



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



2022-0407
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1783 Penfield Rd, Columbus
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: JaJuan Ball (S)
Date of Activity: 02/24/2022
Activity Location: – 1783 Penfield Rd, Columbus, OH 43227, Franklin County
Author: SA Shane R. Hanshaw, #102

Narrative:

On Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 0745 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Shane Hanshaw (SA Hanshaw) interviewed Columbus Police Officer Sergeant (Sgt.) Franklin Lucci (Sgt. Lucci), relative to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving Jajuan Ball (Ball) that occurred on Thursday, February 24, 2022. The interview took place in SA Hanshaw's vehicle located near the scene at 1783 Penfield Road in Columbus Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred on this date involving the Columbus Police Department (CPD) and Jajuan Ball.

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 obtained 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.

Sgt. Lucci is a certified peace officer and has been employed at CPD since December of 2011. Sgt. Lucci started his normal duty schedule at 2300 hours on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, and was working his normal duty hours at the time of the incident. At the time of the incident, Sgt. Lucci was assigned to Precinct 13, Company C. Sgt. Lucci's car number and call sign is S-13 and his badge number is 5162. Sgt. Lucci was not directly involved at the scene, but did arrive after the vehicle crash occurred.

At the onset of the interview, Sgt. Lucci said he was in the area of substation nine (9) when he heard a dispatch call indicating that an unknown caller reported a pregnant female was screaming for police officers. The caller indicated the female was bleeding from the face. It was also reported that the suspect beat the female, stole her car, and a weapon was involved.

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Sgt. Lucci said officers responded to the area and car 91, Officer Christopher Choy (Choy), communicated that he was at the scene located near Scottwood Road and Barnett Road, with the victim. Officer Choy reported that the victim said the suspect left the area in a silver Ford sedan. Car [REDACTED], operated by Officer [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), responded to the area and observed a car matching the description leaving the area. Officer [REDACTED] located and followed the described vehicle, aired the license plate, and advised that he was going to wait for another CPD car to assist. Car number [REDACTED], operated by Officer [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) was able to get behind Officer [REDACTED] before an attempt to stop the vehicle was made. When Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver of the silver Ford fled and officers pursued the vehicle. Car [REDACTED], occupied by Officer [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and Officer [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) were also present in the area during the pursuit.

Sgt. Lucci said CPD pursuit policy states that if anyone is threatened or serious physical harm has occurred, pursuit is permitted. Sgt. Lucci said at the current time, they knew the female had been assaulted, was bleeding from the face, a weapon was supposed to have been in play, and the victim had been robbed of her vehicle. Sgt. Lucci stated as the events were occurring he was listening to the radio from substation nine. After the events began to unfold, Sgt. Lucci began to travel toward the location of the events.

While traveling toward the incident location, Sgt. Lucci said he asked Officer Choy to continue to obtain information in order to determine if it would continue to fit the CPD pursuit policy. Sgt. Lucci said as Officer Choy gathered additional information from the victim, Officer Choy said the victim stated there was no serious physical harm, the car was not stolen, and there was no weapon mentioned. Sgt. Lucci said at that point, he advised his officers to terminate the pursuit and they acknowledged that they copied and shut their beacons off. Sgt. Lucci said at the time of the pursuit, three CPD cars, containing four officers were involved in the pursuit and terminated the pursuit. Sgt. Lucci said the officers stated they had lost the vehicle in the area of Penfield Road and Niagara Road and they were unsure of a direction of travel.

Sgt. Lucci said as the officers were checking the area, one of the officers found the vehicle at 1783 Penfield Road and advised the car was on fire and had struck a house. At that time, they began to receive calls stating there was an accident.

When asked about the time between when the pursuit was terminated and when officers located the vehicle, Sgt. Lucci said he thought it was a couple of minutes. Sgt. Lucci said when he arrived at the crash site, the vehicle that had crashed did not have its lights on. Sgt. Lucci said the car was on fire and he did not know if the lights were off because of the fire; however, this would make it hard for his officers to see the vehicle if the lights were not on.

Sgt. Lucci said after his officers found the vehicle, they discovered the male had been ejected from the vehicle. The officers then began first aid and asked that a medic respond to the scene. Sgt. Lucci said he continued toward the scene.

After arriving at the scene, Sgt. Lucci said he had no contact with any of the neighbors. He did indicate that some of the officers had talked to residents in the neighborhood but no one indicated they had seen the crash.

On Thursday, February 24, 2022, at approximately 0758 hours, SA Hanshaw concluded the

recorded interview with CPD Sgt. Lucci.

The audio recording of the interview with Sgt. Lucci is attached to this report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Recorded Interview Sgt. Franklin Lucci