

Investigative Report

2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44301



Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Officer (S)

Activity Date: 7/6/2022

Activity Location: Law Offices of Malarcik, Pierce, Munyer, & Will –

121 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308

Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On July 6, 2022, at 1347 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA)
Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran (Moran) interviewed Akron Police
Department (APD) Officer , who was accompanied by his attorney,
Noah Munyer (Munyer), from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law
offices of Malarcik, Pierce, Munyer, & Will. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President
Clay Cozart was also present during the interview. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Officer read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name:	Rank: Officer (Ofc.)
Badge Number:	Cruiser/Vehicle Number:
Radio Call Sign: Car	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Tersigni
Radio Channel Utilized: Normal channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Ford Explorer, APD markings	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Officer — driver and Officer — front seat passenger
Assignment: Patrol – District 2 (North Hill area of Akron)	Normal Shift: 1900-0330 hours
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized

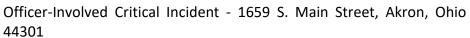
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Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: 1900-0330 hours	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Weeks consist of 4 days working, 2	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within
days off, rotate days off every week	Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8-10 hours,	Consider Self Well Rested? Yes
"average"	Consider Sen Wen Resteu: 1 cs
Total Length as Officer: 2 ½ years	Length at Current Agency: 2 ½ years at APD
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
aid): None	Corrective Benses. 140 Corrective Benses
Uniform Worn: Navy blue polo shirt with	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options
APD patches on sleeves, outer vest carrier with	Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Vest – Taser,
name and "police" on it, uniform pants, black	radio, handcuffs, tourniquet, body-worn
boots, considered himself clearly identifiable	camera (affixed to center line, middle chest).
as and APD officer	Belt – pistol, extra magazines.
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
	· ·
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: Officer
Other Recording Devices: None Injuries: None	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None
	Partner: Officer
Injuries: None	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None
Injuries: None Training or Areas of Specialty: Breathalyzer	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None OPOTC Certification: Current, attended
Injuries: None Training or Areas of Specialty: Breathalyzer operator	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None OPOTC Certification: Current, attended Akron PD academy in 2020
Injuries: None Training or Areas of Specialty: Breathalyzer operator	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None OPOTC Certification: Current, attended Akron PD academy in 2020 Use-of-Force Training: During in-service
Injuries: None Training or Areas of Specialty: Breathalyzer operator Military Experience/Training: None	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None OPOTC Certification: Current, attended Akron PD academy in 2020 Use-of-Force Training: During in-service training, within last 6 months
Injuries: None Training or Areas of Specialty: Breathalyzer operator Military Experience/Training: None Prior Shooting Incidents: None Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None OPOTC Certification: Current, attended Akron PD academy in 2020 Use-of-Force Training: During in-service training, within last 6 months Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force
Injuries: None Training or Areas of Specialty: Breathalyzer operator Military Experience/Training: None Prior Shooting Incidents: None Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of	Partner: Officer Equipment Damage: None OPOTC Certification: Current, attended Akron PD academy in 2020 Use-of-Force Training: During in-service training, within last 6 months Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 17
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: (from BCI CSU report)
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: 1 round in chamber
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including

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	chamber): 69 = 1 round in chamber, 17 rounds
	in each of 4 magazines
Extra Magazines: 3 extra, 1 in pistol = 4 total	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
	rounds each in 3 extra magazines = 51
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 51	Number of Rounds Fired: 18
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: During last in-	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown retention
service, within last 6-12 months	level, Blackhawk with "hood"

Rounds Remaining After Incident: 31	Number of Kounus Fireu: 18
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed Ownership: Department Owned	
Last Qualification Date: During last inservice, within last 6-12 months	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown retention level, Blackhawk with "hood"
Narrative:	
SA Momchilov asked Officer to provide 27, 2022.	le details of the incident that occurred on June
Officer said he was working with Office Akron. They saw a vehicle that had a "cracked" the Howard Street and Tallmadge Avenue. The drive Avenue. The officers checked the license plate of or MDT) "based on the plate light and taillight." associated" and the black male owner had a "validid have attached notes that it, the car was involving jurisdiction, but it said possible a white male driven	er turned the vehicle eastbound onto Tallmadge in their in-car computer (Mobile Data Terminal The vehicle license plate showed "no warrants id" license. Officer explained, "But, it wed in a chase in some other neighboring
	eare too much about the taillight. So, I continue was trying to get away from us since it was back to the same spot we saw him at originally at
Officer continued, "I go to North Howa turn lane and I see the same vehicle with the same light, pull up right next to us and then turn right the form. I says a black made driven in the real type with the same turn right."	on east Tallmadge Avenue just like he did

before. I saw a black male driver in there. Um, we get behind the vehicle and I am deciding to do This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

