



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



2022-0498

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 34 E. Fulton Ave., Columbus 43215

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Officer [REDACTED]

Activity Date: 5/18/2022

Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman and Wannemacher

Authoring Agent: SA John Butterworth

Narrative:

On Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 1351 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Butterworth (SA Butterworth) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Clinton Township Police Department (CTPD) Officer (Ofc.) [REDACTED], who was accompanied by his attorney, Lathan Lipperman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Harshman and Wannemacher. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. [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.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: Officer (Ofc.)
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: N/A
Radio Call Sign: N/A	Immediate Supervisor: Chief Jones
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	Mobile Data Terminal: Choose an item.
Cruiser Description: N/A	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: N/A
Assignment: Detective Bureau assigned to FCSO SIU Drug Task Force	Normal Shift: 0800-1600
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Not Present	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident: 0800-1600	Duty Status: On-Duty

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Days Off: Saturday and Sunday	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Well Rested	Consider Self Well Rested? Yes
Total Length as Officer: 21 years 5 months	Length at Current Agency: 21 years 5 months
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Glasses
Uniform Worn: Plainclothes	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: None
Ballistic Vest: Not Worn	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: Detective [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED]
Injuries: Punched on right side of face	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT, numerous firearms trainings	OPOTC Certification: 8/2001 Delaware JVS Law Enforcement Academy
Military Experience/Training: U.S. Marines and U.S. Army	Use-of-Force Training: CIT 07-2021, De-Escalation 09-2020,
Prior Shooting Incidents: One prior Officer Involved Critical Incident.	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: One unfounded complaint, later recalled by complainant.
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None Reported	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None Reported

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Staccato	Model: 2011
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Right hip, safety on and fully loaded.
Magazine Capacity: 20	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 21
Extra Magazines: 1	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 20

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Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 20	Number of Rounds Fired: 1
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Personally Owned
Last Qualification Date: 12/01/2021	Type of Holster, if any: Level 1 Outside the Waistband

Narrative:

Officer [REDACTED] was asked to read his prepared statement which had been provided to SA Butterworth and SA Collins prior to the interview time. Officer [REDACTED] read his prepared statement in its entirety and signed the statement as his own about the incident. During Officer [REDACTED] reading of his statement, he indicated the following information as it pertained to the incident and his involvement:

Officer [REDACTED] said he started the duty day at the Clinton Township Police Department (CTPD) at approximately 0730 hours to complete paperwork. Officer [REDACTED] left CTPD and drove to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), 410 S. High Street building around 0900 hours. Officer [REDACTED] said he arrived at the East Fulton parking garage as the parking garage is where he normally parks as part of his assignment to the task force. Shortly after 0930 hours, Officer [REDACTED] stated he invited Detective [REDACTED] for a brief smoke break and due to the weather, asked Detective [REDACTED] to meet in the parking garage near his vehicle on the 7th floor. Officer [REDACTED] then walked to the parking garage and his vehicle where he lit up a cigarette and stood outside the front of his vehicle along the eastern wall of the garage. A few minutes later, Detective [REDACTED] sent Officer [REDACTED] a text message asking where he was located.

Officer [REDACTED] explained that as he was texting a message back to Detective [REDACTED] he observed a small silver car quickly pull onto the 7th floor and park on the opposite side of the garage, opposite his vehicle and to the north by several parking spots. Officer [REDACTED] stated he heard yelling coming from inside the car but could not hear what was being said. Moments later, Officer [REDACTED] observed a male black get out from the front passenger seat and circle the vehicle. The male was wearing dark colored pants and a dark green jacket. The male black attempted to get into the right rear passenger side of the car, opened the door and then another male black quickly exited the car. Officer [REDACTED] recalled the second male wearing a gray hoodie and dark pants, estimated his height as 6 feet 2 inches and around 200 pounds.



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The two males then squared up to fight while moving to the north and down the garage ramp. A moment later a female black exited the car and her face was severely bloodied. The female was yelling "help, help" and ran toward Officer [REDACTED]. While running toward Officer [REDACTED] he recalled the female saying "look what he did to me!"

