



**Ohio Attorney General's Office**  
**Bureau of Criminal Investigation**  
 Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 1783 Penfield Rd, Columbus OH (2022-0407)

To: Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor  
 From: James Poole, Special Agent, Ohio BCI  
 Date: May 23, 2022  
 Involves: Officer [REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED]-[REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]  
 BCI Case Number: 2021-0407

**Investigative Request**

On Thursday, February 24, 2022, Sgt. Terry McConnell of the Columbus Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident. The incident reportedly occurred on February 24, 2022, in the area of 1783 Penfield Rd., Columbus OH, and resulted in the death of Jajuan Ball.

*Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the February 23, 2022, Officer-Involved Critical Incident 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 is 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 James Poole

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Jim Mulford
- SA Shane Hanshaw
- SA Jonathan Scale

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Chad Holcomb
- SA Shawn Rowley

BCI Cyber Crime Personnel:

- Ryan Pacala

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau

### **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(s) of the four (4) officers who were involved
- Recorded interviews of two (2) 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
- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available dash cameras 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
- Review of Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) data for all equipped police vehicles



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- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence
- 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
- Obtained consent to analyze electronic evidence, to include:
  1. Neighbor's camera system
  2. Subject's vehicle
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence, to include:
  1. Subject's vehicle data modular system
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the critical incident, 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 officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Obtained subpoenas for Grant medical records
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through a subpoena
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered
- Performed records checks, including LEADS and NCIC off-line search, for the vehicle(s) involved in the incident.
- Review of Autopsy/ Post-mortem examination

**Incident Summary/Overview**

On Thursday, February 24, 2022, at approximately 0154 hours Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer Christopher Choy (Officer Choy) was dispatched to a woman in distress on the side of the road at Scottwood Road and Barnett Road. When Officer Choy arrived, he aird that a silver Ford Taurus had just left the scene in which the suspect driving assaulted the female, stole her vehicle, and has a weapon. Within minutes Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]), driving CPD Cruiser [REDACTED],



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spotted the vehicle just down the street at Courtright Road and Roswell. Officer [REDACTED] requested another cruiser in order to make a traffic stop due to the nature of the call. Officer [REDACTED]-[REDACTED], driving CPD cruiser [REDACTED], arrived behind Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] attempted a swoop maneuver (i.e., a maneuver where one cruiser pulls directly in front of the suspect and a second cruiser pulls immediately behind the suspect, boxing in the vehicle). The suspect vehicle did not stop but accelerated in speed causing the maneuver to be unsuccessful. Both Officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] initiated their lights and sirens to attempt to pull over the suspect vehicle. The vehicle continued to accelerate trying to avoid the officers by making several turns. The suspect vehicle then, at a high rate of speed, ran a stop sign at Penfield Road and Zettler Road causing the vehicle to elevate off the ground. The suspect vehicle then navigated a wide bend in the road at a high rate of speed where officers lost sight of the vehicle. When Officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] navigated the bend in the road, they both could not find the suspect vehicle. Officer Choy then aired over the radio that the victim was not cooperating and was not willing to press charges. Sgt. Franklin Lucci (Sgt. Lucci) aired over the radio that the pursuit was no longer authorized and to terminate the pursuit. Officer [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] then turned off their lights and sirens. While continuing to circulate the neighborhood for the suspect vehicle, Officers [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]) spotted an auto crash involving a house which was on fire at 1783 Penfield Rd. When Officers arrived, they looked in the vehicle and could not find the driver. While looking for the driver and evacuating residents in the house, Officers found an individual under the house rubble, later identified as Jajuan Ball (Ball) the driver of the suspect vehicle. Columbus Fire Department (CFD) Medics treated Ball, who had a pulse, and transported him to Grant Medical facility where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

**Subsequent Investigation**

Medical report

The medical report for the decedent (Jajuan Ball) was obtained from Grant Medical Examiner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:





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Autopsy

Pathologist M.D. Robert Shott performed the post-mortem examination/autopsy. [REDACTED]

Background Report

After a background check of Jajuan Ball, SA Poole, with the help of Analyst Jennifer Lester, found he had an active warrant out of Franklin County, Ohio for Larceny and an active warrant from Whitehall, Ohio for theft.

