



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 1335 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, 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 [REDACTED]. Also present for the interview was [REDACTED] Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) designated legal counsel, Jaclyn Tipton.

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 Jaclyn Tipton 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, *"On the day of August 11, 2024, I was performing routine patrol duties in the area of 375 E. 5th Avenue. Shortly after 8:00 a.m. I heard that a two-person cruiser was being dispatched to a priority burglary in progress on 4 precinct at 1517 Worthington Street. I began heading in that direction in case back up was needed. I activated my lights and sirens and my body worn camera. Shortly thereafter, I heard one of the responding officers air words to the effect of "he's got a 33 (gun)" and "he's running out the back". I was approximately 1-2 miles away from the address on Worthington Street. The suspect was described as a black male, wearing all black, with curly hair, a backpack, and a black semi-automatic weapon. As I approached the area of 1517 Worthington Street, I aired that I was in the area and asked for the suspect's direction of travel. I was informed that he was running eastbound from the intersection of 8th Avenue and Worthington Street. While driving on 8th Avenue I saw a person who matched the suspect's general description. I aired for the description to be repeated so that I could be certain it was the suspect. The description was re-aired as a light skinned black male, wearing all black, with a bookbag. I aired that the suspect was walking eastbound at Hunter Avenue and 8th Avenue and then asked if the suspect still had a gun, which was affirmed. I could see that the suspect's hands were concealed at that moment, as though he was trying to hide something. A few seconds later, I corrected myself and aired that the suspect was at Highland and 8th; not Hunter and 8th Avenue. I was approximately 50 yards north of the suspect. The suspect looked in my direction and appeared to move to try to evade me and immediately picked up his pace and turned. I lost sight of the suspect near the intersection of Highland and 8th Ave."*

[REDACTED] continued, *"As I knew the suspect was armed with what I believed was an AR-style weapon, I believed he may be hiding and waiting for officers in order to ambush them. I aired for more cruisers and to set up a perimeter. Other CPD officers began arriving in the area. I parked my cruiser on W. 8th Avenue, just east of Hunter. I began searching the area on foot near where I had last seen the suspect. I drew my weapon as I exited my cruiser. After 2-3 minutes of searching on foot, I heard a CPD officer air the suspect's location and that he was walking northbound and may be trying to get back to the Worthington Street address. I then heard that the suspect was walking westbound on 9th Avenue. As I continued to search on foot, I saw other CPD Officers arriving who were also looking for the suspect. I aired for additional cruisers at the intersection of 9th Avenue and Worthington Street as well as Neil Avenue so that a complete perimeter could be established. I asked if the CPD helicopter was searching for the suspect and was told that it was not."*

[REDACTED] wrote in his statement regarding his involvement in the shooting incident, *"As I was walking westbound on 9th Avenue, I heard multiple officers yelling, indicating they had located the suspect. I ran south, toward where the sounds were coming from. As I approached an apartment complex parking lot, north of an alleyway that ran east-west from Worthington*

*Street I saw the suspect walking north and then turning west, near the corner of an apartment building at 240 E. 8th Street, which was to my southwest. I saw 3-4 CPD officers behind (south/southeast of) the suspect, yelling commands to the effect of "drop the gun" and "drop it". I saw that the suspect was carrying a black handgun in his right hand. I positioned myself behind a trash dumpster. The suspect hesitated at the northeast corner of the apartment building and then turned to make direct eye contact with me. I saw the suspect's hands moving in my direction and believed the suspect was raising his gun at me. I fired two shots at the suspect. I heard at least one other CPD officer fire at approximately the same time. The suspect did not appear to be hit and ran left (west). I aired that shots had been fired. I heard at least one other officer also air that shots had been fired. I lost sight of the suspect. Myself and a group of other officers that included both CPD and OSU looked down the other (west) side of the apartment building, that I believe was 242 E. 8th Street and did not see the suspect. Officers then spread out to try to establish a perimeter around where we had last seen the suspect."*