Officer [REDACTED] stated that he immediately threw on an FCSO ID lanyard and moved down the garage towards the two males and while moving toward the males, he yelled "police, stop, break it up!" Moments later, according to Officer [REDACTED] as he neared the two males, he realized the female was right behind him and he reported to be surrounded by the three individuals. Officer [REDACTED] said he feared the group could attack him as it was not uncommon when breaking up a fight. Officer [REDACTED] said he was concerned for his safety since he was alone and outnumbered while being a few feet from each person. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he did not know if any of the individuals had a weapon and therefore he believed he unholstered his weapon and kept it at a "Sul" or low-ready position and pointed at the ground. Officer [REDACTED] said he yelled for everyone to get on the ground.

Officer [REDACTED] said the male wearing the green jacket began backing away compliantly, but the other male looked at him and said "you don't understand" and/or "no." The male aggressively postured such that he was preparing to engage in a fight with Officer [REDACTED]. At this point, Officer [REDACTED] reported that with the male in the green jacket and the female backing away compliantly, and the non-compliant male not having a weapon in either hand, he believed he holstered his weapon. At this moment is when Detective [REDACTED] joined him, according to Officer [REDACTED].

A second later, Officer [REDACTED] said the male quickly advanced and punched him in the right side of his face. Officer [REDACTED] heard Sgt. [REDACTED] yell "tase him" several times and was not aware that Sgt. [REDACTED] had joined him. Officer [REDACTED] attempted to leg sweep the male but he quickly ducked away (at this point, Officer [REDACTED] refers to the male as a "suspect"). Officer [REDACTED] grabbed the suspect and took him to the ground with Sgt. [REDACTED]'s help. The suspect landed in the supine position on what Officer [REDACTED] believed to be his left side, and he knelt in front of the suspect near the upper half of his body. Sgt. [REDACTED] knelt behind the suspect, near his upper back and head, but Officer [REDACTED] had lost sight of Detective [REDACTED].

Officer [REDACTED] reported the suspect to be thrashing about and trying to strike him. While blocking the attempts with his left arm, Officer [REDACTED] said he struck the suspect with a closed right fist on his upper torso and shoulder trying to stop his attack and secure him. Officer [REDACTED] stated the strikes were not effective and the suspect continued to resist. Sgt. [REDACTED] was trying to secure the suspect's arms from the rear and repeatedly yelling "tase him." Officer [REDACTED] did not



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know who Sgt. [REDACTED] was telling to tase him. Officer [REDACTED] states moments later, while continuing to try to secure the suspect, he observed the suspect having a gun in what he believed was his right hand. Officer [REDACTED] instantly recognized the gun as his own and it was pointed up toward Sgt. [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] stated he believed the suspect intended to shoot Sgt. [REDACTED].

Officer [REDACTED] began reaching for the weapon and heard a taser deploy, followed immediately by a loud bang. Officer [REDACTED] realized the suspect had fired the weapon and he yelled "I did not shoot him!" Officer [REDACTED] looked to see whether Sgt. [REDACTED] had been struck, to which he did not appear to be. According to Officer [REDACTED], Sgt. [REDACTED] replied "I know, he had your gun!" Officer [REDACTED] said he quickly grabbed the gun from the suspect's hand, engaged the safety and holstered the weapon. The suspect had a gunshot wound to his head and appeared lifeless as he was not moving or saying anything.

Sgt. [REDACTED] called dispatch to report the incident according to Officer [REDACTED] and he tried to call as well. Sgt. [REDACTED] was able to reach dispatch and Officer [REDACTED] reported the incident to his Chief at CTPD. Sgt. [REDACTED] checked the suspect and found him to be still breathing. Officer [REDACTED] ran to his vehicle, grabbed a medical kit and "gloved up" with Detective [REDACTED]. The two knelt next to the suspect and checked his injuries. Officer [REDACTED] reported that the bullet round entered near the left temple and after rolling the suspect over it appeared the round exited the right side of the back of the head. Officer [REDACTED] applied gauze to try and control the bleeding. Officer [REDACTED] checked the suspect's pulse and found it present but faint. The suspect was taking labored, shallow breaths. A brief time later, FCSO Sgt. Nate Smith arrived on scene and Officer Smith was relieved from providing aid. Officer [REDACTED] said he then was escorted to the 410 S. High Street building and away from the scene.

