

# Ohio Attorney General's Office **Bureau of Criminal Investigation**

Investigative Report

## Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2023-2232



To: Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor From: Kyle Douglass #126, Special Agent, Ohio BCI

Date: November 17, 2023

Involves: Blendon Township Police Officer Connor Grubb

**BCI Case Numbers:** 2023-2232 BCI Laboratory: 23-18282

#### **Investigative Request**

On August 24, 2023, BCI was notified by Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) of an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred in the Kroger parking lot located at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH. An unidentified female, who was later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young), was confronted by BTPD officers regarding an accusation of theft from Kroger. During the encounter, Young reportedly attempted to flee the scene and struck a BTPD officer with her vehicle, and a BTPD officer discharged their firearm in response. Young was transported to Mount Carmel St. Ann's medical center with alleged gunshot wounds, where she was later pronounced deceased.

#### Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the August 24, 2023 officer-involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.



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#### **Investigative Team**

Lead BCI Special Agent:

• SA Kyle Douglass

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA James Poole
- SA Andrew Russell
- SA Jonathan Scale
- SA Matthew Collins
- SA Ryan Scheiderer
- SA Chad Holcomb
- SA David Hornyak
- SA Perry Roeser
- SA Steven Seitzman
- SA Jennifer Comisford
- SA David Wieging
- SA Joseph Wilhelm
- SA Lauren Frazier
- SA Douglas Eveslage

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents/Evidence Technicians:

- SA Mathew Austin (lead)
- SA Cassie Tackett

**BCI Investigative Supervisors:** 

Acting Special Agent Supervisor James Mulford

**BCI Criminal Intelligence Analysts:** 

• Stephanie Littell (primary)

BCI Cyber Crimes Unit Personnel:

• Computer Forensic Specialist Jarrod Scott



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#### **Summary of Process**

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview of the officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  - Firearm identification testing of involved firearm and casings
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officers who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review



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#### **Incident Summary/Overview**

On August 24, 2023 at approximately 1823 hours, BTPD Officer Connor Grubb (Ofc. Grubb) was in the parking lot of Kroger, located at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH. Ofc. Grubb was assisting an individual who was locked out of their vehicle. BTPD Sergeant Erick Moynihan (Sgt. Moynihan) arrived on scene shortly after to check on Ofc. Grubb.

While assisting Ofc. Grubb with the vehicle lockout, a Kroger employee ran from the store to Sgt. Moynihan and advised him a female in a nearby vehicle had stolen items from the store. Sgt. Moynihan approached the vehicle, which was a black Lexus sedan. Sgt. Moynihan knocked on the driver window and advised the female driver to exit the vehicle. The female driver was later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young).

Sgt. Moynihan gave Young several commands to exit the vehicle, telling her, "Out of the car." Young asked why she was being instructed to exit the vehicle and Sgt. Moynihan responded, "They said you stole stuff, do not leave." Ofc. Grubb had observed the interaction between Sgt. Moynihan and Young, then moved past Sgt. Moynihan and positioned himself in front of Young's vehicle.

As Young does not comply with Sgt. Moynihan's commands to exit the vehicle, Ofc. Grubb also gave Young verbal commands and unholstered his duty weapon. Young denied stealing anything from Kroger and refused to exit the vehicle, stating, "No I'm not gonna do that." Young begins to turn her steering wheel and accelerated towards Ofc. Grubb at a rapid speed. Sgt. Moynihan grabbed the top of the driver window, which was partially open, and attempts to break the window. As Young's vehicle came into contact with Ofc. Grubb, he fired one shot at Young inside the vehicle with a one-handed righthand grip, and his left hand on the hood of Young's vehicle. Ofc. Grubb left his feet momentarily with his body on the hood of Young's vehicle before coming back to the ground and bumping into Sgt. Moynihan. Ofc. Grubb announced "shots fired" to radio dispatch.

Young's vehicle continued to roll towards the Kroger building, near the "Rx Walkup" window. Ofc. Grubb and Sgt. Moynihan pursued the vehicle on foot, and instructed Young to stop the vehicle. Young's vehicle came to a stop underneath an awning near a pillar attached to the Kroger building. Ofc. Grubb was able to break the driver window and opened the door to attempt to remove Young from the vehicle. Young's foot was still on the gas pedal, and her



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vehicle accelerated forward and struck an abutment of the building. As the vehicle came to a stop, Young fell out of the vehicle to the ground.

