



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



2024-1755

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4500 Block of Sullivant Ave,
Columbus, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Columbus Police Department (O), Noel Hernandez Cortaza (S),
[REDACTED]

Date of Activity: 06/18/2024

Activity Location: Columbus PD Training Academy – Business – 1000 N. Hague Ave.,
Columbus, OH 43204

Author: SA Matthew Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 1455 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) and SA Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) [REDACTED], who was accompanied by his attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at Columbus Police Training Academy: 1000 N. Hague Ave. in Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to gain information from [REDACTED] involvement in an Officer-Involved critical incident that occurred on June 10, 2024 in the 4500 Block of Sullivant Ave. in Columbus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

[REDACTED] 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.

While the involved-subject, Noel Hernandez Cortaza's (Cortaza) identity was not known during the incident, his name is used in this report for clarification purposes. Also, for clarification purposes, the term *subject vehicle* used in this report refers to the vehicle driven by Cortaza. It is more particularly described as a green Honda Civic with Ohio

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registration number JFX8729.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: [REDACTED] | Rank: [REDACTED] |
| Badge Number: [REDACTED] | Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED] |
| Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED] | Immediate Supervisor: Kevin Singleton |
| Radio Channel Utilized: [REDACTED] | Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized |
| Cruiser Description: Marked SUV | Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: [REDACTED] – driver; [REDACTED] – passenger |
| Assignment: [REDACTED] | Normal Shift: [REDACTED] |
| In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized | Spotlight: Present; Not utilized |
| Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized | Siren: Present & Utilized |
| Shift Day of Incident: 1900 hours | Duty Status: On-Duty |
| Days Off: [REDACTED] | Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 24 Hours: No |
| Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: well rested | Consider Self Well Rested?: well rested |
| Total Length as Officer: 9+ | Length at Current Agency: 9+ |
| Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No | Corrective Lenses: Glasses |
| Uniform Worn: CPD patrol Uniform – Navy Pants; Short sleeved shirt, with CPD Patches on both shoulders. | Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Taser and Mace |
| Ballistic Vest: External Armor | Body Worn Camera: Present & Used |
| | Partner: [REDACTED] |
| Injuries: No | Equipment Damage: No |
| Training or Areas of Specialty: DICE (Driving Impaired Criminal Enforcement) and STOP (Strangulation Team Operations for Pros.) | OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED] |
| Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED] | Use-of-Force Training: Annually |
| Prior Shooting Incidents: According to his personnel file, he was involved in prior shooting incident and was not found outside of policy | Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No current use of force outside of policy |
| Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No | Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No |
| Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No | Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: No |

Officer's Firearm(s):

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Weapon #1

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Make: Daniel Defense | Model: DDM4 |
| Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm | Serial: [REDACTED] |
| Type: Rifle | Method of Carry: Cruiser ready/sling |
| Magazine Capacity: 31 | Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 31 |
| Extra Magazines: 1 | Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 31 |
| Rounds Remaining After Incident: 26 | Number of Rounds Fired: 5 |
| Discharged During Incident? Yes | Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup |
| Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed | Ownership: Personally Owned |
| Last Qualification Date: 2024 | Type of Holster, if any: N/A |

Weapon #2

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Make: Smith and Wesson | Model: 2.0 M&P |
| Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm | Serial: [REDACTED] |
| Type: Semi-Auto Handgun | Method of Carry: hip carry |
| Magazine Capacity: 17 | Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 18 |
| Extra Magazines: 2 | Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17 |
| Discharged During Incident? No | Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary |
| Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed | Ownership: Department Owned |
| Last Qualification Date: 2024 | |

Narrative:

[REDACTED] reported on June 10, 2024 at approximately 2315 hours, he and [REDACTED] were on routine patrol. [REDACTED] read a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) run involving a person with a knife, in the area of Georgesville and Clime Roads. The male, since identified as Cortaza, was running up to people's car windows and banging on them. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] marked on the run, and [REDACTED] responded from N. Hague Avenue, near Broad Street. [REDACTED] indicated [REDACTED] activated the emergency lights and sirens. [REDACTED] explained he drove west on Broad Street and turned south on Georgesville Road, while [REDACTED] verbally relayed additional information he read from the CAD system, including: the suspect was a male, either white or Hispanic, with long brown hair, who was wearing a green shirt.