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a traffic stop on the vehicle for the suspicious activity of the route he took and the plate light. Um, we do our lights and sirens at about Tallmadge and Thayer Avenue and the vehicle does not come to a stop. It continues to drive, ignores our lights and sirens. Um, I'm now thinking that he's going to run. Um, he continues to go, this is turning into a pursuit, I'm now believing this is the same guy that ran from the other jurisdiction. Um, he's still going eastbound on Tallmadge so I hand the radio over to my partner, lights and sirens are activated, a pursuit is initiated."

Officer continued, "Things are a little more serious now because it's a pursuit. He's approaching Route 8 south like he did previously, so I'm thinking he's probably going to get on the highway just like he did to get away from us and then most likely the pursuit would end quickly after that 'cause the highway's not a safe place to chase cars 'cause usually the speeds get too fast especially for a plate light and a taillight."

Officer continued, "As we're on the Route 8 south bridge following him, I hear a loud pop and see the muzzle flash. I, kind of am in shock. I didn't um, expect that. I say, 'Shots fired,' to my partner and he calls out a 'Signal 21' which means emergency radio traffic, we need help, this is a big deal, we just have been shot at. He continues on Route 8 south, I kind of don't know, I've neve been shot at before so I didn't know exactly what to do. So, I decide to follow him still and pursue him, but I'm staying farther back than I normally would um, just so that he can't shoot at me or continue to shoot out the windows and maybe strike any other cars."

Officer explained that the vehicle pursuit continued on State Route 8 south and other APD cruisers were "in the area" because they radioed a "Signal 21" indicating that they needed help. Officer said APD Car entered the highway and moved in front of their cruiser and were "really close" to the subject's vehicle. Officer said it was "pretty frightening at the time" because the subject "already shot at us and their in the line of sight of him."

Officer said he sped up to be closer to APD Car and then the subject exited the highway at Archwood Avenue. The subject led the pursuit through multiple side streets in the Firestone Park neighborhood after exiting the highway. Officer stated, "I remember thinking, 'This is probably going to end here soon.' 'Cause usually when cars in chases are going through side streets the person's looking to stop, jump out of the car and bail, or they could wreck. Um, I don't know what he's going to do when he gets out of that car since he already shot at us. I'm assuming he's going to continue to shoot at us. I know he has a gun. I want to get that gun."

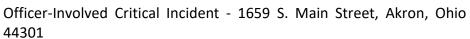
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Avenue. Officer saw that South Main Street was "blocked off by cruiser." Officer stated, "He has nowhere else to go. This is going to end here. Uh, I know, I see his car comes to somewhat of a stop. I see Car and and the two officers in there, get out of the car and run up to the car. I put my car in park and me and my partner get out and run up to the car. Uh, I'm running up to the car, I have my gun out because I know he has a gun. He already shot at me I don't know where the gun is. I'm trying to see his hands, I want to see his hands, I want him out of the car. I'm trying to get him into custody because he's a danger to us and now he's a danger to others since he's in a neighborhood."
Officer continued, "Um, uh, he's not listening to any verbal commands. He, the car is actually still slow rolling 'cause he never put it into park. So, he hops out of the passenger side of the vehicle. I now see that he is wearing a ski mask now. He runs, he continues to run through the yard of the Bridgestone building where his car kind of came to a stop on Wilbeth um, his hands are down by his waistband (Officer moved his hands inward, toward his center, and downward). Uh, he's looking back multiple times at officers in different directions. Um, two Tasers are deployed. I don't know who shot them, but neither of them worked. I did not shoot it.'
Officer continued, "Um, he's running. I'm running after him. I'm not very fast, but I'm getting closer to him because he's slowing down at this point. He then, still has his hands by his waistband. He slows down uh, turns around, and pulls his hand from his waistband quickly in the motion that you would if you're drawing a firearm, and points it at officers. I then raise my firearm and begin to shoot."
Officer continued, "After I'm done shooting uh, he's on the ground. I have, I had tunnel vision during the shooting. I didn't know exactly where I was standing when I was shooting and then I looked and he was on the ground. I uh, made sure that he was secured by some other officers uh, handcuffed him. I then walk away and have another officer that was there check me to make sure I wasn't shot 'cause I couldn't even feel anything, I didn't know if I was hurt or not. I then walk away and I'm sequestered."
SA Momchilov asked Officer about what he was thinking after he saw the subject's vehicle the first time, checked the license plate, and then when the subject's vehicle returned to the same area and if it was "bizarre." Officer confirmed that it was bizarre because "he did a full loop." He explained, "It's not normal behavior. Plus with the car being involved in a chase it seemed like he was trying to get away from us the first time."