Ofc. Grubb and Sgt. Moynihan secured Young with handcuffs and then began rendering first aid. Ofc. Grubb requested emergency medical response via radio dispatch. Sgt. Moynihan instructed Ofc. Grubb to retrieve a chest seal, and Ofc. Grubb ran to his cruiser to get a medical kit. Sgt. Moynihan located a gunshot wound on Young's upper torso, and applied a chest seal which had been given to him by Ofc. Grubb. Sgt. Moynihan and Ofc. Grubb checked Young for additional wounds.

Sgt. Moynihan was approached by a male who identified himself as an emergency room physician. Sgt. Moynihan asked the male physician to check Young's pulse. After no pulse could be found, Sgt. Moynihan began administering CPR to Young. Law enforcement officers from other responding agencies arrived and took over first aid. Emergency medics arrived several minutes later to transport Young to the hospital, where she was later pronounced deceased.

### **Subsequent Investigation**

#### EMS Run Report

According to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) run report received from Westerville Division of Fire (Westerville FD), radio dispatch was notified of the OICI at 18:29:34 hours. EMS medics were dispatched at 18:30:36 hours and arrived on scene at 18:40:52 hours.

#### Coroner and Autopsy Reports

According to the coroner's report from the Franklin County Forensic Science Center, Young's time of death was pronounced at 1943 hours on August 24, 2023 by Dr. David Painter. The place of death was documented as Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, located at 500 South Cleveland Avenue in Westerville, OH.

On	August	25,	2023,	an	autopsy	exam	of	Young	was	conducted	by	the	Franklin	County
Coroner's Office, pathologist Dr. Kent Harshbarger (Dr. Harshbarger).														



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#### Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Laboratory Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officer's firearm, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene and vehicles. By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

One (1) fired jacketed bullet and one (1) lead fragment were collected from the autopsy of Young. A total of one (1) cartridge case, one (1) fired projectile and one (1) bullet fragment were submitted to the lab for analysis. BCI Forensic Scientist Andrew McClelland identified the 9mm Luger cartridge case (Item 1) and the fired jacketed bullet (Item 3) as being source identified to the Glock model 17 Gen4, 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, serial # assigned to Officer Grubb. The lead fragment was considered unsuitable for source identification.

#### **Investigative Interviews**

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsized below.



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#### BTPD Sergeant Erick Moynihan

Sgt. Moynihan provided a verbal statement to BCI regarding the incident. Sgt. Moynihan recalled he was in the parking lot near Kroger on South Sunbury Road where he had just finished taking a statement from a witness involved in a minor vehicle accident. Sgt. Moynihan stated Ofc. Grubb was in the Kroger parking lot assisting someone with a vehicle lockout. Sgt. Moynihan was assisting Ofc. Grubb with the vehicle lockout when a Kroger employee exited the store and advised him of a nearby female who had stolen items from the store. The female had entered a vehicle parked adjacent to where Ofc. Grubb was assisting with the vehicle lockout. Sgt. Moynihan confirmed the vehicle was a black Lexus sedan with no license plates.

Sgt. Moynihan confirmed giving Young numerous verbal commands to exit the vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan explained Young partially rolled down her window to speak to him, and asked why she was being detained. Sgt. Moynihan told Young she had been accused of stealing from the store by a Kroger employee. Sgt. Moynihan recalled Young denied stealing anything from Kroger and claimed the items were stolen by someone else. Sgt. Moynihan confirmed he told Young she was not free to leave.

Sgt. Moynihan explained Ofc. Grubb walked behind him to the front of the female's vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan said he was focused on the female and giving her several verbal commands to exit the vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan recalled the female started the vehicle and put the car into gear. In response, he made two attempts to break the vehicle window. The female driver "took off" with Sgt. Moynihan still holding onto the top of the window. Sgt. Moynihan said he was "pulled alongside the car for a moment" before bumping into Ofc. Grubb. Sgt. Moynihan heard a loud bang and realized Ofc. Grubb had fired a shot with his duty weapon. Sgt. Moynihan then drew his duty weapon as the vehicle continued moving. Sgt. Moynihan gave the female commands to stop the vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan realized the female was no longer in control of the vehicle, which strikes the front of the Kroger building. Sgt. Moynihan made several more attempts to break the vehicle's window. Ofc. Grubb was able to break the window and open the door. There was a pillar obstructing Sgt. Moynihan and Ofc. Grubb from being in a position to remove the female from the vehicle. Ofc. Grubb was attempting to remove the female from the vehicle when Sgt. Moynihan believed he commented that her foot was still on the gas pedal. The vehicle moved forward, scraping along the wall before striking an abutment and coming to a stop. Sgt. Moynihan observed the female fall out of the vehicle, nearly face down and onto the ground. Sgt. Moynihan handcuffed her and removed a satchel from her person. Sgt. Moynihan



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instructed Ofc. Grubb to get a chest seal, and Ofc. Grubb ran to his cruiser to get his medical kit. Sgt. Moynihan turned the vehicle off and put gloves on. When Ofc. Grubb returned, they tore the female's shirt open, found a wound and applied a chest seal. Sgt. Moynihan was approached by a male who identified himself as an emergency room physician. Sgt. Moynihan asked him to check the female for a pulse. When no pulse was found, Sgt. Moynihan began administering CPR to the female. Law enforcement responders from other agencies arrived and took over emergency first aid until EMS medics arrived. Sgt. Moynihan remained on scene until BTPD Chief John Belford arrived.