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When [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived in the area, they were unable to locate Cortaza and the Turkey Hill Gas Station appeared to be "in order," from the view through the glass windows. Approximately a minute later, dispatch aired Cortaza was in the Turkey Hill threatening people. [REDACTED] drove back to the Turkey Hill, where CPD Ofc. Minor was speaking to the clerk and learned Cortaza was driving a green Hyundai and had left traveling northbound on Georgesville Road. [REDACTED] explained he drove that same direction and Ofc. Minor aired that he and [REDACTED] were behind the subject vehicle. The subject vehicle was stopped in the right lane of Georgesville Road. [REDACTED] noted he stopped the cruiser approximately 20–30 feet behind the subject vehicle. Cortaza then got out of the vehicle and walked in front of it and began *"yelling something as he was stabbing the hood or windshield of his car with what I thought at the time was a knife due to dispatch airing that he had a 33A (knife). I exited the cruiser and initially drew my handgun. Then I decided to get my rifle from the rifle rack, as it has red dot which would be better tactically given the distance and the fact that it was dark outside. The suspect stopped stabbing his car and started walking towards us."* [REDACTED] yelled at him to put his hands up in Spanish." Cortaza then stopped, turned around and started walking north, turned around and walked back to his car, and started driving north on Georgesville Road.

Next, [REDACTED] aired they needed to shut the roadways down and aired a 10–3 (Officer in trouble) in order to get additional units to the area. [REDACTED] explained he and [REDACTED] returned to the cruiser and [REDACTED] drove north behind Cortaza, as he was driving approximately 15–20 miles per hour (mph). [REDACTED] activated the emergency lights again and asked for a unit to activate "spike strips." [REDACTED] noted Cruiser #103 arrived in the area and while passing the subject vehicle, from the other direction, *"it appeared that the suspect was trying to hit cruiser 103, as the suspect's car veered to the left as 103 passed him."* SA Douglass asked [REDACTED] questions about the subject vehicle veering towards cruiser #103 (driven by Ofc. Minor). [REDACTED] explained although the Cortaza was driving at a slow speed, he had been driving straight, until cruiser #103 came toward him, in the other lane from the other direction. [REDACTED] noted it was at that point, the subject vehicle went from a straight direction to veering left toward cruiser #103. [REDACTED] explained it seemed the veer was an intentional act from his perspective.

Cruiser #103 aired he was going to deploy the spike strips at Georgesville Road and Sullivant Avenue; however, the subject vehicle turned west onto Sullivant Avenue, driving several yards and getting out of his vehicle again. *"I exited the cruiser with my rifle. [REDACTED] again gave verbal commands in Spanish to put his hands up. However, the suspect took only a few steps towards us when I noticed his car was slowly rolling forward. I think the suspect noticed this too as he got back into his car. At that time, Cruiser #103 drove by, again, possibly to get ahead to attempt to deploy the stop spikes. "The suspect started driving faster than he had previously been driving and I thought he might be chasing cruiser 103. [REDACTED] and I got back into our cruiser and followed the suspect."* SA Collins asked [REDACTED] to clarify if cruiser #103 passed them twice and [REDACTED] indicated cruiser #103 did pass by twice. [REDACTED] explained "Old Sullivant" dead ends

into Georgesville Road (West to East) and then new Sullivant picks up (East to West), to the North. Due to the subject vehicle turning west on Old Sullivant, Cruiser #103 had to get turned around north of that location. [REDACTED] indicated Ofc. Minor was driving Cruiser #103.

"The suspect was driving with half of his vehicle on the wrong side of the road on Sullivant Avenue. There are railroad tracks and he stopped on the railroad track, next to another car that was traveling east and the suspect was partially in his lane of travel. I was concerned for the safety of the occupants of that vehicle, as I thought the suspect may jump on them. [REDACTED] and I both got out of the cruisers with our weapons. He yelled at the other driver to go and get out of the area. The suspect started driving west, still partially on the wrong side of the road. [REDACTED] and I got back into the cruiser."

[REDACTED] explained he drove approximately 100–125 yards, when the suspect stopped his vehicle at the intersection of Industrial Mile Road and started walking down Sullivant Avenue. [REDACTED] further explained he exited the vehicle with his rifle, while [REDACTED] was to his right (north), as Cortaza continued walking west. Other officers arrived at that time. [REDACTED] noted, at the time, he did not know exactly which officers were on scene, while they were walking up on [REDACTED] left (south) side towards Cortaza.

[REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] give both English and Spanish commands to Cortaza, while walking towards Cortaza with his Taser out. [REDACTED] recalled [REDACTED] yelled for [REDACTED] to slow down and not get too close, so he could provide "lethal cover," while [REDACTED] deployed the Taser. [REDACTED] yelled: *Taser! Taser! Taser! He fired the taser. It did not appear to be effective as the suspect turned around and seemed agitated. He was yelling (I do not know what he said or if it was in English). I yelled at [REDACTED] to tase him again. He tased him again but it did not have any effect. The suspect continued to yell and was pumping his arms up and down with some type of object/weapon in his right hand. I do not know what it was but it looked like it was metal, skinny, maybe 6 inches long. The suspect was advancing towards us. He got about 20–25 feet in front of me when suddenly he leaned forward and charged directly at me with the object in his hand. It was at that moment that I fired my rifle. I heard other rounds being fired. The suspect went to the ground and someone aired "shots fired!"*

SA Douglass asked [REDACTED] to confirm if he believed Cortaza was directly charging at himself. [REDACTED] explained when Cortaza lunged, he was "facing directly at me." Additionally, [REDACTED] noted when aiming with the rifle's red dot, he was aiming center mass and not at an angle; therefore, [REDACTED] believed Cortaza was coming directly at him. SA Douglass asked [REDACTED] what Cortaza was doing with his hands while coming towards officers. [REDACTED] indicated Cortaza had the weapon in his right hand; however, noted the whole time Cortaza was moving both hands up and down "in a stabbing motion" towards officers.

[REDACTED] described firing his rifle in detail. *"I fired one burst from my rifle. I do not know*

exactly how many rounds I fired but I would believe I fired 3–5 rounds. I would estimate I fired all my rounds in 1–2 seconds. I believe I was 10–12 feet from the suspect at the time I fired my rifle. I fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip and may have taken a step back as I fired. I believe I used my red dot sight. I did not have any cover or concealment. The direction of my shots were northwest. I fired at a slight downward angle and my backdrop was the woods to the west of the Mosque. My target was center mass. I stopped firing because the suspect went down and did not appear to be moving.”

SA Collins asked [REDACTED] how many rifle rounds his magazine holds and what condition does he carry it. [REDACTED] explained the magazine “has a capacity of 31” rifle rounds and “normally it stays unloaded,” until he takes it out of “the rifle rack.” [REDACTED] further explained, once he takes it out of the rifle rack to have on him during a run, “I put it in condition one, which would be the round in the chamber.” [REDACTED] said he believes he had 31 rounds in the rifle at the time of the incident. SA Collins asked [REDACTED] if he did a magazine exchange during the incident and he replied “no.”

“At the time I fired my weapon, I was in immediate fear for my life, as well as the lives of the other officers and civilians in the area. Prior to firing at the suspect, he had been given multiple opportunities to comply, commands in English and Spanish, and [REDACTED] had attempted to utilize less lethal force. Instead of complying, the suspect charged at me with a metal weapon in his hand and I believed he was going to stab and seriously injure or kill me. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of other officers at the time I fired my weapon. I believe my actions were consistent with my training as a police officer.”

[REDACTED] observed Cortaza “face down” with his head facing east on Sullivant Avenue. [REDACTED] explained he approached Cortaza with other officers and someone “kicked the metal weapon away and started to secure the suspect. I also kicked a metal hook away from the suspect (this was an additional weapon that he had).” [REDACTED] noted “I still do not know exactly what the suspect had in his hand. It appeared to be some type of homemade weapon. I also do not know what the metal hook was that I kicked away.” SA Collins asked [REDACTED] if Cortaza had two weapons in his hands, since he indicated in his statement a secondary additional hook weapon. [REDACTED] explained “I only saw something in his right hand, when he went down.” However, when handcuffing Cortaza, before rendering medical aid, [REDACTED] noted it looked like an object “broken off of a coat rack” was “between his knuckles.” SA Collins asked [REDACTED] if the object had been attached to something and [REDACTED] replied, “when I moved it, no.” [REDACTED] noted he did not see the hook prior to Cortaza being incapacitated on the ground.

[REDACTED] started rendering medical aid to Cortaza. [REDACTED] explained the medics arrived shortly thereafter and took over rendering the aid. [REDACTED] explained he went to the 10-precinct substation where the CPD Officer support team awaited.

[REDACTED] noted he now knows the suspects name was “Noel Hernandez.” However, [REDACTED]

████ did not believe to have had previous encounters, personal or professional, with Noel Hernandez (Cortaza).

████ explained he has now had an opportunity to review the body worn camera and cruiser camera footage of the incident. █████ realized Ofc. Minor was approximately 30 yards west, during the incident, though at the time of the incident was unsure of Ofc. Minor's location.