██████████ also wrote in his statement, *"I heard someone air that there was a door with a forced entry at 197 W. 8th Avenue. I saw 5-6 officers make entry through the opened door. I stayed outside, on the east side, of the residence to cover a front door, in case the suspect attempted to flee through that door as well as to monitor the windows on that side of the residence in case the suspect fired through a window. I heard commands being yelled for the suspect to identify himself. Suddenly, I heard a volley of gunfire that sounded like approximately 15-20 shots. I immediately aired "shots fired". I saw the officers who made entry leave the house. No one was certain if the suspect had been hit."*

██████████ wrote in his statement regarding firing his weapon, *"I fired two shots at the suspect. My shot(s) were fired from a standing position. I used my sights when I fired. My shots were fired in a west/southwest direction. I believe I was approximately 25-35 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. There was approximately three seconds between my shots. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop for my shot was the brick wall of the building at 240 W. 8th Ave. I had cover from the dumpster I was behind. It was daylight and the lighting was good. I stopped firing because the suspect fled on foot and was no longer visible. At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the other officers on the scene. I did have a taser with me, however, given my distance from the suspect, the fact that I knew the suspect had a gun and I believed the suspect was turning to shoot at me, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their force with a taser."*

BCI agents asked ██████████ several follow-up questions and had him explain where and when he fired her weapon based on printed maps and screenshots from his body-worn camera (BWC) video of where the shooting incident occurred.

██████████ confirmed Miller had turned and faced him, and could visibly see a firearm in Miller's hand. ██████████ reported hearing other law enforcement officers give Miller numerous verbal commands to drop his weapon. ██████████ stated he observed Miller raise his gun in ██████████ direction, and ██████████ fired two rounds at Miller in response. ██████████ stated he did not observe any law enforcement officers or any other individuals in his vision when he fired his weapon at Miller. ██████████ estimated Miller was standing roughly in the center area of the northside wall of the apartment building at 240/242 West 8th

Avenue at the time [REDACTED] fired his weapon.

[REDACTED] confirmed hearing multiple gunshots from inside the structure at 197 West 8th Avenue and aired "shots fired" on the radio. [REDACTED] denied entering the building at 197 West 8th Avenue during the incident.

[REDACTED] reported the information he received from residents at 1517 Worthington Street regarding what had transpired before police had arrived. [REDACTED] confirmed he was not witness to any of the information documented in his written statement from remarks made to police by residents at 1517 Worthington Street after the incident had concluded.

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

Interview concluded at approximately 1407 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



**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

8-10-24 1:37 PM.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date / Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
BCI Agent (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
BCI Agent (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jaclyn Tipton - For Assty

**STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE # [REDACTED]**

This statement is in regards to my involvement in an incident that occurred on Sunday, August 11, 2024, between approximately 8:15 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. near 240 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police was [REDACTED]. I obtained my OPOTA Certification in [REDACTED]. I do not have any previous law enforcement experience. I do not have any military service. I do not have any discipline for outside of policy use of force. My regular assignment is [REDACTED] with [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] On the day of the incident, I was in cruiser [REDACTED]. I was not working with a partner. I was wearing my CPD uniform, consisting of navy pants and a navy short sleeve shirt with my CPD badge on the front and "COLUMBUS POLICE" on the back. I was wearing a Columbus Police baseball style hat. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted on the chest of my shirt. I was not wearing gloves. I was clearly identifiable as a Columbus Police Officer.

I was armed with a division-issued Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm which was loaded with division-issued ammunition. I was current in my range qualifications. I was not carrying any backup firearms. 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 was well rested at the start of my regular shift. I had not consumed any alcohol in the 24 hours prior to the start of my shift. I do not wear glasses or contact lenses and my vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities that would impair my ability to perform my responsibilities as a police officer.