Officer [REDACTED] could not provide any insight as to how the suspect gained access to his weapon. Officer [REDACTED] recalled holstering his gun in the moments before the suspect struck him in the face and he did not recall the suspect grabbing his weapon after going to the ground. Officer [REDACTED] does not recall if the weapon fell from his holster during the physical struggle. Officer [REDACTED] described the holster as an outside the waistband, level 1 retention, and it is possible the suspect grabbed the weapon from the holster during the struggle. Officer [REDACTED] said it was also possible the weapon became dislodged as the suspect thrashed about and gained access to it.

Officer [REDACTED] continued his statement and said he had observed a badly injured female that was severely bleeding from her head and/or face. She was pleading with him for help and indicated one of the men had caused her injuries. Based on those statements and his observations, Officer



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██████ believed a serious violent crime had occurred. Officer ██████ said he approached the two males as they were fighting, identified himself as a police officer several times and displayed his FCSO lanyard which identifies him as a police officer.

Officer ██████ went on to say the female and other male complied with his commands, while the suspect instead attacked him, unprovoked. While continuing to strike Officer ██████ after taking him to the ground, the suspect continued to resist arrest according to Officer ██████. At the moment Officer ██████ saw the gun in the suspect's hand, it appeared to be pointed in the direction of Sgt. ██████ whom he believed the suspect was going to shoot. Officer ██████ said he feared for his own life as he believed the suspect intended to shoot him as well. Before Officer ██████ could grab the gun from the suspect, he fired the weapon, an instant after Officer ██████ heard the taser deploy.

Officer ██████ stated that at no time before the suspect fired did he touch the gun, nor did his hand/fingers pass the trigger guard. Officer ██████ estimated that about one minute passed between when the injured female first exited the vehicle to when the suspect discharged the weapon. Officer ██████ also estimated that less than one half a second passed from when he heard the taser deploy to when the suspect fired.

Officer ██████ learned of the suspect's name to be Rayshawn Meeks following the incident. Officer ██████ stated he does not know Meeks and does not think he ever previously encountered him.

After Officer ██████ read his statement in its entirety, SA Butterworth requested that he sign the provided copy. Officer ██████ did so and SA Butterworth secured the signed copy of the statement. In follow up questions for Officer ██████ SA Butterworth asked if he could explain what level 1 retention is in regards to his holster. Officer ██████ explained that the holster does not have any security devices on it. It holds the gun into the holster by friction. The holster is Kydex, which Officer ██████ described as being plastic and molded to fit your weapon and the holster attaches to the belt. Officer ██████ was asked if that means there are no thumb break or strap that holds the gun. Officer ██████ said that was correct. Officer ██████ described level 1 means that it holds the gun in, but no security devices that had to be manipulated to get the gun out of the holster.

SA Butterworth asked Officer ██████ if he had heard or seen what was going on inside the silver car that pulled into the parking spot. Officer ██████ described the vehicle as coming in "hot" or quickly pulling in. Officer ██████ said the way the car parked he noticed it and heard yelling or screaming coming from the car but could not see anything. Due to his assignment and available



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tools etc., he was not going to intervene as he wasn't sure what was going on. He continued to "be people being people" and smoke his cigarette. SA Butterworth asked Officer [REDACTED] after he drew his weapon, and then holstered the weapon, if he recalled removing his firearm from his holster and holstering again. Officer [REDACTED] said he did not recall doing so, and unless it was a subconscious act, he did not recall that.

