



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: 10/14/2024
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton and Lipperman –
Business – 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220
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, was mortally wounded during an encounter with officers from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD). The incident occurred in the rear parking lot of the CPD Precinct 4 substation. Mahmoudi was armed with a kitchen knife and a meat cleaver during the encounter. The officers did not sustain any injuries. 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 afternoon October 14, 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 account of the critical incident from [REDACTED] perspective. [REDACTED] was accompanied by his legal representative from the Fraternal Order of Police, attorney Jaclyn Tipton.

Before starting the interview, SA Gore read and presented a "Criminal Investigation Notification" form to [REDACTED]. The form was an advice of [REDACTED] rights, and it also specified that the investigation was not administrative in nature. [REDACTED] reviewed and signed the form.

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Ms. Tipton provided a printed statement from ██████████ which was a summary of ██████████ involvement in the incident. ██████████ was asked to read his statement aloud to refresh his memory. After reading, ██████████ signed his statement, and he concurred that it was an accurate representation of what he recalled from the event.

██████████ wrote in his statement:

"I arrived for ██████████ on September 9, 2024. During roll call, we were informed of a call that had taken place on second shift where officers were called to a residence at or near 246 Chittenden Avenue where there were reports of a man with a knife. The individual refused help from officers, and as he was determined to be in the residence alone, officers withdrew. We were shown a picture of the individual from a previous arrest. He was a middle eastern male, bald, and in his late 20s-30s."

SA Gore clarified with ██████████ that the location was actually 235 Chittenden Ave., not 246 Chittenden. (Note: From other officers, it was determined that the photo shown of Lamine Mahmoudi was from his driver's license, not a prior arrest.)

██████████ statement continued:

"At approximately 10:30 p.m. we received a substantially similar call. I believe the call came from one of the suspect's roommates, who was at a nearby gas station, stating the suspect was in the residence at 246 Chittenden Ave. with a knife. I responded, along with CPD ██████████. Although the residence was a short walk from the substation, I drove cruiser ██████████ so we would have cover if necessary.

When I arrived at the Chittenden address, ██████████ were speaking to a man who they had detained, initially thinking that man may be the suspect. They continued to speak to the man near my cruiser, as I proceeded on foot to the rear of the residence on Chittenden. The house appeared to be a two-story duplex style residence, with rear doors on the right and left side leading into two separate apartments. There was an external stairwell on the right (east) side of the residence, leading to a landing area. The suspect was believed to live in the right (east) part of the residence. I looked in a window on the east side of the residence and saw a man matching the suspect's description inside. After looking in the window, I returned to the rear of the residence, where multiple other CPD officers were located, including CPD Officer Housler, who had a rifle. Officers around the perimeter of the residence verbally made each other aware of their location so that everyone knew to watch for potential crossfire."

██████████ wrote that after he returned to the rear of the residence, the suspect (Mahmoudi) opened the door and revealed himself briefly:

"The white sedan facing west/northwest was determined to belong to the man being detained by ██████████. They asked me to shut off the vehicle and bring the man's keys and cell phone from the vehicle to him. I then returned to the rear of the residence, standing behind rear driver's side door of the white sedan that was facing north. CPD ██████████ was standing near me, slightly to my right (south).

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Suddenly, the suspect opened the rear door of the residence. I could see his left hand, which was empty, but his body was bladed such that I could not see his right hand. He appeared to be shaking his head and mumbling something, but I could not understand him. I, along with other officers, yelled commands to the effect of "show us your hands!" and "walk out!". The suspect stood in the doorway for about ten seconds, and then closed the door and went back inside."

██████████ continued in his statement that a social worker with a Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) team attempted to establish a dialogue with the suspect via a loudspeaker, but the effort was unsuccessful. According to ██████████ supervisors on scene made the decision to "disengage." ██████████ estimated the call lasted twenty-five to thirty-five minutes.