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.

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.

Officer [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "I turned east onto Roswell Drive and saw a vehicle's taillights in the distance. I believed that could be the suspect since the vehicle was traveling the same direction and on the same street as reported by dispatch, so I accelerated toward the vehicle. I closed the gap seconds later, near the Roswell Drive and Courtright Drive intersection. The vehicle was a silver Ford car, matching the stolen vehicle's description. This confirmed my belief that the suspect was very likely driving the car. The suspect turned south onto Courtright Drive, and I continued following. I aired my location, as well as the suspect-vehicle's description and tag information. The suspect drove a short distance then turned west onto East Deshler Avenue. I continued following and aired that I was going to initiate a traffic stop once a second cruiser arrived. Moments later, Officer [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] approached from behind just as I neared the E. Deshler Avenue and Barnett Road intersection. The suspect stopped at that intersection, then turned south onto Barnett Road. I aired that I would attempt a swoop maneuver at the next stop sign. (A swoop is a trained technique where a lead cruiser pulls in front of the suspect vehicle



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and a second cruiser pulls behind the suspect vehicle, effectively trapping the car). The suspect continued south on Barnett Road, and as we neared the Bexvie Avenue intersection, I accelerated next to the suspect's vehicle. Instead of stopping at that intersection's stop sign, however, the suspect rapidly accelerated before I could pull my cruiser in front of his vehicle. I immediately aborted the attempted swoop. And given my belief the suspect had committed at least one violent felony crime, I activated my cruiser's lights and sirens and initiated a pursuit. I also aired that the suspect was fleeing. I believe Officer [REDACTED]-[REDACTED], who was still travelling behind me, activated his lights and sirens at that time as well. I do not recall seeing any other vehicles driving on the streets at that time. The suspect accelerated down Barnett Road then cut west onto Penfield Road. He continued fleeing down that street and blew through the Zettler Road intersection. The suspect's speed and the slight elevation at that intersection caused his car to briefly become airborne. His car abruptly landed an instant later, causing sparks to fly from under the vehicle. I continued through that intersection, but I lost sight of the suspect a moment later. I drove about 100 yards west along Penfield Road then, believing the suspect may have cut up a side street, I turned north onto Niagara Road. I travelled up that road, but I did not see the suspect's vehicle. About that time, dispatch aired that the victim was not going to press charges against the suspect. Seconds later, I turned off my lights and sirens, moments before Sgt. Lucci aired that a pursuit was not authorized. I did a U-turn at the Langfield Drive and James Road intersection and drove east on Langfield Drive. I split up from Officer [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] and canvassed the area for signs of the suspect."

Officer [REDACTED]-[REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "Officer [REDACTED] pursued the suspect down Barnett Road, and I followed immediately behind. I would estimate the suspect was driving at least 40-45 miles per hour through the residential streets (which had a 25-mph speed limit). The suspect quickly turned west on Penfield Road, and we continued pursuing. The suspect accelerated through the stop sign at the Penfield Road and Zettler Road intersection, and his vehicle appeared to lift off the ground due to his speed and elevation in the road. I lost sight of the suspect a moment later. I was not sure whether he turned off his car's lights, but in any case, I did not see him. I continued following Officer [REDACTED] west on Penfield Road. At that time, I did not know whether Officer [REDACTED] had sights on the suspect vehicle. Officer [REDACTED] turned north onto Niagara Road a short distance later, and I continued following. It was about that time Officer [REDACTED] aired that he lost sight of the suspect. Moments later, Officer Choy aired that the run was out of a domestic violence incident and that the victim did not want to press charges against the suspect. In response, a sergeant, who I believed was Sgt. Lucci, aired that a pursuit was no longer authorized. I immediately obeyed that directive and deactivated my lights and sirens."



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Officer [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "At the time of this incident, I did not see the suspect's car collide into either house on Penfield Road. I was too far back and behind two other cruisers."

Officer [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "At the time of this incident, I did not see the suspect's car collide into either house on Penfield Road. I was too far back and behind two other cruisers."

**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 you might deem to be necessary.

**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 James Poole. SA Poole can be reached via email at james.poole@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-370-4820.