



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



2021-2286

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 2469 Kimberly Pkwy E., Columbus,
OH 43232

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Officer Henry Brown

Activity Date: 9/29/2021

Activity Location: On scene

Authoring Agent: SA John Butterworth

Narrative:

On Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 1330 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Butterworth (SA Butterworth) interviewed Columbus Police Department (CPD) Officer (Ofc.) Henry Brown (Brown), who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the scene near 2469 Kimberly Parkway East, Columbus, OH, 43232. The interview was audio recorded.

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

Brown was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the September 29, 2021 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 2469 Kimberly Parkway East, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, Brown did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Brown stated his radio call sign on September 29, 2021, was 94A. He has been employed by the CPD for about 26 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 26 years. During the incident, Brown wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore a concealed ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove CPD unit #94, a police patrol vehicle, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

During the interview with Officer Brown, SA Butterworth asked for Officer Brown to explain his involvement in the incident. Officer Brown stated he was dispatched to a "34" or an unknown call where yelling was heard in the back ground over the phone. The dispatch location was the apartment complex and later it was identified as possibly coming from Moler Road. Upon arrival on scene, Officer Brown observed cruiser 91 do a U-turn in front of him and the two cruisers stopped to talk. Officer Brown observed apartment Q-2 appear on the computer and Officer

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Brown asked for confirmation, which was never provided. Officer Brown asked the officers in cruiser 91 if they had seen the location as Q-2, and he observed a female come out of the door at Q-2. Officer Brown said he made contact with the female who stated she was the caller, and that her boyfriend was in the apartment as well as that he tried to stab her. Officer Brown continued to speak with her and she made the comment that "they aren't supposed to be together" and at that moment the male half, the boyfriend, appeared out of no where and was in front of the cruiser.

Upon arrival of the male, Officer Brown heard him say "kill me." At that moment, the male produced what Officer Brown described as a blade, and the male put it onto his neck, pressed down and swiped down with it. No blood came out from the attempt at cutting himself and the male kept saying, "kill me." The female caller was still standing by the cruiser, and the male half appeared to lunge at her. The female then took off running and the male went around the front of the cruiser and started chasing her. Officer Brown moved the cruiser forward two feet, in order to be able to exit it, and he aired 10-3 over the police radio. Officer Brown exited the cruiser and then looked for the male and female as he had lost sight of them for a moment.

Officer Brown said Officer Hawkins and Balmer were chasing the man who was running along the sidewalk. When the male and female stopped, the officers (Hawkins and Balmer) tried to talk to the male and calm him down. The male kept yelling, "kill me, kill me." The male ran after the female again and she took off running again. The male came out into the street about 15 to 20 feet from the sidewalk according to Officer Brown. The male was facing Officer Hawkins for the majority of the time and Officer Balmer and he (Officer Brown) was about 20 feet back. Officer Balmer moved in front of Officer Brown and had his taser out, or mentioned something about his taser. The male continued to say "kill me, kill me, kill me" and that is when Officer Hawkins fired his weapon. The distance according to Officer Brown was three to five feet, as the male had come up on him.

Officer Brown did not know how many shots were fired in total. He said it was at least one of two. Officer Brown did not see if Officer Balmer had deployed the taser or not as he was concentrating on the male who was yelling. Officer Brown said Officer Balmer went off to his left and Officer Hawkins was off to his right.

When the shots were fired, according to Officer Brown, the male fell down to the pavement and the officers began to render aid. Officer Brown said the male had cut himself on his neck and there was blood coming from the wounds. Officer Brown began chest compressions while Officer Balmer checked for other wounds including a possible exit wound from the gunshot. Officer



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Brown and Balmer rolled the male over and located an exit wound on his back. Officer Brown continued chest compressions until the Sgt. Collier arrived and took over chest compressions. Officer Brown ended his first aid attempts at that time and his involvement with the incident stopped.

Officer Brown was asked if he had any prior contacts with the male and he stated no, he had not. Officer Brown described speaking with her after the incident and she said that he (the male) had choked her in the past which was at the Moler address, which is why there may be some confusion as to why there were two addresses. During that incident, the female stated she wished to deal with that incident on her own. Officer Brown again stated he had not dealt with them in the past.

Officer Brown was asked if there was anything else he wished to add to his statement after talking about. Officer Brown thought about this case being a "suicide by cop" situation due to the actions of the male. Officer Brown said to himself, this is "suicide by cop" during the incident due to the male coming at the police officers out into the street, instead of the female. Officer Brown confirmed that the officers on scene were himself, Officer Hawkins and Officer Balmer. Officers Hawkins and Balmer arrived on scene a couple of second before Officer Brown according to his statement. Officers Hawkins and Balmer were together in cruiser 9091. No other details were provided to SA Butterworth by Officer Brown. Attorney Wannemacher did not have anything further to add after being asked by SA Butterworth.

The interview concluded at approximately 1351 hours.

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.



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).

HENRY L. BROWN
Printed Name of Interviewee

9/29/21 1:32 PM
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

SA John Bottomwood
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)