██████████ wrote that as he was returning to the substation, he encountered an unidentified male onlooker with a tourniquet in one of his back pockets. ██████████ explained that from the way the male was dressed, he thought that he was possibly an off-duty officer. ██████████ determined that he was actually just a curious citizen – perhaps a neighbor – who wanted to be helpful. ██████████ said he asked the man to move on.

██████████ wrote that he recalled hearing that the suspect possibly left his residence, and he described the point when the suspect approached officers at the substation:

"At some point I remember being informed that an individual matching the suspect's address had left the Chittenden house, gotten into the red sedan that we had previously noticed, left for a period of time, and then returned. At approximately 1:30 a.m., I was in my cruiser in the parking lot behind (north of) the substation. The cruisers were lined up east to west in, numerical order. ██████████ was in cruiser ██████████, ██████████ were in ██████████, ██████████ was in ██████████, I was in ██████████, and ██████████ was in ██████████. We all had our windows down and were talking amongst ourselves. A CPD prisoner transport vehicle (PTV) was parked on the other side of the parking lot; to my northwest. I saw a man generally matching the suspect's description walking eastbound down the alley behind the substation. I asked ██████████ words to the effect of "is this our guy?"

██████████ continued to describe the encounter:

"I activated my body worn camera and exited my cruiser. The other officers exited their cruisers. We walked north/northeast across the parking lot and then fanned out and created a diagonal/semi-circle; ██████████ was to my left; ██████████ was to my right. I temporarily lost sight of the suspect as my view was obstructed by the PTV. Once the suspect passed the PTV and continued to walk eastbound I could see that he had a large knife in each of his hands. I gave multiple commands to the effect of "Put it down. We don't want to hurt you". I heard other officers giving commands for the suspect to drop the knives. The suspect continued to walk east, toward officers. I moved backwards (southeast) in order to maintain distance between myself and the suspect.

After about thirty seconds of giving commands for the suspect to put down the knives, the suspect stopped walking and turned his body such that his left side was forward. I could see that he was swinging a large cleaver-style knife in his right hand and his hip

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level. I believed the suspect was going to throw the knife at me. I immediately told the suspect words to the effect of "do not throw that knife". I could hear other officers continuing to give commands. The suspect maintained the knives in both of his hands and turned to face south; squaring his body toward officers.

The suspect began advancing toward officers. I continually gave commands to the effect of "don't do it". As the suspect stepped on the curb to enter the substation parking lot, I fired my weapon. I heard other officers firing nearly simultaneously. The suspect fell to the ground with his head facing south. [REDACTED] radioed shots had been fired and for a medic. I cleared both knives– a meat cleaver style knife and a butcher style knife from the suspect and placed them outside of the suspect's vicinity. The suspect was placed in handcuffs. [REDACTED] began CPR, [REDACTED] maintained pressure on a headwound, and [REDACTED] searched the suspect's lower extremities for any wounds in need of attention."

[REDACTED] wrote that he began securing the scene by using his police vehicle to block one of the entrances to the substation. He said he later reported to the Midwatch substation, then to the CPD Training Academy.

[REDACTED] explained that thought he fired four or five rounds, but the round count conducted at the time his weapon was collected revealed that he actually shot six times. [REDACTED] estimated that the suspect was fifteen to twenty feet from him when he fired, and he expressed that he did not believe he had any reasonable alternative given the circumstances.

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

References:

No references

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Criminal Investigation Notification CPD [REDACTED] 10-14-2024

Attachment # 02: CPD [REDACTED] written statement 10-14-2024

Attachment # 03: 10-14-2024 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

10-17-23 1:19 PM
Date / Time

[Redacted]
S

Jaclyn Tipton *[Signature]*
FOR Atty.

James Gault #168
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE # [REDACTED]

This statement is in regards to my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, September 10, 2024, between approximately 1:25 a.m. and 1:35 a.m. near 248 East 11th 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 in [REDACTED]. I obtained my OPOTA Certification in [REDACTED]. I served in the [REDACTED]. I was previously a law enforcement officer at Ohio Health in Dublin from 2011-2012 and with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in Franklin County from 2012-2016. I do not have any discipline for outside of policy use of force. My regular assignment is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] off. 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. My body worn camera (BWC) was mounted on the chest of my shirt. I was not wearing a hat or 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.