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	rth Howard Street was a "high crime area." Of t. Certain areas around it. There's some streets	
have likely ended when it be supervisor would have ende got to a dangerous speed and	about what he meant when he said egan to enter State Route 8 south and if he world it. Officer replied, "Either or. We do we felt ourselves that it was too dangerous was to stop he would call it off. It would be term	uld have ended it or if a can, if it would have we would call it off, or
"muzzle flash" and if it was answered, "It was	to describe exactly what he saw we aiming out the window or backward toward the out the window and it was aiming backwards all not see where the bullet might have hit or im	he cruiser. Officer towards our car."
Officer explained, male is firing from his vehic potentially, and now he's enbullets could hit them." SA before. Officer and shot at made him feel. Officer	to "elaborate" about how the guns "Uh, that now turns this into a way bigger situate, it's unsafe for us, he's trying to shoot at us adangering everybody else that's on the highway Momchilov asked Officer if he had a swered, "No." SA Momchilov asked Officer responded, "Yeah, I had a big adra"t, I couldn't believe it happened."	uation. It is now, this s, trying to kill us ay nearby because his ever been shot at how being
said he was involved asked Officer if he stated, "Um, it was a gun at me or any other officer the subject fired more than a SA Momchilov asked Officer SA Momchilov asked Officer said the subject fired more than a said he was involved asked of the subject fired more than a said he was involved asked of the subject fired more than a said he was involved asked of the said he was i	if he had ever been in a vehicle purved in "three or four" vehicle pursuits in the particle could explain how this vehicle pursuit was dis sway more serious because I've never had any ficers." SA Momchilov asked Officer responded, "I only saw er if there was "any doubt" that it was so no doubt. I knew what it was."	ast. SA Momchilov ifferent. Officer yone in a pursuit shoot if it was possible that one and heard one."
and jumps out the passenger you saw him wearing a ski i This document is the property of the	as it was rolling slowly. Officer said, r side. I was on the driver's side." SA Momchi mask, would that be unusual in your experience. Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in respectively.	"Yeah, he climbs over flov asked, You said re?" Officer
nor its contents are to be disseminat rule of procedure. Page 6 of 13	sed outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute Supervisor Approval: SAS David Posten #6	, an administrative rule, or any 8/30/2022 12:39 PM

2022-07-06 APD Officer Interview - Bureau of Criminal Investigation Main Office 02/22/2023

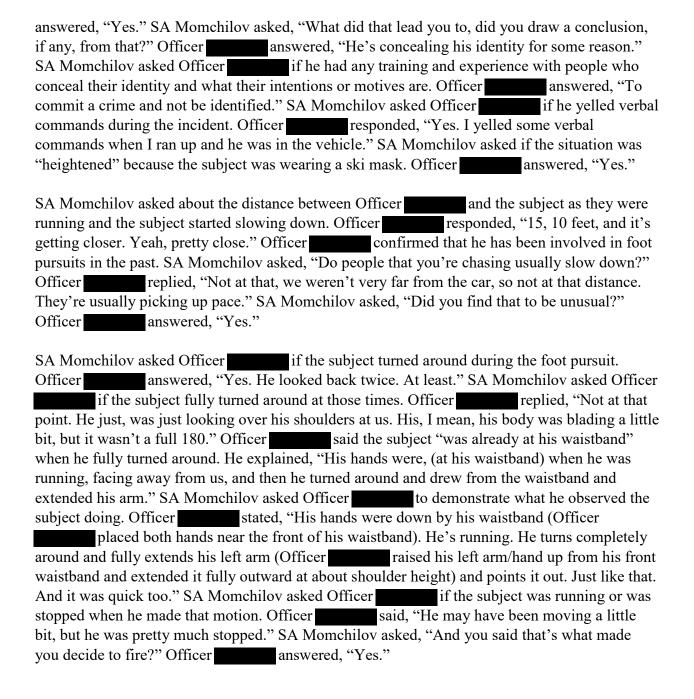


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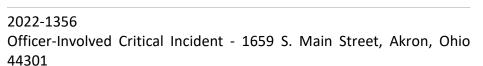
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Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

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Still images of the movements described and demonstrated are shown below:









SA Momchilov asked Officer responded, "Yeah. He was still moving. He was still on the ground. His hands were still near his waist when he was still moving." SA Momchilov asked Officer if he recalled how many shots he fired during the incident. Officer stated, "I know I shot all of the rounds in my magazine. So, it would be 18." SA Momchilov asked Officer if he heard other gunshot around him. Officer answered, "Yes." SA Momchilov asked, "Do you know where those were coming from?" Officer replied, "I did not at the time. I mean, I assume some were from officers, but I thought he was shooting too."

