



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 1039 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, at 197 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, Nicole Wannemacher.

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 her statement was voluntary and that she could stop answering questions at any time. [REDACTED] verbally confirmed she understood the contents of the form and signed the document, acknowledging her understanding of the nature of the interview. A copy of the signed (CIN) is attached to this report.

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FOP legal counsel Nicole Wannemacher provided SA Douglass with a written statement from [REDACTED] regarding her 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 her written statement, and then signed her statement provided to BCI, and verified the statement was a true and accurate depiction of her recollection 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 her statement, *"Immediately before this incident, I was in the area of Grant Avenue and 5th Avenue when I heard officers had an individual inside a residence who was refusing to come out. Then I heard an officer air that a suspect was running and had a 33 (gun). I looked at the information on the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system and it appeared that there was a roommate dispute and that a former roommate had broken into his prior apartment and that he was known to carry a gun. From the CAD information, it appeared officers had responded and the suspect had fled. I aired for dispatch to add me to that run, as I was roughly 5 minutes away. I began driving to 1517 Worthington Street. I activated my lights and sirens as I drove to the location. As I was driving to the location, I heard officers airing various locations as they were trying to locate the suspect. I went to the intersection of 8th Avenue and Hunter Avenue. I saw [REDACTED] in cruiser [REDACTED]. I pulled up next to him and he told me to be careful because the suspect was around there somewhere and was lying in wait. I confirmed the suspect's description with him, which was a tall mall black and I believe I had also heard over the radio that he had a black bookbag."*

[REDACTED] explained her arrival on scene and continued, *"As I was running down an alley (I am not exactly sure where I was), I heard shots fired. I did not know who fired or if the suspect had fired at officers. I came up behind [REDACTED] and asked if the suspect was down. Officer Trionfante, [REDACTED], and other officers (including OSU officers) were in the area. No one had a visual on the suspect. We all started going in between houses, into parking lots and alleys looking for the suspect. Dispatch aired that a neighbor called and stated there was a male with a gun running towards King Avenue. We all moved in that direction and continued to look for the suspect. I was searching around the area when [REDACTED] stated there was an open door at the house. Which I now know was located at 197 W. 8th Avenue. I yelled we had a 7A (our code for an open door/window). This was a large house, possibly having multi-unit, as it had several entrances/exits. [REDACTED] approached the door and relayed that it looked forced. I approached the door and saw the broken door lock on the floor. I looked into the house and it appeared to be vacant, as there was not any furniture. [REDACTED] was yelling "Columbus Police" into the residence. We decided to enter and look for the suspect.*

[REDACTED] discussed the search of the residence and the shooting incident, *"[REDACTED] went to the right to begin clearing the house. Officer Trionfante went with him. I went to the left with [REDACTED]. I had my firearm in the "high-ready" as I was clearing the house. I cleared the back room that was a laundry room and an empty bedroom. I came out of the bedroom and announced it was clear to [REDACTED]. I went to clear the other bedroom directly next to the room I had just cleared. The door to that room was only open about an inch or so. I opened the door-I do not recall if I pushed the door open with my hand or foot. Suddenly, I saw the suspect with a gun pointed at me as I simultaneously heard rounds being fired. I immediately fired my weapon while retreating into the room I had just cleared. I yelled*

*"he's in there!" A second or two later, I heard gunfire and I believed the suspect was firing at the other officers. I came back around the doorway (the doorways to the two bedrooms are right next to each other) and pushed the door open and again fired at the suspect. The door to the bedroom the suspect was in closed and I retreated into the already cleared bedroom. [REDACTED] kicked the door open but I do not believe he saw the suspect as there were no additional rounds fired. He yelled for me to come out and I came out of the bedroom. Officer Trionfante told me to go outside and check myself to make sure I had not been struck by the suspect's gunfire. I walked outside the house and checked to make sure I was not struck. I also did a tactical re-load, as I was not sure exactly how many rounds I had fired."*

