



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



2023-1792
Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-70 at Mound Street,
Columbus, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Subject
Involves: Officer [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 08/03/2023
Activity Location: Lipperman, Lathan – Business – 4683 Winterset Dr, Columbus, OH
43220, Franklin County
Author: SA James A. Mulford, #39

Narrative:

On August 03, 2023 at approximately 1131 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Mulford (SA Mulford) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] in response to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred between Abdisamad Mohamed Ismail (Ismail) and CPD officers that occurred on I-70 at the Mound Street exit, Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). Ismail was fatally shot as a result of the incident. CPD Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] was also shot and transported to the hospital where he is recovering from his injuries. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual. Also present for the interview was Officer [REDACTED]'s union attorney, Lathan Lipperman.

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 Mulford provided Officer [REDACTED] with a BCI "Criminal Investigation Notification" form. SA Mulford advised BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation that CPD may be conducting. Officer [REDACTED] was told his interview was voluntary and that he could stop answering questions at any time. Officer [REDACTED] verbally confirmed he understood the contents of the form and signed the document further acknowledging his understanding. A copy of the signed Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) is attached to this report.

Attorney Lathan Lipperman provided SA Mulford with a written statement from Officer [REDACTED] regarding the OICI. Agent Mulford reviewed the statement upon receipt. Furthermore, SA Mulford provided a printed scene sketch of the OICI scene to reference throughout the

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interview. Officer [REDACTED] signed his statement provided to BCI, and he verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of the OICI incident. Please refer to Officer [REDACTED]'s statement for further details. A copy of the signed written statement and the sketch was saved within the case file and is attached to this report.

SA Mulford asked Officer [REDACTED] a few follow up questions and had him confirm where he fired his weapon based on the printed scene sketch. Officer [REDACTED]'s answers appeared to be consistent with his written statement.

Officer [REDACTED] wrote in his statement, "A second or two later, an officer aired "10-3," which is our code for officer in trouble. I was scanning the area as I continued driving on 70E when I saw a CPD officer down in the roadway to my east. I believe I yelled "He's shot!" and I believe I aired that an officer had been shot/hit (at the time I did not know it was Officer [REDACTED]. I did not see the suspect but I heard rounds being fired. I quickly drove around several stopped civilian vehicles and pulled up behind another CPD cruiser. I exited my cruiser and immediately unholstered my weapon. There were still rounds being fired as I advanced east on 1-70. As I ran east between several vehicles on 1-70, I saw officers to my left (north) and some to my northeast. I heard multiple rounds being fired and I saw the suspect approximately 30-35 feet in front (east) of me. Due to my position and multiple vehicles in between the suspect and me, I was not able to see the suspect's hands. However, I could clearly see that he was walking (west) towards Officer [REDACTED] who was still on the right (south) side of the roadway, as he was unable to move due to his injuries. I took a position behind a back passenger side corner of a black SUV. The suspect continued advancing towards Officer [REDACTED] so I began firing my weapon at the suspect. However, the suspect was undeterred and continued coming toward Officer [REDACTED]. I stopped firing when the suspect went to the ground. I moved forward while several officers rendered aid to Officer [REDACTED] who appeared to be bleeding heavily."

Officer [REDACTED] continued in his statement, "At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for the life of Officer [REDACTED] as well as the other officers and civilians in the area and myself. Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had committed an armed robbery of a car dealership, robbed a bank and shot Officer [REDACTED]. Despite multiple rounds being fired, the suspect continued to advance toward Officer [REDACTED] while he was laying with severe injuries and bleeding in the roadway. I truly believed he was coming back to try and execute Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect never put his hands up or gave any indication of surrendering."

