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

2022-1782
Officer Involved Critical Incident -3295 Sullivant Avenue, Apt. H, Columbus OH 43204 (L)

Investigative Activity:	Interview with Officer
Involves:	Sgt. Chance Knox (W)
Date of Activity:	08/30/2022
Activity Location:	Scene - 3295 Sullivant Ave., Columbus, OH 43204, Franklin County
Author:	SA Todd Fortner, #93

Narrative:

On August 30, 2022, BCI was requested by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident at 3295 Sullivant Avenue, Apartment H, in Columbus. CPD officers were at the apartment attempting to serve an arrest warrant on the resident of apartment H, Donovan Lewis (Lewis). During the incident, an officer fired a single shot, striking Lewis. Lewis was transported to the hospital where he died.

At 0638 hours, Special Agent Todd Fortner (SA Fortner), interviewed CPD Sergeant Chance Knox (Sgt. Knox) in his bureau issued vehicle. Also present for the interview was Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Nicole Wannemacher. Following is a summary of the interview. The interview was audio recorded and the recording is attached to this report. The audio should be referred to for further details.

Sgt. Knox stated he, Officer Harry Dorsey (Ofc. Dorsey), Officer Jack Randall (Ofc. Randall) and Officer Justin Dodrill (Ofc. Dodrill) were attempting to locate Lewis on a domestic violence warrant as well as a felony warrant for weapons under disability. Sgt. Knox said there was a discrepancy about the apartment but they verified that the domestic violence warrant listed apartment H.

Sgt. Knox said he knocked on the door to apartment H but received no answer. He said the lights were on and he could hear a male voice inside. Sgt. Knox stated Ofc. Dorsey called the female victim listed on the domestic violence report but she claimed to not live there anymore. Sgt. Knox continued knocking and announced they were Columbus Police and they had a warrant for Lewis. He said he then told the occupants they were going to force entry if they didn't come to the door. The occupants opened the door and officers detained two male subjects who came out of the apartment. He said one of the males had a steak knife in his waistband. They determined that neither subject was Lewis.

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A canine officer was requested to help clear the residence and Officer Ricky Anderson (Ofc. Anderson) arrived with his canine partner. Sgt. Knox said further commands were given but no one responded. Ofc. Anderson deployed his canine and Sgt. Knox heard a male voice in the bedroom then heard a door slam. Sgt. Knox said he and Ofc. Anderson approached the bedroom door, shoulder to shoulder, and Ofc. Anderson opened the door. Sgt. Knox said he saw Lewis on the bed but could not see his hands at first and Sgt. Knox continued to give commands. Sgt. Knox said Lewis made a, "Quick, aggressive movement from the bed when we opened the door." Sgt. Knox said he then heard one gunshot. He stated Lewis had a black object in his right hand but then clarified that he did not see the object until after he heard the shot.

Sgt. Knox said they entered the bedroom and handcuffed Lewis. He said Lewis was bleeding from the abdomen and Ofc. Dorsey called for a medic. Sgt. Knox said they began rendering aid and he decided that they would carry Lewis down to the parking lot to expedite medical aid. He said a group of officers were rendering aid and placed a seal over the bleeding wound. Medics then arrived and transported Lewis to the hospital.

Sgt. Knox said several seconds elapsed from the time Ofc. Anderson opened the door until he heard the shot. However, he would later say it, "happened very quick." SA Fortner asked if Sgt. Knox was in fear for his life, he paused for several seconds then explained that the warrant was for an offense of violence and weapons, eventually saying that he was afraid.

The interview was concluded at 0651 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Sgt Chance Knox

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