[REDACTED] wrote in her statement regarding her decision to fire her weapon, *"I believe I fired ten rounds at the suspect. This is based off of the round count, as I had 8 rounds remaining. I know that I fired two sets of shots at the suspect, I believe they were separated by 3-4 seconds. I believe I was approximately 10-15 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. I initially fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip, I believe I may have dropped to my knee as I was firing the first time due to other officers firing behind me. I do not believe I used my sights. I did not have any cover or concealment when I first fired at the suspect. For my second set of shots, I was trying to use the doorway and door as some concealment. My backdrop was the wall of the room which was also an exterior wall of the residence and the exterior of the house was brick. My target was center mass. I stopped firing the first time because I moved out of his line of fire, into the other bedroom and could no longer see the suspect. I stopped firing the second time because the door to the bedroom he was in closed. When I initially exchanged gunfire with the suspect, I thought OSU [REDACTED] was to my right but I was not sure exactly where the other officers in the house were but I knew none of them were in my backdrop. During the second set of shots, I heard [REDACTED] to my right but did not have a visual on him. However, I knew no officers had entered the bedroom the suspect was in because the room I was in had a doorway right next to that bedroom. Prior to my encounter with the suspect, he had fled from officers and refused multiple commands. He broke into a vacant residence and hid from us, despite multiple announcements being made. Instead of coming out and making himself known, he hid until I pushed open the door to the room he was in and he immediately tried to shoot me. At the times I fired my weapon, I was in immediate fear for my life as the suspect had just fired his weapon at me. I do not know how many rounds the suspect fired at me. I believed the suspect was going to seriously injure or kill me. The second time I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect was again shooting at me and other officers. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, as well as the lives of the other officers in the residence at the time I fired my weapon. I believe my actions were consistent with my training as a police officer."*

BCI agents asked [REDACTED] several follow-up questions and had her explain where and when she fired her weapon based on a scene sketch of the interior structure where the shooting incident occurred.

[REDACTED] confirmed hearing gunshots before she arrived at 197 West 8th Avenue, where she and other police officers eventually located Miller. [REDACTED] recalled she opened the bedroom door and saw Miller standing directly facing her with a gun in his hand and pointed at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] confirmed Miller fired his gun at her first, and [REDACTED] returned fire. [REDACTED] was unsure exactly how many rounds Miller fired at her,

but stated Miller fired multiple shots at her. [REDACTED] explained she retreated into the bedroom adjacent to where Miller was located. [REDACTED] recalled seeing Miller again through the crack of the bedroom door, which was continually swinging shut when she tried to open it. [REDACTED] confirmed Miller fired at her again, and [REDACTED] returned fire a second time.

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

Interview concluded at approximately 1058 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

Attachment # 05: Scene Diagram – 197 W 8th Ave



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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

9/10/24 10:41 AM  
Date / Time

[Redacted]

Kyle Douglass  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)

Nick Vannuoli

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

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Sunday, August 11, 2024, between approximately 8:05 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. in Columbus, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) into this matter.

My date of hire with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD or the Division) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] My regular assignment is [REDACTED] My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] My regular days off are [REDACTED] I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I do not have any military experience. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Binghamton University. I do not currently have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy.

I was wearing the CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants and short sleeved shirt that displayed my badge and has CPD patches on both shoulders. I was also wearing an external ballistic vest. I had my body worn camera (BWC) mounted on the outside of my vest and it was activated during this incident. I was carrying my division-issued Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm service weapon which was loaded with division-issued ammunition. I am current in my range qualifications with this weapon. I was not working with a partner. I was marked in as cruiser [REDACTED] However, I was physically driving a relief cruiser.

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my uncorrected vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I was not taking any medication, prescription or over the counter, which could affect the performance of my duties. I was not under the influence of any alcohol. I did not work any overtime or special duty in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to my shift and I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

Immediately before this incident, I was in the area of Grant Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue when I heard officers had an individual inside a residence who was refusing to come out. Then I heard an officer air that a suspect was running and had a 33 (gun). I looked at the information on the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system and it appeared that there was a roommate dispute and that a former roommate had broken into his prior apartment and that he was known to carry a gun. From the CAD information, it appeared officers had responded and the suspect had fled. I aired for dispatch to add me to that run, as I was roughly 5 minutes away. I began driving to 1517 Worthington Street. I activated my lights and sirens as I drove to the location.

As I was driving to the location, I heard officers airing various locations as they were trying to locate the suspect. I went to the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hunter Avenue. I saw [REDACTED] in cruiser [REDACTED] pulled up next to him and he told me to be careful because the suspect was around there somewhere and was lying in wait. I confirmed the suspect's description with him, which was a tall mall black and I believe I had also heard over the radio that he had a black bookbag.

I parked my cruiser near that intersection. I got out and started walking north through the houses on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Due to the nature of the run (that the suspect was armed with a gun), I unholstered my weapon and had it in a "low-ready" position. I walked through various yards and parking lots looking for the suspect. I saw [REDACTED] and began walking in the same direction as him, kind of paralleling him. I knew there were other officers in the area also searching for the suspect. I heard them yelling. I ran in the direction of the yelling. I did not see the suspect and I kept searching the area. A few minutes later I again heard yelling and ran in that direction. As I was running down an alley (I am not exactly sure where I was), I heard shots fired. I did not know who fired or if the suspect had fired at officers. I came up behind [REDACTED]

██████ and asked if the suspect was down. Officer Trionfante, ██████ and other officers (including OSU officers) were in the area. No one had a visual on the suspect. We all started going in between houses, into parking lots and alleys looking for the suspect. Dispatch aired that a neighbor called and stated there was a male with a gun running towards King Avenue. We all moved in that direction and continued to look for the suspect.

