



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:** Initial Briefing  
**Date of Activity:** 06/11/2024  
**Activity Location:** – 4500 Block of Sullivant, Columbus, OH 43229  
**Author:** SA Matthew Collins, #151

**Narrative:**

On June 11, 2024 at 0056 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Matt Collins (SA Collins) received a call from Crime Scene Supervisor Josh Durst. SAS Durst advised the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) had an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred in the area of Sullivant Avenue and Industrial Mile Road. SA Collins was told there were five (5) “involved officers” who had discharged their firearms or otherwise used force. SA Collins was told CPD had originally responded to a report of a subject with a knife at the Turkey Hill on Georgesville Road.

SA Collins was the “Lead” investigator from the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), based on a previously established rotation. SA Collins understood SA Kyle Douglass and SA Chad Holcomb from SIU, were also responding. As well as members of the Crime Scene Unit (CSU), SA Aja Chung, Crime Scene Technicians (CST) Amy Gill and Holly Ryczek.

While en route SA Collins learned there was a civilian female witness who was pregnant. SA Holcomb was asked to interview this witness promptly due to her medical condition. See respective IR for further.

When SA Collins arrived, the scene was taped off with yellow crime scene tape as well as red crime scene tape. CPD established a command post in a parking lot, east of the shooting scene. SA Collins understood the five involved officers were at a police substation in the area. The officers were identified as; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was said to have been a witness officer or was otherwise present during the shooting incident. SA Collins was told there were two rifles utilized as well as two handguns. CSU members responded to the substation in order to process the officers and their weapons.

The involved subject was identified by CPD as the owner of the vehicle involved, a 2002 green Honda Accord (Ohio Registration#JFX8729). The subject was identified as Noel Hernandez Cortaza (Cortaza). Post incident, Cortaza was transported to Doctors West Hospital by Franklin

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Township Squad #192. SA Collins was advised Cortaza was pronounced dead at 2349 hours.

SA Collins was briefed on the incident. He was told CPD responded to multiple 911 calls at the Turkey Hill gas station on Georgesville Road. Officers were pointed into the direction of where Cortaza was last seen heading. Officers encountered Cortaza as he exited his parked car, which was in the middle of the roadway, with traffic passing by in both directions. Cortaza got back into his vehicle and traveled at a slow rate of speed. It was believed he may have exited his vehicle again after stopping in the middle of the roadway, before again getting back in and continuing to travel at a slow rate of speed. Cortaza is believed to have gotten out of his vehicle a third time. Now, in the area of the Sullivant and Industrial Mile intersection. There CPD encountered Cortaza and a taser was deployed (x2) before officers discharged their firearms.

SA Collins was told Cortaza was in possession of some type of edged weapon or object with a point. The object was further described to SA Collins as a decorative key-holder one would mount onto a wall at home, to store their keys. It was said to have been broken and had screws sticking out of it (like it was mounted to a wall) and had drywall dust still attached. SA Collins attempting to understand who Cortaza was and where he was from, inquired of Cortaza's address. SA Collins was told Cortaza lived at 1717 Pheasant Run Rd. and that it was not too far from the shooting location. SA Collins asked if there was any call history at Cortaza's address. SA Collins was told there was a [REDACTED] SA Collins suggested a welfare check be done given the call history and the object Cortaza possessing seemingly being pulled from the wall.

SA Collins and Sgt. McConnell discussed conducting the next of kin notification. It was determined, having no additional information on Cortaza, officers/agents would go to Cortaza's apartment on Pheasant Run Road east. It was also established an interpreter may be necessary due to the previous call history at that address indicated a language barrier.

In the early morning hours of June 11<sup>th</sup>, SA Collins, Sgt. McConnell and Det. Miguel Alvarado-Colon arrived at 1717 Pheasant Run Rd. in order to conduct a next of kin notification or obtain additional information. The apartments were connected, two-story units with exterior front and back doors. When they arrived, SA Collins witnessed the door to the apartment standing wide open. A female was walking in the parking towards a car parked near the open door. SA Collins asked Det. Miguel Alvarado-Colon if it was possible she just walked out of that apartment or not. Det. Miguel Alvarado-Colon made contact with the female and she stated there was a male who lived at 1717 by himself and she had not seen him since yesterday.

With the front door standing open and a cell phone lying on the ground in front of the door, CPD officers cleared the apartment to ensure there was no persons in need of medical help. Sgt. McConnell advised they were going to be obtaining a search warrant to apartment and would include the phone. Officers spoke with another neighbor who was standing by. The male advised that there were police officers at the residence the night before. Not knowing this information prior, CPD looked into their call history further.

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It was learned there were two officers dispatched to the area of 1745 Pheasant Run Rd. for a report of a subject with [REDACTED]. Sgt. McConnell advised he would get SA Collins a copy of that report or run sheet.

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