Officer [REDACTED] had no further information. The interview concluded.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: 8-3-2023 Officer [REDACTED] Interview
- Attachment # 02: CIN-Officer [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 03: Signed Statement-Officer [REDACTED]
- Attachment # 04: Interview Sketch- Officer [REDACTED]



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



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

8/3/23 11:31AM
Date / Time



Jim Mulford #39
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, July 6, 2023, from approximately 4:00 p.m. until 4:20 p.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police (“CPD” or the “Division”) is December 27, 2021. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I received my OPOTA certification upon my graduation from the police academy in 2022. I have never had a use of force that was determined to be outside of policy. I have 6 years military experience in the National Guard and received an honorable discharge. I have a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Intelligence Analysis from the University of Akron.

My regular assignment is GR8B. My duty hours are from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., with Tuesday and Wednesday off. I worked an overtime assignment on July 5, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on 8B. I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my uncorrected vision is good. I do not wear a hearing aid and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I had not consumed alcohol in the 24-hour period prior to this incident. I did not consume any prescription or over-the-counter medication in the 24-hour period prior to this incident.

I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants, an internal vest, a navy short-sleeved shirt which displayed my badge on the front and stated “COLUMBUS POLICE” on the back. I was also equipped with a body worn camera (BWC) which was activated during the entirety of this incident and was mounted to my chest. I was also wearing a blue CPD

baseball hat. I was working with a partner: CPD Officer [REDACTED] We were in Cruiser [REDACTED] and I was driving.

I was equipped with my Division-issued Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm handgun, which was loaded with Division-issued ammunition. I was current in my range qualifications with that weapon. I was not carrying any backup firearm.

Immediately before this incident, Officer [REDACTED] and I had just dropped off a juvenile at Nationwide Children's Hospital on the east side of downtown Columbus, when we heard over the radio that there had been an armed robbery of a car dealership and the suspect in that just committed a bank robbery on Hilliard Rome. Whitehall Police were pursuing the suspect in a stolen vehicle eastbound on Roberts Road. We were probably 10 or so miles away from the pursuit, but I knew that Roberts Road leads to 270 and thought the suspects might go that way in an effort to escape. A minute or so later, an officer aired the suspect was on 270S and it was a black Porsche. 270S leads to I-70 and we thought the suspect may get onto I-70.

I activated my lights and sirens and drove from East Fulton and South 3rd Avenue and got onto 70W towards the East Broad Street exit, in case the suspect came this way. Around this time, another officer aired that he was waiting at the 70E onramp from Wilson Road. A brief time later an officer reported the Porsche drove past him on 70E traveling towards the 70/670 split and I believe they were airing the mile markers. I exited 70W at the South Central Avenue and drove south, turned east onto Mound Street, then drove onto the 70E onramp.

Moments after we got onto 70E, I saw multiple CPD cruisers coming up behind/next to us. Officer [REDACTED] told me to let those cruisers pass us and fall in behind them in the pursuit. Just as those cruisers passed us, the traffic in front of us slowed down and I believe an officer aired that he was stopped behind a white box truck. I could not see the Porsche at that time, but I

believed it was stopping. A second or two later, an officer aired "10-3," which is our code for officer in trouble. I was scanning the area as I continued driving on 70E when I saw a CPD officer down in the roadway to my east. I believe I yelled "He's shot!" and I believe I aired that an officer had been shot/hit (at the time I did not know it was Officer [REDACTED]). I did not see the suspect but I heard rounds being fired.

I quickly drove around several stopped civilian vehicles and pulled up behind another CPD cruiser. I exited my cruiser and immediately unholstered my weapon. There were still rounds being fired as I advanced east on I-70. As I ran east between several vehicles on I-70, I saw officers to my left (north) and some to my northeast. I heard multiple rounds being fired and I saw the suspect approximately 30-35 feet in front (east) of me. Due to my position and multiple vehicles in between the suspect and me, I was not able to see the suspect's hands. However, I could clearly see that he was walking (west) towards Officer [REDACTED] who was still on the right (south) side of the roadway, as he was unable to move due to his injuries. I took a position behind a back passenger side corner of a black SUV. The suspect continued advancing towards Officer [REDACTED] so I began firing my weapon at the suspect. However, the suspect was undeterred and continued coming toward Officer [REDACTED].