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SA Moran asked Officer about the "notes" on the MDT about the pursuit in another jurisdiction and if that was during the first time he saw the subject's vehicle or the second time he saw the subject's vehicle. Officer said that was during the first time he observed the subject's vehicle. SA Moran asked Officer if he recalled any specific details from the note. Officer said he did not read the note, but his partner did because he was operating the computer. Officer recalled his partner telling him that the vehicle was involved in a chase recently with a neighboring jurisdiction, possibly New Franklin, and the notes possibly mentioned a "white male driver." SA Moran asked Officer if the person driving the vehicle did anything else inside the car when he saw it both times. Officer answered, "No."
SA Moran asked Officer if he remembered the approximate location of where he saw the muzzle flash and heard the gunshot. Officer replied, "I believe we were still on the Route 8 bridge. He may have been at like, the end of, or not the bridge, the ramp, getting on to Route 8 south from Tallmadge, and he may have been still on the ramp or just kind of merging."
SA Moran asked Officer if the male subject had a ski mask on when he saw him driving the first time and/or the second time he saw him driving. Officer responded, "No, I didn't see one. He drove by kind of quick, but I didn't see one."
SA Moran told Officer that he mentioned experiencing "tunnel vision" during the incident. SA Moran asked Officer if he experienced any other "perceptual phenomena" during the event. Officer stated, "I mean, my adrenaline, my heart was racing. My adrenaline was going. I've never felt it like that honestly. Um, and then uh, then afterwards I was shaking and breathing real heavy."
SA Moran asked, "When he extended his left hand when the foot pursuit is slowing down, and he turns and extends his left hand, could you see anything else other than that motion?" Officer answered, "I just saw the motion." SA Moran asked, "And that motion was consistent with what in your training and experience?" Officer answered, "Him pulling a firearm."
SA Momchilov asked Officer about the lighting conditions during the foot pursuit. Officer said he did not recall using a flashlight, but the nearby street had lights and the parking lot had some lights. Officer stated, "It was still dark out, but it was enough to see him, but it wasn't the best lighting honestly." Officer said he did not hear the
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subject say anything during the incident. Officer heard other officers providing verbal commands.
SA Momchilov asked Officer if he knew where his rounds hit or what his aimpoint was. Officer said he was not sure where his rounds hit, but he was aiming at "him" and likely at center mass.
SA Momchilov asked, "At the time of the shooting, did you perceive you had any other option other than to use deadly force?" Officer answered, "No."
SA Momchilov asked, "Did you fear for your safety and the safety of other officers as well?" Officer answered, "Yes."
Officer said he believed that his actions were consistent with his training and experience.
SA Momchilov asked, "Did you make any statements to any other officers? You said you were sequestered. Did you, I guess what I'm getting at, did you guys all get together at some point and say, 'Well, I'm going to say this and you say this.' "Officer answered, "No." SA Momchilov asked, "Have you had any conversations with any of the involved officers afterwards, I mean, until today?" Officer responded, "Yeah, I've seen them." SA Momchilov asked, "Did you guys discuss what happened in detail?" Officer responded, "Just, what we saw." SA Momchilov asked, "Did anyone ask you to say something?" Officer replied, "No. Nobody's tried to like, corroborate." SA Momchilov asked, "Has anyone asked you to lie or otherwise tried to influence your statement to us today?" Officer answered, No."
SA Momchilov asked Officer if had any previous encounters with the subject, Jayland Walker, or if his name was familiar. Officer answered, "No."
SA Momchilov asked Officer if he knew if anyone tried to render medical assistance to Jayland Walker after the incident. Officer said other officers were administering medical aid and were possibly preparing cruisers to transport him, but the ambulance arrived.
SA Momchilov asked Officer about his body-worn camera video. Officer confirmed that he watched it one time. He saw the "end of it on the news" but he did not continue watching it. SA Momchilov asked, "Your statement today, is it based upon your This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any
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memory of what happened or is based on what you saw in the dash camera, or, I'm sorry, the body camera?" Officer answered, "My memory of what happened."
SA Momchilov asked, "I guess one question that people are going to bring up is the 17 rounds, or the 18 rounds you fired, is there, I know it's tough to, to go back and you said you went through tunnel vision and the shots fired, what prompted you to keep firing? Or what prompted you to stop firing?" Officer replied, "He was still moving. There was still a threat. I didn't know where the gun was. He was on the ground, he was still moving and even after I stopped firing his hands still raised." SA Momchilov asked Officer if there was any training he received to deal with a threat or decide to fire. Officer answered, "Just to fire until the threat has been stopped."
Attorney Munyer asked Officer if he knew where the gun was when Jayland Walker exited the car and ran on foot. Officer answered, "I did not. I was on the driver's side so I'm seeing his back because he's beginning to climb over the seat." SA Momchilov asked, "As he's running could you see his hands at all?" Officer answered, "No. Not until he raised his arm." SA Momchilov asked, "Could you tell when he raised his arm whether or not his hands were empty or they had a gun it? Or was it just based on the motion?" Officer responded, "Based on the motion is when I began firing. It was very fast." SA Momchilov asked "Based on your training and experience, is there any other reason why somebody would make that motion in the course of dealing with the police?" Officer answered, "No."
SA Moran asked Officer about the formation that the officers made during the foot pursuit and where he was located. Officer said he was to the "left" of most of the officers. SA Moran asked Officer if he was positioned on the left side, midline or right side of the subject while they were running. Officer stated, "His left side." SA Momchilov asked Officer answered, "I knew that they were running after him." SA Momchilov asked Officer if he could tell what the other officers were doing when he decided to start shooting. Officer answered, "No." SA Momchilov asked Officer answered, "No." SA Momchilov asked Officer answered, "No." SA Momchilov asked Officer answered, "No." SA Momchilov asked, "So you, would it be fair to say you made your own independent judgment to decide to fire?" Officer answered, "Yes." SA Momchilov added, "I guess it wasn't based on, I guess it's sometimes called 'sympathy shots?' "Officer answered, "No. I made my decision."