Sgt. Moynihan explained a vehicle could be used as a deadly weapon. Sgt. Moynihan recalled there were numerous people in the Kroger parking lot in the vicinity of the incident, whose safety could have been compromised by Young attempting to flee the scene.

Sgt. Moynihan did not immediately recognize the female driver, who was later identified as Ta'kiya Young. Sgt. Moynihan recalled taking several reports from Kroger of groups of three to four African-American females stealing bottles of alcohol from the liquor store and stealing diapers.

#### Jaylyn Young

Kroger employee Jaylyn Young (Jaylyn) provided a verbal statement to BCI regarding the incident. Jaylyn had also provided a written witness statement to a deputy from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). Jaylyn had been working near the Kroger front desk when three females triggered the theft sensor lights and sirens as they exited the store. Another employee notified Jaylyn the females had stolen alcohol from the liquor store inside Kroger.

Jaylyn exited the store to attempt to obtain a photo of license plates of the vehicles entered by the females. One of the females, later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young), entered a black sedan. Jaylyn observed two BTPD police officers assisting someone parked directly behind Young's vehicle. Jaylyn notified BTPD Sgt. Moynihan a theft from Kroger had just been committed by Young.

Jaylyn heard Sgt. Moynihan command Young to get out of the vehicle, which she refused to do. Jaylyn stated Sgt. Moynihan confronted Ta'kiya about the theft and ordered her to get out of the car. Jaylyn stated Ta'kiya still refused and began to start her vehicle. Jaylyn recalled a second BTPD officer had positioned himself in front of Young's vehicle on the driver side with



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his weapon out pointing downward. As Young started her vehicle, Jaylyn explained the second BTPD officer raised his weapon and pointed it at Young commanding her to stop and get out. Jaylyn stated the officer commanded Young to get out, "at least five different times."

Jaylyn stated she did not want to witness anything further and turned to leave. Jaylyn then saw the back of Young's vehicle move forward and heard the engine roar. Jaylyn then heard one gunshot, which caused her to run back into the Kroger. Jaylyn explained how she ran directly inside and did not look back. After a few minutes, Jaylyn stated she then looked out the front doors of Kroger to see what had happened and saw Young's vehicle crashed into the side of the Kroger building with officers conducting CPR on Young.

#### BTPD Officer Connor Grubb

In his official written statement given to BCI, Ofc. Grubb wrote, "Immediately before this incident, I was in the Kroger parking lot which is located in a shopping plaza at 5991 Sunbury Road. I was assisting a civilian who had locked her keys in her car. The locked car was parked right next to (east of) the handicapped space and was parked facing south. I had been attempting to get the car unlocked for probably 4-5 minutes when Sergeant Moynihan pulled up."

Ofc. Grubb continued, "I was in the process of inflating the air wedge to try and open the door when I saw Sergeant Moynihan walk south. A second or two later I heard Sergeant Moynihan say out of the car or get out of the car. I saw him standing at the driver's side of a black sedan that was backed into a handicapped parking spot that was south and west (diagonal) of the car I was attempting to unlock. He was hitting the driver's side window while telling the driver to get out of the car. I walked over to assist Sergeant Moynihan and I heard him tell the suspect that they said she stole something and to get out of the car. She was not complying. There was a car parked to the east of the black sedan. I walked between the cars and behind Sergeant Moynihan. Since he was already positioned on the driver's side, I took a position at the front of the stationary black sedan. On the west side of the black sedan there were several shopping carts and a white female was standing there. There was a black female in the driver's seat who Sergeant Moynihan was continuing to order out of the car but she was refusing. She was saying something to Sergeant Moynihan but I could not hear exactly what she was saying. However, based on her refusal to exit the vehicle and the infliction in her voice, I believed she was arguing with him."