I stopped firing when the suspect went to the ground. I moved forward while several officers rendered aid to Officer [REDACTED] who appeared to be bleeding heavily. The suspect was on the ground on his back and he did not appear to be moving. I approached the suspect with Officer [REDACTED] who secured the suspect with the help of another officer while I provided cover. After he was cuffed, I quickly returned to Officer [REDACTED] as Officer [REDACTED] and another officer were rendering aid to the suspect. I then heard that there was another suspect who had fled south on foot. I jumped the concrete barrier on the south side of the road to join the search for the

other suspect. There were numerous other officers searching for the other suspect so I returned to the suspect and took over performing chest compressions from Sergeant Redding. Sergeant Redding, Sergeant [REDACTED] and I rotated chest compressions on the suspect. Medics arrived on scene and took over rendering aid from the officers. Officer Support arrived and I returned to the 8/16 substation. I waited at the substation until BCI Agents arrived to photograph me and take my weapon. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I now know I fired 7 shots during this incident. I fired in rapid succession and I would estimate that I fired all of my rounds in 2-3 seconds. I fired using a two-handed grip and I believe I utilized my sights. I fired from a standing position at the rear passenger side of a black civilian SUV. I stepped slightly to the right (south) of the vehicle when I fired, while trying to utilize the vehicle for some concealment/cover. My target was the suspect's center mass. The direction of my shots was east. My backdrop was an empty highway, I did not see any civilians, vehicles or buildings in my backdrop. I knew there were several officers in the area, but no officers were in my backdrop. I would estimate that I was approximately 30-35 from the suspect when I fired. The suspect was advancing west, towards Officer [REDACTED] who was in front of me (east) when I fired at him. The suspect continued to advance towards Officer [REDACTED] despite multiple rounds being fired at him. The bullets did not seem to have any impact on the suspect.

At the time I fired my weapon at the suspect, I was in fear for the life of Officer [REDACTED] as well as the other officers and civilians in the area and myself. Prior to me firing my weapon, the suspect had committed an armed robbery of a car dealership, robbed a bank and shot Officer [REDACTED]. Despite multiple rounds being fired, the suspect continued to advance toward Officer [REDACTED] while he was laying with severe injuries and bleeding in the roadway. I truly

believed he was coming back to try and execute Officer [REDACTED]. The suspect never put his hands up or gave any indication of surrendering.

I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, Officer [REDACTED]'s life, and the lives of the other officers and civilians in the area at the time I fired my weapon.

I now know that the suspect is Abdisamad Ismail. I do not recognize this person as anyone I have ever had any prior encounters with, neither professionally nor personally. I also subsequently learned that there were two suspects who escaped, Aden Jama and Faisal Darod, I do not recognize those two individuals as anyone who I have previously encountered, neither professionally nor personally.

I had the opportunity to review the footage of this incident after this event. After doing so, it appears that suspect ambushed Officer [REDACTED] and after shooting him in the leg, walked up to him and fired several more rounds at point blank range at Officer [REDACTED]. After attempting to kill Officer [REDACTED] it appears the suspect threw his gun onto the road; but I did not know this. Although I did not see the suspect with a weapon, I truly believed the suspect had a weapon when I fired at him due to the fact that I knew he had already shot Officer [REDACTED] and despite multiple officers firing at him, he continued advancing towards Officer [REDACTED] who was severely wounded on the road.

This concludes my statement and I will now answer any follow-up questions you may have at this time.

[REDACTED]

Mile 98.8

I-70 Eastbound

Porsche (dealer plate)



Chevy Malibu (HDG6364)



Body of Ismail



CPD Cruiser



Porta Kleen

2023-1792

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

July 6, 2023

Crime Scene Technician Amy Gill

Interstate 70 near Mound Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

- Firearms/Magazines
- Blazer cartridge casings
- Sport cartridge casings
- Projectiles

Not to Scale