SA Butterworth asked if Officer [REDACTED] recalled feeling anything around his holster, hip area, if the gun was loose or still in the holster. Officer [REDACTED] said he has been doing "this" for a minute. He believed this to be a terrible situation that is on him because he inadvertently caused it as it was his weapon. Officer [REDACTED] said no, to the question and offered that when they (the group and suspect) went to the ground, it could have come loose. The other scenario that Officer [REDACTED] gave was that when he was in front of the suspect, blocking and striking, the suspect could have grabbed his gun as he (Officer [REDACTED] had his hip toward the suspect. SA Collins followed up with a question about during that time, that Officer [REDACTED] was striking, did he recall seeing his (Meeks) hands. Officer [REDACTED] said his (Meeks) hands were all over the place. At times he was blocking and at times he was punching. SA Collins clarified and asked about his hands going all over the place, as they weren't on the ground, or on his chest etc. Officer [REDACTED] said no, they were all over the place and moving and punching. Officer [REDACTED] said the suspect did not have them clenched to his chest or anything.

SA Butterworth asked how many times Officer [REDACTED] watched the video of the incident. Officer [REDACTED] said he had viewed the video maybe 5, 6, or 7 times and stopped watching it. SA Butterworth asked if Officer [REDACTED] recalled, at the time of taser deployment, making a move to his side or arm movement after the taser was deployed. Officer [REDACTED] said he heard Sgt. [REDACTED] tase him (Meeks) and did not know there was a taser present. Officer [REDACTED] said before the taser popped, he saw the gun, realized it and thought about doing something about him having the gun, started to make the move toward the gun and then heard it go "bang." SA Butterworth asked what his actions were after the gun went off. Officer [REDACTED] stated that he instantly said "fuck" and looked to see if Sgt. [REDACTED] had been hit and said "dude I didn't shoot him" to which Sgt. [REDACTED] replied something to the effect of "I know, he had your gun." Officer [REDACTED] did not recall Sgt. [REDACTED] saying anything else.

SA Butterworth asked Officer [REDACTED] after the gunshot, as he grabbed for the gun, retrieved it and holstered it, and asked where the gun was when he retrieved it. Officer [REDACTED] recalled that the gun was in his right hand and sitting on the "deck" (ground/floor of the garage). SA Butterworth clarified that Officer [REDACTED] grabbed the gun, made it safe and holstered it. Officer [REDACTED] said yes, he engaged the thumb safety and holstered it.



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SA Collins asked Officer [REDACTED] if he recalled seeing Meeks' left hand as the gun was in the right hand. Officer [REDACTED] said he saw a one-handed grip on the weapon and believed it to be in the right hand, pointed up, past his head and face up toward Sgt. [REDACTED]. SA Collins described what Officer [REDACTED] was demonstrating for the recording. SA Collins asked Officer [REDACTED] to clarify where the injuries were after the gunshot. Officer [REDACTED] believed an entrance hole to the left temple or left side of the suspect's head. Officer [REDACTED] had difficulty finding an exit wound, but after rolling the suspect over, believed there to be an exit wound on the right side arching up toward the top. Officer [REDACTED] said it was a head wound and put light pressure on it, while checking for vitals, and they got an ACE wrap out and were going to wrap the head when they were relieved.

SA Collins asked about the level 1 holster and the possibility of the gun falling out. SA Collins talked about describing when going to the ground and Officer [REDACTED] interrupted and said when he was taking the suspect to the ground with Sgt. [REDACTED] he recalled hitting the ground hard. He also recalled not wanting to be on the backside of his legs and hopped over to him to go where his hands were. Officer [REDACTED] said it was a possibility that the gun could come out while hitting the ground or jumping over him. SA Collins asked if Officer [REDACTED] had any incidents using this specific holster where the gun came out. Officer [REDACTED] said he's had the holster for about two months, three months at most on duty. Officer [REDACTED] said he ran with it a few times but no dynamic classes with it. SA Collins stated there's been no issues and Officer [REDACTED] said no. SA Collins asked Officer [REDACTED] how long he has owned the gun and he said late October or early November 2021 and qualified with it a week later.