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Ofc. Grubb continued, "After Sergeant Moynihan told her multiple times to get out of the car, I drew my weapon and ordered her to get out of the car. She did not and I again told her to get out of the car. Instead of complying, she accelerated the car towards me. I tried to move to my right (east) to avoid being struck but the front bumper of the car hit my legs/shins. When it hit me, I leaned forward and placed my left hand on the hood of the car to brace myself in an effort to not fall to the ground and be run over. Suddenly, my feet were completely off the ground and my waist was on the hood of the car and my body was being carried by the car as she continued accelerating. It was at that moment that I fired one round through the windshield. I immediately noticed the car was turning to the right (west) and seemed to slow down. I slid off the driver's side front comer of the car and got my feet back onto the ground. The car continued west towards the Kroger. It veered south, along the Kroger, and then up onto the sidewalk perimeter of the shopping plaza. The car was not moving very fast and I ran up to the driver's side, while airing shots fired. As soon as I reached the car, I tried to open the driver's side door but it was locked. The car kept moving until it hit the exterior brick wall of Kroger and stopped. Sergeant Moynihan attempted to break the driver's side window but was unsuccessful. I struck the window with the end of my flashlight and I unlocked the driver's side door. I opened the door and the suspect did not appear to be moving. I could not reach her because there was a pillar next to the opened door. I walked around the pillar and tried to get her out of the car. However, her foot was still on the gas pedal and as I attempted to get her out, the car started moving forward again and I fell to the ground. The car kept moving south and the suspect fell out of the car onto the sidewalk. Sergeant Moynihan and I secured the suspect and I aired to make sure medics were being dispatched. I saw the suspect was bleeding and I ran to my cruiser to retrieve my trauma bag. I placed a seal on the bullet entrance wound which was in her chest. Sergeant Moynihan and I rolled her over to check for an exit wound but could not find one. A male approached us and stated he was an ER doctor. We told him we were trying to get her stable and that we had placed a chest seal and Sergeant Moynihan held pressure on the wound. Additional officers arrived and began securing the scene."

Ofc. Grubb also wrote in his statement, "I initially drew my weapon to provide lethal cover as the suspect was not complying with Sgt. Moynihan's repeated orders and I did not know if she had access to any weapons in the vehicle. I fired one round at the suspect. I believe I was approximately 5-8 feet from the suspect at the time I fired my weapon. I fired from a position on the hood of the suspect's car, specifically with my waist and left hand on the hood of the suspect's car and my feet off the ground, while the vehicle was moving. I fired with a right



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strong-hand grip and I do not believe I used my sights. The direction of my shot was north at a slightly downward angle because I on the hood of the car. My backdrop was the interior of the suspect's car. My target was the suspect's center mass. I only fired one shot because I was no longer on the hood of the car."

Ofc. Grubb explained in his statement, "At the time I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life, as the suspect had just struck me with her vehicle-my feet were no longer on the ground and the top half of my body was on the hood of her car. Immediately before I fired, the suspect had ignored repeated commands to get out of the car and instead of complying, accelerated her vehicle directly at me and struck me. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life from the suspect's actions. Once I realized the car was accelerating, I tried to get out of the way but the suspect's vehicle struck my legs/shin and lifted my feet off the ground and the suspect was trying to flee with me being carried on the hood of her car. I did have a taser but a taser would not have been effective because it would not have penetrated the windshield. I fired my weapon because I believed that I was going to be seriously injured or killed by being thrown from the vehicle and/or run over."

Several follow-up questions were asked by BCI regarding Ofc. Grubb's involvement in this incident. As of 11/17/2023, answers to those questions have not been provided by Ofc. Grubb or his legal representation.

#### Tanyla Young

Tanyla Young (Tanyla), sister of Ta'kiya Young, was identified by the BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) as a potential witness to the OICI. On November 5, 2023, BCI Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) attempted to contact Attorney Frank Benson (Attorney Benson), who is representing Tanyla, to interview her as a potential witness to the OICI. On November 7th, 2023, Attorney Benson advised SA Poole he had not made contact yet with his client Tanyla regarding the incident.

On November 8th, 2023, SA Poole and SA Scheiderer attempted to locate Tanyla at her residence of 2627 Divot Pl., Columbus, Ohio. Agents were greeted with a young teenage male named Tim who stated Tanyla lived there, but was at work. When asked where she worked, Tim did not know where Tanyla worked and stated, "Somewhere on the eastside." When asked if agents could have her phone number to call her, Tim gave a wrong number. Agents called the



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number Tim gave and a female answered who identified as Mercedes Lyson. Agents tried calling two other numbers they had on file for Tanyla, but found they were disconnected.

### **Summary**

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this Officer-Involved Critical Incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement which might be deemed to be necessary to the investigation.

#### **Contact Information**

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Kyle Douglass. SA Douglass can be reached via email at Kyle.Douglass@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-949-6278.