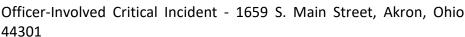
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The first segment of the recording ended and BCI agents left the room so that Officer could review his body-worn camera video.

At 1437 hours, BCI agents re-entered the room and a second segment of the recording began with the same parties in the room.

SA Momchilov asked Officer if there was anything he wanted to add or clarify after watching his body-worn camera video. Officer stated, "I just want to add I mean, every time watching it sucks. It's scary. My heart is racing. Um, when I hear that shot, you can hear it in the video, when he shot at us when we were on the ramp, I uh, saw that I like, I'm driving with one hand at that time, and then you see me like shift my body weight like, frantically, and then like, during the whole pursuit I'm kind of 'white-knuckling' the steering wheel and my hands are like shifting in weird ways just from like, adrenaline."

Officer continued, "Um, he makes his way, when he makes his way though the uh, off the highway and into like, the neighborhoods, I noticed that he was running a bunch of red lights and stop signs while he was trying to get away from us, which is a very big danger to that area because it's just a residential neighborhood that he was in and um, when we're getting close to the end and I saw all the cruisers lined up that were blocking Main Street, and uh, I took my seatbelt off in preparation for it before we even stopped the car 'cause I was assuming that this was about to end here. Um, I did have a flashlight on my gun but, and it was on. I did not remember that at the time. Um, but I wasn't using it while I was running because it's, my hands are moving so it wasn't actually pointed at him and I was on the left side of him." Officer added, "Yeah, it wasn't really effective."

Officer stated, "And when he got out of the car, the way he got out of the car and I saw that he had a ski mask on, his body was still turned away from me so I never saw his hands then. And then the scariest and the biggest thing is once he raised his arm and I began shooting, I got that tunnel vision, and I began shooting, and watching the video it freaks me out every time of how close I was to shooting Officer cause I didn't even know he was standing in front of me. SA Momchilov asked, "Do you think that's based on the tunnel vision you had?" Officer answered, "A hundred percent, yes. 'Cause if I didn't, I wouldn't have done that. It goes against all of our training to shoot behind somebody."

SA Momchilov asked about the highest speed(s) during the pursuit. Officer estimated the highest speed to be "maybe 80" miles per hour and that occurred while they were on State Route 8.

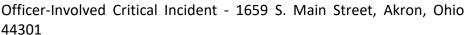
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Investigative Report







The interview concluded at approximately 1441 hours.

Reference Items:

The video recordings were submitted to the BCI case file and were labeled as Reference Item K.

Attachments:

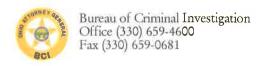
The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

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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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

Signature of Interviewee

Cory Momchile

BCI Agent (Printed)

GY

BCI Agent (Signature)

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