I arrived for [REDACTED] on September 9, 2024. During roll call, we were informed of a call that had taken place on second shift where officers were called to a residence at or near 246 Chittenden Avenue where there were reports of a man with a knife. The individual refused help from officers, and as he was determined to be in the residence alone, officers withdrew. We were shown a picture of the individual from a previous arrest. He was a middle eastern male, bald, and in his late 20s-30s.

At approximately 10:30 p.m. we received a substantially similar call. I believe the call came from one of the suspect's roommates, who was at a nearby gas station, stating the suspect was in the residence at 246 Chittenden Ave. with a knife. I responded, along with CPD Officers [REDACTED]. Although the residence was a short walk from the substation, I drove cruiser [REDACTED] so we would have cover if necessary.

When I arrived at the Chittenden address, [REDACTED] were speaking to a man who they had detained, initially thinking that man may be the suspect. They continued to speak to the man near my cruiser, as I proceeded on foot to the rear of the residence on Chittenden. The house appeared to be a two-story duplex style residence, with rear doors on the right and left side leading into two separate apartments. There was an external stairwell on the right (east) side of the residence, leading to a landing area. The suspect was believed to live in the right (east) part of the residence. I looked in a window on the east side of the residence and saw a man matching the suspect's description inside. After looking in the window, I returned to the rear of the residence, where multiple other CPD officers were located, including CPD Officer Housler, who had a rifle. Officers around the perimeter of the residence verbally made each other aware of their location so that everyone knew to watch for potential crossfire.

There were three civilian cars at the rear of the residence- a red sedan and two white sedans. One of the white sedans was facing north, toward the rear of the residence. The other white sedan was on the left side of the residence, facing west/northwest. The red sedan was on the right side of the residence facing east/northeast. Officers radioed back and forth to determine if anyone had visual confirmation the suspect was in the residence and if he was alone. I heard someone say they could see the suspect inside with a large knife, but did not see anyone else. I heard one officer say that the residences on the right and left side shared a basement, but the basement was locked such that the suspect could not get to the residence on the other side. I was concerned the suspect could get through that door and into the other side of the house.

The white sedan facing west/northwest was determined to belong to the man being detained by [REDACTED]. They asked me to shut off the vehicle and bring the man's keys and cell phone from the vehicle to him. I then returned to the rear of the residence, standing behind rear driver's side door of the white sedan that was facing north. CPD [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was standing near me, slightly to my right (south). Suddenly, the suspect opened the rear door of the residence. I could see his left hand, which was empty, but his body was angled such that I could not see his right hand. He appeared to be shaking his head and mumbling something, but I could not understand him. I, along with other officers, yelled commands to the effect of "show us your hands!" and "walk out!". The suspect stood in the doorway for about ten seconds, and then closed the door and went back inside.

I knocked on the rear door of the left (west) side of the residence to ensure that no one was home. No one answered the door. At some point I heard it aired over the radio that the suspect's first name was Lamine. CPD Lt. Engles and Sgt. Van Dusen arrived at the rear of the residence, as did the Mobile Crisis Response unit. We began arranging ourselves to knock on the

door to make contact so the Mobile Crisis Response unit could make announcements for the suspect to come outside without any weapons and speak to us. It was decided shortly thereafter by supervision that we would not knock; the Mobile Crisis Response Unit would just make announcements.

A social worker with the Mobile Crisis Response Unit began making announcements over the loudspeaker for Lamine to come to the back door with nothing in his hands so that they could get him whatever help he needed. Announcements continued for approximately 5-7 minutes. The suspect did not come to the back door or make any attempts to communicate with officers. Given that the suspect would not communicate with us and it was determined that he was alone in the residence, supervision made the determination for officers to disengage. I estimate that I was at the residence for a total of 25-35 minutes.

