



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: Telephone Interview
Involves: Abdikafi Ali (W)
Date of Activity: 06/12/2024
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On June 12, 2024 at approximately 1206 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Abdikafi Ali (Ali) via telephone. The interview was conducted in order to obtain information from Ali as a potential witness to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on the night of June 10, 2024.

On June 11, 2024, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to respond to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) near 4500 Sullivant Avenue in Columbus, OH. It was initially reported shots were fired by multiple officers from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) during an encounter with an individual believed to be in possession of an edged weapon at this location. The involved individual, later identified as Noel Hernandez Cortaza (Cortaza), was transported to Doctors West Hospital with alleged multiple gunshot wounds, where he was pronounced deceased.

The interview with Ali was digitally recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the actual recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Ali confirmed he was at the Hadhwanag Restaurant (Hadhwanag) on June 10, 2024, during a law enforcement encounter between CPD officers and Cortaza on Sullivant Avenue. Ali explained he was in the restaurant parking lot talking to friends at the time of the encounter. Ali added he did not have his eyeglasses on during the incident and was unable to see some of what happened.

Ali explained Cortaza stopped his vehicle close to railroad tracks on Sullivant Avenue. Ali was unable to provide a description of Cortaza's vehicle, but described it as a "small vehicle". Ali could hear police sirens and CPD officers giving verbal commands to Cortaza. Ali recalled hearing police saying "Stop stop stop" to Cortaza and giving him numerous commands to stop and surrender to police. "He did not cooperate," Ali stated. Ali remembered at one point Cortaza tried to walk or run in the opposite direction, away from police. Ali was unsure how fast

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
06/28/2024

Cortaza was moving. Ali then observed Cortaza turn around and move towards CPD officers who continued to give Cortaza commands to stop. Ali stated police were telling Cortaza "loud and clear" to stop and Ali believed there was no question of what CPD was telling Cortaza to do. Ali could not tell if Cortaza had a weapon or any type of object in his hands.

Ali confirmed hearing multiple gunshots. Ali was unsure how many shots he had heard, but stated, "It was a lot." Ali was uncertain if it sounded like more than one gun was being fired. Ali explained after hearing gunshots he "freaked out" and immediately left the area. Ali reported he drove straight home when he left the area of the OICI. Ali said police were starting to put up tape to create a perimeter when he left the scene. "It all happened so fast," Ali stated.

Ali was unsure exactly what time the incident occurred but believed it was some time after 2200 hours or 2300 hours on June 10, 2024. Ali denied video recording any of the incident on his cell phone. Ali did believe others in the parking lot may have recorded the incident on their phones, but Ali did not know any of these individuals by name. Ali stated there were "a lot of people" in the restaurant parking lot when the OICI occurred.

Interview concluded at approximately 1221 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-06-12 Abdikafi Ali Phone Interview Audio