SA Butterworth asked if Officer [REDACTED] recalled any other conversation between himself, Sgt. [REDACTED] or Detective [REDACTED] during the altercation or after the shot was fired. Officer [REDACTED] recalled only hearing Sgt. [REDACTED] saying "tase him" during the altercation. After the shot fired, Officer [REDACTED] only recalled cussing and saying I didn't shoot him with Sgt. [REDACTED]'s response I know he had your gun. Then after that Officer [REDACTED] said Sgt. [REDACTED] was talking about locking the scene down and trying to contact dispatch and him calling his chief about the incident. Officer [REDACTED] also recalled Sgt. [REDACTED] saying the suspect was still alive and then going to get the medical bag. Officer [REDACTED] said he had conversation later that day where he talked to Sgt. [REDACTED] and apologized to him for putting him in that position as he felt he let him down. SA Butterworth asked Officer [REDACTED] if just prior to the gun going off, if he had touched the gun. Officer [REDACTED] said not to his recollection, he did not, but he was starting to reach for it and wanted to. Officer [REDACTED] said as he realized what was going on, he was thinking about what he needed or wanted to do and get the gun, but couldn't in time.



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SA Collins asked if Officer ██████ could clarify what he meant by letting down Sgt. ██████. Officer ██████ said that as a police officer you don't want your weapon to end up in the hands of a suspect pointing toward another police officer or anyone for that matter. Officer ██████ stated he had been working with them for 20 years and they have close emotional attachments to where he felt like he let him down. Attorney Lipperman interrupted and made the statement that as an officer you could do everything morally, ethically and legally correct but because of the suspect's violent and illegal actions, something tragic still happens. Officer ██████ said yes, and he didn't ask for this to happen, he wasn't trying to lose his gun and was being responsible as he could at the time. It wasn't his intent to get involved in this incident, he was working county special investigations and having a smoke trying to stay in the UC (undercover) role. A female appears bloody and he thought a felony assault happened, he said he can't be the guy that ducks into the corner or calls dispatch for help, he felt he had to help her out.

SA Collins asked Officer ██████ if anyone had talked to him suggesting or influencing him and his statement to misguide or mislead agents. Officer ██████ said no, not whatsoever. SA Butterworth asked Officer ██████ and Attorney Lipperman if they had any questions or concerns and they did not.

The interview concluded at approximately 1434 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and prepared statement 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).

[Redacted]
Printed Name of Interviewee

5.18.2022 13:54
Date / Time

[Redacted]
Signature of Interviewee

SA Jane Butterworth #35
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #35
BCI Agent (Signature)

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

This statement regards my involvement in an incident that occurred on Monday, March 7, 2022, at approximately 9:40 a.m. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

My date of hire with the Clinton Township Police Department (CTPD) is October 2001. Since June of 2019, however, I have been assigned to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) as part of the Franklin County Drug Taskforce. Specifically, I am assigned to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). My regular duty hours in that assignment are 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday off. Prior to joining CTPD, I served in the United States armed forces: From 1987-1993, I served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and from 1993-1994, I served in the U.S. Army.

At the time of this incident, I was wearing plainclothes as part of my undercover assignment. Specifically, I was wearing jeans and a black hoodie with the Ohio NARCO symbol on the left breast. I was not wearing gloves. Before I engaged the suspect, I also quickly put my FCSO lanyard around my neck which identifies me as a law enforcement officer. I was not equipped with any tactical vest carrier.

I was carrying my CTPD-approved Staccato 9mm 2011 handgun, loaded with CTPD-issued Winchester Ranger 147 grain ammunition. That weapon was equipped with a Holosun green-dot sight mounted with manufacturer's hardware. As I was in an undercover assignment at the time of this incident, I was carrying that weapon in a Level 1 retention outside-the-waistband holster on my right hip under my hoodie. I most recently qualified with that weapon in the fall of 2021. I carry that weapon fully loaded, plus one round in the chamber (20+1). I was not carrying

any backup firearm, taser, or mace/pepper spray. I was not equipped with a body worn camera since I am in an undercover assignment.

I was not working with a partner, but FCSO SIU Detective [REDACTED] and Deputy Declan Feery and FCSO SIU Sgt. [REDACTED] were present during this incident. Detective [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] were in plainclothes, but Deputy Feery was wearing the FCSO patrol uniform.