On the day of August 11, 2024, I was performing routine patrol duties in the area of 375 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Shortly after 8:00 a.m. I heard that a two-person cruiser was being dispatched to a priority burglary in progress on 4 precinct at 1517 Worthington Street. I began heading in that direction in case back up was needed. I activated my lights and sirens and my body worn camera. Shortly thereafter, I heard one of the responding officers air words to the effect of “he’s got a 33 (gun)” and “he’s running out the back”. I was approximately 1-2 miles away from the address on Worthington Street. The suspect was described as a black male, wearing all black, with curly hair, a backpack, and a black semi-automatic weapon.

As I approached the area of 1517 Worthington Street, I aired that I was in the area and asked for the suspect’s direction of travel. I was informed that he was running eastbound from the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Worthington Street. While driving on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue I saw a person who matched the suspect’s general description. I aired for the description to be repeated so that I could be certain it was the suspect. The description was re-aired as a light skinned black male, wearing all black, with a bookbag. I aired that the suspect was walking eastbound at Hunter Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and then asked if the suspect still had a gun, which was affirmed. I could see that the suspect’s hands were concealed at that moment, as though he was trying to hide something. A few seconds later, I corrected myself and aired that the suspect was at Highland and 8<sup>th</sup>; not Hunter and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. I was approximately 50 yards north of the suspect. The suspect looked in my direction and appeared to move to try to evade me and immediately picked up his pace and turned. I lost sight of the suspect near the intersection of Highland and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.

As I knew the suspect was armed with what I believed was an AR-style weapon, I believed he may be hiding and waiting for officers in order to ambush them. I aired for more



cruisers and to set up a perimeter. Other CPD officers began arriving in the area. I parked my cruiser on W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, just east of Hunter. I began searching the area on foot near where I had last seen the suspect. I drew my weapon as I exited my cruiser. After 2-3 minutes of searching on foot, I heard a CPD officer air the suspect's location and that he was walking northbound and may be trying to get back to the Worthington Street address. I then heard that the suspect was walking westbound on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As I continued to search on foot, I saw other CPD Officers arriving who were also looking for the suspect. I aired for additional cruisers at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Worthington Street as well as Neil Avenue so that a complete perimeter could be established. I asked if the CPD helicopter was searching for the suspect and was told that it was not.

As I was walking westbound on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I heard multiple officers yelling, indicating they had located the suspect. I ran south, toward where the sounds were coming from. As I approached an apartment complex parking lot, north of an alleyway that ran east-west from Worthington Street I saw the suspect walking north and then turning west, near the corner of an apartment building at 240 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, which was to my southwest. I saw 3-4 CPD officers behind (south/southeast of) the suspect, yelling commands to the effect of "drop the gun" and "drop it". I saw that the suspect was carrying a black handgun in his right hand. I positioned myself behind a trash dumpster. The suspect hesitated at the northeast corner of the apartment building and then turned to make direct eye contact with me. I saw the suspect's hands moving in my direction and believed the suspect was raising his gun at me. I fired two shots at the suspect. I heard at least one other CPD officer fire at approximately the same time.

The suspect did not appear to be hit and ran left (west). I aired that shots had been fired. I heard at least one other officer also air that shots had been fired. I lost sight of the suspect.



Myself and a group of other officers that included both CPD and OSU looked down the other (west) side of the apartment building, that I believe was 242 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and did not see the suspect. Officers then spread out to try to establish a perimeter around where we had last seen the suspect.

I heard someone air that there was a door with a forced entry at 197 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. I saw 5-6 officers make entry through the opened door. I stayed outside, on the east side, of the residence to cover a front door, in case the suspect attempted to flee through that door as well as to monitor the windows on that side of the residence in case the suspect fired through a window. I heard commands being yelled for the suspect to identify himself. Suddenly, I heard a volley of gunfire that sounded like approximately 15-20 shots. I immediately aired "shots fired". I saw the officers who made entry leave the house. No one was certain if the suspect had been hit.

I heard CPD Officer Deann Trionfante air that no officers were injured, but the suspect had shut himself in one room of the house and that SWAT was needed. Officers created a perimeter around 197 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. I held a position on the east side of the residence immediately to the east of 197 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, next to multiple CPD officers, including one who was armed with a rifle. Officer Trionfante aired for bunkers and a bullhorn so officers could make announcements for the suspect to surrender.