As I returned to the substation, I noticed a man in the substation parking lot with what appeared to be a tourniquet in his back pocket. After briefly asking him why he was there, I asked him to leave the parking lot. I then returned to my normal duties.

At some point I remember being informed that an individual matching the suspect's address had left the Chittenden house, gotten into the red sedan that we had previously noticed, left for a period of time, and then returned. At approximately 1:30 a.m., I was in my cruiser in the parking lot behind (north of) the substation. The cruisers were lined up east to west in numerical order. [REDACTED] was in cruiser [REDACTED] were in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] I was in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] We all had our windows down and were talking amongst ourselves. A CPD prisoner transport vehicle (PTV) was parked on the other side of the parking lot; to my northwest. I saw a man generally matching the

suspect's description walking eastbound down the alley behind the substation. I asked [REDACTED] words to the effect of "is this our guy?".

I activated my body worn camera and exited my cruiser. The other officers exited their cruisers. We walked north/northeast across the parking lot and then fanned out and created a diagonal/semi-circle; [REDACTED] was to my left; [REDACTED] was to my right. I temporarily lost sight of the suspect as my view was obstructed by the PTV. Once the suspect passed the PTV and continued to walk eastbound I could see that he had a large knife in each of his hands. I gave multiple commands to the effect of "Put it down. We don't want to hurt you". I heard other officers giving commands for the suspect to drop the knives. The suspect continued to walk east, toward officers. I moved backwards (southeast) in order to maintain distance between myself and the suspect.

After about thirty seconds of giving commands for the suspect to put down the knives, the suspect stopped walking and turned his body such that his left side was forward. I could see that he was swinging a large cleaver-style knife in his right hand and his hip level. I believed the suspect was going to throw the knife at me. I immediately told the suspect words to the effect of "do not throw that knife". I could hear other officers continuing to give commands. The suspect maintained the knives in both of his hands and turned to face south; squaring his body toward officers.

The suspect began advancing toward officers. I continually gave commands to the effect of "don't do it". As the suspect stepped on the curb to enter the substation parking lot, I fired my weapon. I heard other officers firing nearly simultaneously. The suspect fell to the ground with his head facing south. [REDACTED] radioed shots had been fired and for a medic. I cleared both knives- a meat cleaver style knife and a butcher style knife from the suspect and placed

them outside of the suspect's vicinity. The suspect was placed in handcuffs. [REDACTED] began CPR, [REDACTED] maintained pressure on a headwound, and [REDACTED] searched the suspect's lower extremities for any wounds in need of attention.

I began securing the scene. I used my cruiser to block the southeast entrance to the substation. I returned on foot to see if any assistance was needed in rendering aid to the suspect. I asked [REDACTED] if she wanted me to take over chest compressions. She declined. I asked [REDACTED] if he needed a tourniquet for any leg wounds; he did not. Other CPD officers arrived on scene and began assisting. Lt. Ingles then pulled myself and the other involved officers from the immediate scene.

I left the scene and was taken to the 4 precinct midwatch substation and then the CPD Training Academy. CPD Officer Jacob Velas acted as my officer support. This ended my involvement with the incident.

I fired six shots at the suspect. My shots were fired from a standing position. I used my sights when I fired. My shots were fired in a northwest direction. I believe I was approximately 15-25 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. There was approximately two to three seconds between my first and last shots. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop for my shot was the empty alleyway behind 248 E. 11th Street. I did not have any cover or concealment. I had light from the streetlights and the light on my weapon. I stopped firing because the suspect was on the ground and no longer presenting a threat.

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 that I believed the suspect was going to throw a meat cleaver style knife

to stab me and/or other officers, I did not believe it would be appropriate to counter their deadly force with a taser.

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

I have now had an opportunity to review video footage from this incident. After seeing the footage, I now recall asking [REDACTED] if the suspect had a knife as we exited our cruisers. After seeing the footage I now know the suspect said words to the effect of "I'm not dropping nothing" immediately prior to squaring his body to officers and advancing south, directly toward officers, with the knives in his hands.

This concludes my statement.