The interview concluded at approximately 1517 hours.

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

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: █████ Statement_CIN

Attachment # 02: 2024-06-18 █████ Interview_Audio



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
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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

6/18/24 2:55 PM

Date / Time

[Redacted]

SA Matt Collins

BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #151

BCI Agent (Signature)

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, June 10, 2024, between approximately 11:15 p.m. and 11:35 p.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) is [REDACTED]. My regular assignment is [REDACTED] which is [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED]. My regular days off are [REDACTED]. I was in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience [REDACTED]. I am also trained in DICE (Driving Impaired Criminal Enforcement) and STOP (Strangulation Team Operations for Prosecution). 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 has CPD patches on both shoulders. I was also wearing an external ballistic vest with my badge displayed on it. 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 did not discharge my handgun during this incident. I was also carrying my personally owned Daniel Defense M4 V7 which is a 5.56mm but I believe it was loaded with 223 TAP (Tactical Application for Police) rounds. I am a certified rifle operator. I am current in my range qualifications with both my handgun and rifle. I was not carrying any additional backup firearm. I was working with a partner, [REDACTED]. We were marked in as cruiser [REDACTED].

but physically driving marked cruiser [REDACTED]—this means that our call sign was [REDACTED] but the actual cruiser number was [REDACTED]. Cruiser [REDACTED] is equipped with a Cruiser Video System (CVS) and it was activated and working during this incident.

I had on glasses during this incident but I am not required to wear them as I am farsighted. 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 had not consumed any alcohol in the 24 hours before this incident. 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, [REDACTED] and I were on routine patrol when he read a run that had just displayed across the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system. He said there was a person with a knife running up to people's car windows and banging on them in the area of Georgesville and Clime Road. I told him to mark us on it. We were on N. Hague Avenue (near Broad Street) and I immediately got onto Broad Street and began driving towards Georgesville Road. As I did this, radio dispatched us on the run and [REDACTED] activated the emergency lights and sirens. I drove west on Broad Street and turned south onto Georgesville Road. As I was driving, [REDACTED] relayed additional information from the CAD. The suspect description was a male with long brown hair in a green shirt and the information had the male reported as both white and Hispanic.

I did not see anyone as we drove down Georgesville Road. I turned east onto Clime Road and saw someone walking but it was a female. After checking Georgesville and Clime Road and not seeing the suspect, I pulled into the Turkey Hill at the corner of Georgesville and Clime Road. The front of the store is almost completely glass and everything seemed in order. I

pulled out of the Turkey Hill and drove south on Georgesville Road. A minute or so later, radio aired that the suspect was inside the Turkey Hill threatening people. I did a U-turn and went north on Georgesville Road and back to the Turkey Hill.

I turned into the Turkey Hill and Officer Minor was outside speaking with the clerk. I heard Officer Minor air that the suspect was in a green Hyundai and traveling northbound on Georgesville Road. I pulled out onto Georgesville Road and did not see a green Hyundai. As I drove north, I saw one vehicle but it did not look like a Hyundai. [REDACTED] aired that we do not see it. Officer Minor aired that we were right behind him. There was a car stopped in the right lane of Georgesville Road. I pulled the cruiser up and stopped about 20-30 feet behind the suspect vehicle. The suspect got out of his car and walked to the front of it. He was yelling something as he was stabbing the hood or windshield of his car with what I thought at the time was a knife due to dispatch airing that he had a 33A (knife). I exited the cruiser and initially drew my handgun. Then I decided to get my rifle from the rifle rack, as it has red dot which would be better tactically given the distance and the fact that it was dark outside. The suspect stopped stabbing his car and started walking towards us. [REDACTED] yelled at him to put his hands up in Spanish. The suspect stopped, turned around and started walking north again for a few feet. Then he turned around and walked back to his car and got into it and started driving north on Georgesville Road.