I was searching around the area when ██████ stated there was an open door at the house. Which I now know was located at 197 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. I yelled we had a 7A (our code for an open door/window). This was a large house, possibly having multi-unit, as it had several entrances/exits. ██████ approached the door and relayed that it looked forced. I approached the door and saw the broken door lock on the floor. I looked into the house and it appeared to be vacant, as there was not any furniture. ██████ was yelling "Columbus Police" into the residence. We decided to enter and look for the suspect.

██████ went to the right to begin clearing the house. Officer Trionfante went with him. I went to the left with OSU ██████. I had my firearm in the "high-ready" as I was clearing the house. I cleared the back room that was a laundry room and an empty bedroom. I came out of the bedroom and announced it was clear to ██████. I went to clear the other bedroom directly next to the room I had just cleared. The door to that room was only open about an inch or so. I opened the door—I do not recall if I pushed the door open with my hand or foot.

Suddenly, I saw the suspect with a gun pointed at me as I simultaneously heard rounds being fired. I immediately fired my weapon while retreating into the room I had just cleared. I yelled "he's in there!" A second or two later, I heard gunfire and I believed the suspect was firing at the other officers. I came back around the doorway (the doorways to the two bedrooms



are right next to each other) and pushed the door open and again fired at the suspect. The door to the bedroom the suspect was in closed and I retreated into the already cleared bedroom.

██████████ kicked the door open but I do not believe he saw the suspect as there were no additional rounds fired. He yelled for me to come out and I came out of the bedroom. Officer Trionfante told me to go outside and check myself to make sure I had not been struck by the suspect's gunfire. I walked outside the house and checked to make sure I was not struck. I also did a tactical re-load, as I was not sure exactly how many rounds I had fired.

I went back into the house. ██████████ asked if there was a way for the suspect to get into the bedroom that I had been in from the one he was in, I stated I did not think so. Then Officer Trionfante yelled at us to get out of the house (it was due to the suspect firing another round but I did not hear it at the time). We all retreated out of the house and set up a perimeter and called for SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics). Once there were sufficient officers on scene, I left the scene and returned to the 4-precinct substation. I waited there for BCI Agents to arrive. There they photographed me and collected my weapon. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I believe I fired ten rounds at the suspect. This is based off of the round count, as I had 8 rounds remaining. I know that I fired two sets of shots at the suspect, I believe they were separated by 3-4 seconds. I believe I was approximately 10-15 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. I initially fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip, I believe I may have dropped to my knee as I was firing the first time due to other officers firing behind me. I do not believe I used my sights. I did not have any cover or concealment when I first fired at the suspect. For my second set of shots, I was trying to use the doorway and door as some concealment. My backdrop was the wall of the room which was also an exterior wall of the

residence and the exterior of the house was brick. My target was center mass. I stopped firing the first time because I moved out of his line of fire, into the other bedroom and could no longer see the suspect. I stopped firing the second time because the door to the bedroom he was in closed.

When I initially exchanged gunfire with the suspect, I thought OSU [REDACTED] was to my right but I was not sure exactly where the other officers in the house were but I knew none of them were in my backdrop. During the second set of shots, I heard [REDACTED] to my right but did not have a visual on him. However, I knew no officers had entered the bedroom the suspect was in because the room I was in had a doorway right next to that bedroom.

Prior to my encounter with the suspect, he had fled from officers and refused multiple commands. He broke into a vacant residence and hid from us, despite multiple announcements being made. Instead of coming out and making himself known, he hid until I pushed open the door to the room he was in and he immediately tried to shoot me. At the times I fired my weapon, I was in immediate fear for my life as the suspect had just fired his weapon at me. I do not know how many rounds the suspect fired at me. I believed the suspect was going to seriously injure or kill me. The second time I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect was again shooting at me and other officers. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, as well as the lives of the other officers in the residence at the time I fired my weapon. I believe my actions were consistent with my training as a police officer.

I did have a taser on me at the time of this incident. However, the use of a taser requires time, distance, barrier, lethal force back up and reasonableness. It would not have been reasonable to utilize a taser when the suspect was armed with a firearm. In addition, as soon as I pushed open the door, the suspect immediately fired at me. Therefore, there was no time to

utilize a taser or any other less lethal force. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative besides countering the suspect's use of deadly force with deadly force.

I have now had an opportunity to review the body worn camera and cruiser camera footage of this incident. After reviewing it, I realized that there was an additional round fired (it appears by the suspect) approximately a minute after we exchanged fire with the suspect. I do not recall hearing this during the incident.

I now know that the name of the suspect is Asante Omar Miller. However, I did not recognize him and do not believe I have ever had any prior encounters, personal or professional, with him.

This concludes my statement, and I will now answer any additional questions you may have at this time.







