in the floor vent. Two 9mm casings (item 6) were found in the doorway to the room next to where the deceased was encountered.

In the room where Miller was found, SA Chung collected the following items:

- **Item 7:** a projectile by the door
- **Item 8:** Smith and Wesson, M & P, 9mm pistol with S/N: NMA7831; one cartridge was removed from the chamber and the seated magazine was empty. Two loose 9mm casings and two loose cartridges were packaged together with the pistol. The pistol, two loose casings and two loose cartridges were located next to Miller.
- **Item 13:** a projectile located under the broken glass and window debris

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.



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Asante Taaj Omar Miller
(S)



(Pistol and two loose cartridges, in situ)

With the assistance of Investigator Alisha Kazlauskys with the Franklin County Coroner's Office, S/A Chung documented the body of Miller. Miller was found sitting inside the closet with his knees bent to his chest. His left arm was to his side and the right arm was bent with his hand on his right knee. There appeared to be two gunshot wounds (entry and exit) on his head. Another gunshot wound was suspected to be located on his right thigh area as the cash in his front right pocket had a perforating hole. The cash in his front pocket was also allegedly stolen from the initial caller at 1517 Worthington Street. Miller's Ohio license was also found in his pocket. Miller was located wearing a multi-colored backpack. Inside the backpack were miscellaneous tools, two locks, hair clippers, a notebook, two 9mm pistol magazines loaded with cartridges, three boxes of 9mm ammunition and an Ozark hatchet. S/A Chung collected the two magazines as item 9 and the hatchet with three boxes of ammunition as item 10. Miller's body was placed into a body bag and transported for an autopsy.

SA Chung then documented the ballistic events inside the room where the shooting incident took place. For documentation purposes, the ballistic events (BE) were labeled

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.



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



2024-2371

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Asante Taaj Omar Miller
(S)

BE 1 – BE 22. BE 1 – BE 7 were all perforating holes located on the door to the room and appeared to travel from outside to inside. All BEs had leading edges that indicated the door was in the open position, at various angles, when gunfire was exchanged. The door was observed to close from a possible imbalance that shifted enough that gravity pulled the door shut. No projectiles were recovered from those events. A ricochet defect (BE 8) was located in the middle of the floor that created shallow damage and caused the wood to splinter. The projectile appeared to travel from the front of the house to the back of the house (NE to SW direction). No projectile was recovered from that event. The BEs (BE 9 – BE 22) located on the south wall were all penetrating defects. Each defect had either a hole that was circular shaped or elliptically shaped. One projectile (item 12) was recovered from BE 18. No other projectiles were recovered from the south wall defects.

Agents attempted to recover projectiles from some of the penetrating BEs but none were recovered.

BCI personnel completed their processing at approximately 2045 hours as no other items of evidentiary value were located. SA Chung received all items from scenes 1 and 2 collected by CST Ryczek along with all items collected at scene 4 from SA Austin. She then traveled to BCI offices in London, Ohio where she secured the evidence listed below into the crime scene room temporary locker. 24 total items were secured.

- Scene 1 (1517 Worthington St.): item 1
- Scene 2 (242 W. 8th Ave.): items 1-2
- Scene 3 (197 W. 8th Ave): items 1-13
- Scene 4 (officers): items 1-5
- Scene 5 (vehicle): items 1-3

On Monday, August 12th, 2024, SA Chung removed all 24 items and did the following:

- BCI laboratory:
 - Scene 2 – items 1-2
 - Scene 3 – items 1-9, 12, 13
 - Scene 4 – items 1-5
- Major crimes locker 2:
 - Scene 1 – item 1
 - Scene 3 – items 10, 11, 11.1
 - Scene 5 – items 1-3

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.