I aired that we were going to need roads shut down and a 10-3 (officer in trouble call) to get additional units in the area. I got back into the driver's seat and [REDACTED] got back into the cruiser and we started driving north behind the suspect. The suspect was only driving about 15-20 mph. I believe [REDACTED] activated our emergency lights and aired for someone to get in front of him and put spike strips down since he was not driving that fast. Cruiser 103

passed us and the suspect vehicle. As he passed the suspect vehicle, it appeared that the suspect was trying to hit cruiser 103, as the suspect's car veered to the left as 103 passed him. Cruiser 103 aired that he was going to deploy spike strips out at Georgesville Road and Sullivant Avenue but the suspect turned west onto Sullivant Avenue. He drove several yards when he stopped again and got out of his car. I exited the cruiser with my rifle. [REDACTED] again gave verbal commands in Spanish to put his hands up. However, the suspect took only a few steps towards us when I noticed his car was slowly rolling forward. I think the suspect noticed this too as he then got back into his car. As he was getting back into his car, Cruiser 103 passed us; I believe to get ahead of the suspect and attempt to deploy the stop spikes. The suspect started driving faster than he had previously been driving and I thought he may be chasing cruiser 103 [REDACTED] and I also got back into our cruiser and followed the suspect.

The suspect was driving with half of his vehicle on the wrong side of the road on Sullivant Avenue. There are railroad tracks and he stopped on the railroad track, next to another car that was traveling east and the suspect was partially in his lane of travel. I was concerned for the safety of the occupants of that vehicle, as I thought the suspect may jump out on them.

[REDACTED] and I both got out of the cruisers with our weapons. He yelled at the other driver to go and get out of the area. The suspect started driving west, still partially on the wrong side of the road. [REDACTED] and I got back into the cruiser. We drove another 100-125 yards when the suspect stopped his vehicle at the intersection with Industrial Mile Road. He got out of his vehicle and started walking down Sullivant Avenue.

I quickly exited the cruiser with my rifle. [REDACTED] was to my right (north). The suspect continued walking west. Other officers had also arrived (at the time I did not know exactly who was there) and they were walking up on my left (south) towards the suspect. There

were civilian cars going east on Sullivant Avenue. I believe the officers to my south told those cars to back up and leave the area. I also saw another officer to the north of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] gave verbal commands to the suspect in English and Spanish. We walked past the suspect's car [REDACTED] got a few feet ahead of me and I saw that he had his taser out. I yelled at him to slow down and not get too close so that I could provide lethal cover while he deployed the taser. I also did not want to create a crossfire risk.

[REDACTED] yelled: Taser! Taser! Taser! He fired the taser. It did not appear to be effective as the suspect turned around and seemed agitated. He was yelling (I do not know what he said or if it was in English). I yelled at [REDACTED] to tase him again. He tased him again but it did not have any effect. The suspect continued to yell and was pumping his arms up and down with some type of object/weapon in his right hand. I do not know what it was but it looked like it was metal, skinny, maybe 6 inches long. The suspect was advancing towards us. He got about 20-25 feet in front of me when suddenly he leaned forward and charged directly at me with the object in his hand. It was at that moment that I fired my rifle. I heard other rounds being fired. The suspect went to the ground and someone aired "shots fired!"

The suspect was face down (with his head to the east) on Sullivant Avenue. I approached the suspect with other officers. I believe someone kicked the metal weapon away and started to secure the suspect. I also kicked a metal hook away from the suspect (this was an additional weapon that he had). [REDACTED] got his medical bag and began rendering aid. Medics arrived very quickly and took over rendering aid to the suspect.

CPD Officer Support Team Members arrived and I returned to the 10-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 fired one burst from my rifle. I do not know exactly how many rounds I fired but I would believe I fired 3-5 rounds. I would estimate I fired all my rounds in 1-2 seconds. I believe I was approximately 10-12 feet from the suspect at the time I fired my rifle. I fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip and may have taken a step back as I fired. I believe I used my red dot sight. I did not have any cover or concealment. The direction of my shots was northwest. I fired at a slight downward angle and my backdrop was the woods to the west of the Mosque. My target was center mass. I stopped firing because the suspect went down and did not appear to be moving.

At the time I fired my weapon, I was in immediate fear for my life, as well as the lives of the other officers and civilians in the area. Prior to firing at the suspect, he had been given multiple opportunities to comply, commands in English and Spanish, and [REDACTED] had attempted to utilize less lethal force. Instead of complying, the suspect charged at me with a metal weapon in his hand and I believed he was going to stab and seriously injure or kill me. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the lives of the other officers at the time I fired my weapon. I believe my actions were consistent with my training as a police officer.

I still do not know exactly what the suspect had in his hand. It appeared to be some type of homemade weapon. I also do not know what the metal hook was that I kicked away.

I have also now had an opportunity to review the body worn camera and cruiser camera footage of this incident. After reviewing it, I realized that Officer Minor was 30 yards to the west, during the incident I did not know where he was, only that he had passed us.

I now know that the name of the suspect is Noel Hernandez. 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.