I discussed our positioning with other CPD and OSU officers, as I had concerns about the potential for crossfire if the suspect exited the front door. The rifle operator moved to find a better position, but multiple officers stayed on the east side of the residence immediately east of 197 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue with me. I heard someone from CPD begin to make announcements for the suspect, Asante Miller, to come out with his hands raised. Shortly thereafter, I heard CPD Officer Trionfante take over making announcements from a cruiser that was on W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue,

facing west, a couple houses east of the house at 197 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Officer Trionfante tried to ascertain if the suspect was injured and gave the suspect a telephone number to call to open a dialogue with officers. I remained in my position for approximately 20-30 minutes.

Officer Trionfante asked me to return to the 1517 Worthington Street address and speak with Asante Miller's roommates who made the initial 911 call so that I could get information that Officer Trionfante to use for her announcement/potential dialogue with the suspect.

I arrived at 1517 Worthington Street approximately 3-5 minutes later. I met with four white men in their late teens/early 20s at the rear of the residence. They informed me that the suspect was a Pickerington Central High School graduate who was supposed to live with them beginning August 2024. However, in June 2024 he had stolen a friend's car and abandoned the vehicle. After that incident he was told he was no longer welcome to live there. The former roommates asked him to come back at a time they weren't at home to collect his belongings and then changed the locks. The suspect's former roommates said that the suspect had a history of mental illness and substance abuse issues. They weren't certain if he had any formal diagnoses, but did say he exhibited signs of bipolar behavior. On that date, one of the suspect's former roommates heard a loud bang, as though a door was being kicked in. He came downstairs and saw the suspect sitting on the couch. He asked the suspect something to the effect of "How's it going?"; the suspect mumbled an incoherent reply. The former roommate then went upstairs with the other roommates and called police. When police arrived and asked the suspect to come out, one of the former roommates heard the suspect say words to the effect of "oh shit" and audibly racked a round in his gun. I asked the suspect's former roommates about the suspect's family. They did not have contact information for his mother, but were able to provide a phone number for the suspect's brother-in-law. They were also able to provide a cell phone number for the

suspect. I instructed the roommates that they may want to vacate the house and go toward Neil Avenue until the situation was over.

While I was speaking with the suspect's former roommates, I was approached by CPD Officer Cheston Jones who inquired about a silver hatchback vehicle that was parked behind 1517 Worthington Street. The former roommates stated that the vehicle did not belong to any of them. Officer Jones observed an open gun case and live ammunition in the vehicle. While I was speaking with Officer Jones, I heard dispatch air that any officers who fired their weapons needed to go to the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Worthington Street. Prior to leaving the scene, I passed along the information I had collected to one of the negotiators.

I left the scene and taken to the 4 precinct substation. CPD Officer Andrew Radich acted as my officer support. This ended my involvement with the incident.

I fired two shots at the suspect. My shot(s) were fired from a standing position. I used my sights when I fired. My shots were fired in a west/southwest direction. I believe I was approximately 25-35 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. There was approximately three seconds between my shots. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop for my shot was the brick wall of the building at 240 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. I had cover from the dumpster I was behind. It was daylight and the lighting was good. I stopped firing because the suspect fled on foot and was no longer visible.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I do not believe I had any reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the other officers on the scene. I did have a taser with me, however, given my distance from the suspect, the fact that I knew the suspect had a gun and I believed the suspect was turning to shoot at me, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their force with a taser.

I know the name of the suspect that I fired at was Asante Miller. To my knowledge I have not had any other personal or professional dealings with Mr. Miller.

I have now had an opportunity to review video footage from this incident. After seeing the footage, I now recall that I fired from behind a silver SUV, not a trash dumpster. I now know that the suspect was armed with a handgun and did not appear to have an AR style weapon. I also now recall that I approached Officer Trionfante while she was making announcements with what was believed to be the suspect's cell phone number.

This concludes my statement.