I have good hearing and do not need hearing aids. But I do require prescription eyeglasses, which I was wearing at the time of this incident. I did not consume any alcohol or prescription medication that could affect the performance of my duties in the 48 hours before this incident. I did not work any overtime or special duty on my days off on the Saturday or Sunday before this matter. I arrived at my shift well-rested and in good spirits.

I reported to my office at CTPD around 7:30 a.m. to complete some paperwork. I left and drove to 410 South High Street around 9:00 a.m. I regularly report to that location as part of my Task Force assignment. I parked my CTPD-issued vehicle, a white Infiniti Q50 plain car, on the seventh floor of the East Fulton Street parking garage attached to the 410 building. I and other SIU detectives typically park on that floor since it has easy access to the 410 building.

From about 9:00 a.m. until shortly after 9:30 a.m., I caught up on casework. Around that time, I asked Detective [REDACTED] if she wanted to join me for a brief smoke break. Since it was raining, I told her to meet me near my car on the seventh floor in the parking garage. She said she would meet me in a few minutes. In the meantime, I walked to my car which was parked on the far east wall of the garage, facing east, overlooking Mound Street.

After I got to my car, I lit up a cigarette and stood in front of my vehicle, along the eastern wall of the garage. A few minutes later, Detective [REDACTED] texted me and asked where I

was. As I texted her back, a silver car quickly pulled onto the seventh floor and parked on the other side of the garage, opposite my vehicle and north several parking spots. I could hear yelling coming from inside the car, but I could not hear what was being said. Moments later, a male black got out from the front passenger seat and quickly circled the vehicle. I believe the man was wearing dark colored pants and a dark green jacket. He got to the right rear passenger side of the car, opened that door, and another male black quickly exited the car. To my recollection, the second male was wearing a gray hoodie and dark pants. I would estimate he was approximately 6'2, 200 pounds. The two males then squared up to fight while moving (north) down the garage ramp. Moments later, a female black got out of the car. Her face was severely bloodied, and she was frantically yelling "help! help!" She ran toward me and yelled, "Look what he did to me!" as she motioned to the two men engaged in a fistfight. I lost sight of her a moment later.

I immediately threw on my FCSO ID lanyard, moved down the garage towards the two males and yelled "Police! Stop! Break it up!" Moments later, as I neared the two males, I realized that the female was right behind me and that I was now surrounded by the three individuals. I feared the group could attack me since that is not uncommon when breaking up a fight. I was also concerned for my safety since I was alone, outnumbered, and I was within a few feet of each person. Finally, I did not know whether any of those individuals had a weapon. Given those facts, I believe I unholstered my weapon at that time. I kept the gun in a Sul or low-ready position pointed at the ground and yelled for everyone to get on the ground.

The male wearing the green jacket began backing away compliantly, but the other male looked at me and said, "you don't understand" and/or "no." He also aggressively postured such that he was preparing to engage me in a fight. Since the injured female and the male in the green jacket had backed away compliantly, and the noncompliant male did not have a weapon in either

hand, I believe I holstered my weapon at that time. It was also at that moment Detective [REDACTED] joined me.

A second later, that male quickly advanced and punched the right side of my face. A moment later, I heard Sgt. [REDACTED] yell "tase him!" several times. (Before that, I was unaware Sgt. [REDACTED] had joined me.) I tried to leg sweep the male (now a suspect), but he quickly ducked away. But a second later, I grabbed the suspect and took him to the ground with Sgt. [REDACTED]'s help. The suspect landed in the supine position on, I believe, his left side, and I knelt in front of the suspect near the upper half of his body. Sgt. [REDACTED] knelt behind the suspect, near his upper back and head, but I had lost sight of Detective [REDACTED].

The suspect was thrashing about and trying to strike me. While blocking those attempts with my left arm, I also struck the suspect with a closed (right) fist on his upper torso and shoulder to try stop his attack and secure him. But that was not effective, and the suspect continued resisting. At the same time, Sgt. [REDACTED] tried to secure the suspect's arms from the rear. He was also repeatedly yelling "tase him!" though I did not know who he was talking to. Moments later, while I continued trying to secure the suspect, I saw, for the first time, that the suspect had a handgun in his (I believe) right hand. I instantly recognized that the weapon was mine. The suspect had the weapon pointed upward towards Sgt. [REDACTED], and I believed the suspect intended to shoot him. At that same time, just as I began reaching for the weapon, I also heard a taser deploy, followed immediately by a loud bang. I realized the suspect had fired the weapon, and I yelled, "I did not shoot him!" I also looked to see whether Sgt. [REDACTED] had been struck. Sgt. [REDACTED] did not appear to be shot, and he replied, "I know! He had your gun!"

I quickly grabbed the gun from the suspect's hand, engaged the safety, and holstered the weapon. The suspect had a gunshot wound to his head and appeared lifeless: He was not moving

or saying anything, and he did not appear to be breathing. It was also around that time I noticed that Detective [REDACTED] and Deputy Feery were standing around us. At that time, Sgt. [REDACTED] called dispatch to report the incident. I stood up and also tried calling for assistance, but in that time, Sgt. [REDACTED] relayed that he got through to dispatch. I then called my Chief at CTPD and reported the incident.

After I hung up, Sgt. [REDACTED] checked the suspect and said he was still breathing. I immediately ran to my car, grabbed a medical kit, and gloved up with Detective [REDACTED]. She and I then knelt next to the suspect and checked his injuries. It appeared the round had entered near the left temple, and after rolling the suspect over, it appeared the round had exited the right side of the back of the head. I applied gauze to the wounds to try to control the bleeding. I also checked the suspect's pulse, which was present but faint. The suspect was also taking labored, shallow breaths.

A brief time later, FCSO SIU Sgt. Nate Smith arrived on scene and told me to switch out with another deputy. As other deputies addressed the suspect's injuries, I was taken from the scene to the 410 building with the other involved deputies. I waited there until investigators with BCI arrived to collect evidence. This ended my involvement in this matter.

I am at a loss as to how the suspect gained access to my weapon. I remember reholstering my gun in the moments before the suspect struck me in the face, and I do not recall the suspect grabbing my weapon after I took him to the ground. Nor do I recall the weapon falling from my holster during the physical struggle. Nonetheless, because it is an outside-the-waistband, Level 1 retention holster, it is possible the suspect grabbed the weapon from the holster during the struggle. It is also possible the weapon became dislodged as the suspect thrashed about, and he gained access to it.

Before I engaged the suspect, I observed a badly injured female that was severely bleeding from her head and/or face. She was pleading with me for help and indicated one of the men had caused her injuries. Based on her statements and my observations, I believed a serious, violent crime had occurred. I approached the two males as they fought and identified myself as a police officer several times. I also displayed my FCSO lanyard which identifies me as a police officer.

Though the female and other male complied with my commands, the suspect instead attacked me, unprovoked. Then he continued trying to strike me after I took him to the ground as he kept resisting arrest. At the moment I saw the gun in the suspect's hand, it appeared to be pointed in the direction of Sgt. [REDACTED]. I believed he intended to shoot Sgt. [REDACTED]. I also feared for my own life as I believed the suspect intended to shoot me as well. Before I could grab the gun from the suspect, however, he fired the weapon, an instant after I heard the taser deploy. At no time before the suspect fired did I touch the gun, nor did my hand/fingers pass the trigger guard. I would estimate that about one minute passed between when the injured female first exited the vehicle to when the suspect discharged the weapon. I would also estimate that less than one half a second passed from when I heard the taser deploy to when the suspect fired.

Following this incident, I learned the suspect's name is Rayshawn Meeks. I do not know Mr. Meeks, and I do not think I have ever previously encountered him. I also had the opportunity to review the footage of the incident captured from a surveillance camera in the garage. The footage shows that Detective [REDACTED] approached the compliant male and female in the second or so before the suspect struck me. She then assisted in trying to secure the suspect before he fired the weapon. The footage also shows that Deputy Feery arrived before the suspect was taken to

the ground. At the time, I was not aware that Deputy Feery had arrived before the suspect fired the weapon.

This concludes my statement.

[REDACTED]

Detective [REDACTED] Badge No. [REDACTED]