



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



2023-2232

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5991 S Sunbury Rd, Westerville
OH 43081

Investigative Activity: Records Received
Involves: Ofc. Connor Grubb (S)
Date of Activity: 10/24/2023
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On October 24, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) received the official written statement of Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) Officer Connor Grubb (Ofc. Grubb) from Kaitlyn Stephens (Stephens), legal representative of Ofc. Grubb. This statement was provided voluntarily by Ofc. Grubb, who was involved in an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH, on August 24, 2023.

On August 24, 2023, BCI was notified by BTPD of an OICI which occurred in the Kroger parking lot located at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH. An unidentified female, who was later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young), was confronted by BTPD officers regarding an accusation of theft from Kroger. During the encounter, Young reportedly attempted to flee the scene and struck Ofc. Grubb with her vehicle, and Ofc. Grubb discharged his firearm in response. Young was transported to Mount Carmel St. Ann's medical center with alleged gunshot wounds, where she was later pronounced deceased.

In his official written statement given to BCI, Ofc. Grubb wrote, "Immediately before this incident, I was in the Kroger parking lot which is located in a shopping plaza at 5991 Sunbury Road. I was assisting a civilian who had locked her keys in her car. The locked car was parked right next to (east of) the handicapped space and was parked facing south. I had been attempting to get the car unlocked for probably 4-5 minutes when Sergeant Moynihan pulled up."

Ofc. Grubb continued, "I was in the process of inflating the air wedge to try and open the door when I saw Sergeant Moynihan walk south. A second or two later I heard Sergeant Moynihan say out of the car or get out of the car. I saw him standing at the driver's side of a black sedan that was backed into a handicapped parking spot that was south and west (diagonal) of the car I was attempting to unlock. He was hitting the driver's side window while telling the driver to get out of the car. I walked over to assist Sergeant Moynihan and I heard him tell the suspect that they said she stole something and to get out of the car. She was not complying. There was

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
11/17/2023

a car parked to the east of the black sedan. I walked between the cars and behind Sergeant Moynihan. Since he was already positioned on the driver's side, I took a position at the front of the stationary black sedan. On the west side of the black sedan there were several shopping carts and a White female was standing there. There was a Black female in the driver's seat who Sergeant Moynihan was continuing to order out of the car but she was refusing. She was saying something to Sergeant Moynihan but I could not hear exactly what she was saying. However, based on her refusal to exit the vehicle and the infliction in her voice, I believed she was arguing with him."

Ofc. Grubb continued, "After Sergeant Moynihan told her multiple times to get out of the car, I drew my weapon and ordered her to get out of the car. She did not and I again told her to get out of the car. Instead of complying, she accelerated the car towards me. I tried to move to my right (east) to avoid being struck but the front bumper of the car hit my legs/shins. When it hit me, I leaned forward and placed my left hand on the hood of the car to brace myself in an effort to not fall to the ground and be run over. Suddenly, my feet were completely off the ground and my waist was on the hood of the car and my body was being carried by the car as she continued accelerating. It was at that moment that I fired one round through the windshield. I immediately noticed the car was turning to the right (west) and seemed to slow down. I slid off the driver's side front corner of the car and got my feet back onto the ground. The car continued west towards the Kroger. It veered south, along the Kroger, and then up onto the sidewalk perimeter of the shopping plaza. The car was not moving very fast and I ran up to the driver's side, while firing shots. As soon as I reached the car, I tried to open the driver's side door but it was locked. The car kept moving until it hit the exterior brick wall of Kroger and stopped. Sergeant Moynihan attempted to break the driver's side window but was unsuccessful. I struck the window with the end of my flashlight and I unlocked the driver's side door. I opened the door and the suspect did not appear to be moving. I could not reach her because there was a pillar next to the opened door. I walked around the pillar and tried to get her out of the car. However, her foot was still on the gas pedal and as I attempted to get her out, the car started moving forward again and I fell to the ground. The car kept moving south and the suspect fell out of the car onto the sidewalk. Sergeant Moynihan and I secured the suspect and I aired to make sure medics were being dispatched. I saw the suspect was bleeding and I ran to my cruiser to retrieve my trauma bag. I placed a seal on the bullet entrance wound which was in her chest. Sergeant Moynihan and I rolled her over to check for an exit wound but could not find one. A male approached us and stated he was an ER doctor. We told him we were trying to get her stable and that we had placed a chest seal and Sergeant Moynihan held pressure on the wound. Additional officers arrived and began securing the scene."

Ofc. Grubb also wrote in his statement, "I initially drew my weapon to provide lethal cover as the suspect was not complying with Sgt. Moynihan's repeated orders and I did not know if she had access to any weapons in the vehicle. I fired one round at the suspect. I believe I was approximately 5-8 feet from the suspect at the time I fired my weapon. I fired from a position on the hood of the suspect's car, specifically with my waist and left hand on the hood of the suspect's car and my feet off the ground, while the vehicle was moving. I fired with a right strong-hand grip and I do not believe I used my sights. The direction of my shot was north at a slightly downward angle because I was on the hood of the car. My backdrop was the interior of the suspect's car. My target was the suspect's center mass. I only fired one shot because I was no longer on the hood of the car."

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Ofc. Grubb explained in his statement, "At the time I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life, as the suspect had just struck me with her vehicle—my feet were no longer on the ground and the top half of my body was on the hood of her car. Immediately before I fired, the suspect had ignored repeated commands to get out of the car and instead of complying, accelerated her vehicle directly at me and struck me. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life from the suspect's actions. Once I realized the car was accelerating, I tried to get out of the way but the suspect's vehicle struck my legs/shin and lifted my feet off the ground and the suspect was trying to flee with me being carried on the hood of her car. I did have a taser but a taser would not have been effective because it would not have penetrated the windshield. I fired my weapon because I believed that I was going to be seriously injured or killed by being thrown from the vehicle and/or run over."

Several follow-up questions were asked by BCI regarding Ofc. Grubb's involvement in this incident. As of 11/17/2023, answers to those questions have not been provided by Ofc. Grubb or his legal representation.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Official Written Statement – Ofc. Connor Grubb

STATEMENT OF OFFICER CONNOR GRUBB, BADGE NO.292

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Thursday, August 24, 2023, between approximately 6:20 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. in Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) into this matter.

My date of hire as a full-time police officer with the Blendon Township Police Department is Feb 21, 2019, prior to that I had been a part-time officer with Blendon Township PD since January 2019. My regular assignment is [REDACTED] My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] My regular days off are [REDACTED] I earned my Ohio Peace Officer Training certification from the Delaware Area Career Center in November 2018. I do not have any law enforcement experience prior to joining Blendon Township PD. I do not have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy.

I served in the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On the day of this incident, I was wearing my standard Blendon Township PD uniform consisting of a black short sleeved shirt with Blendon Township Police patches on both shoulders and olive green BDU (Battle Dress Uniform) pants. I was also wearing an external carrier that said POLICE on the front and my badge was attached to it. I had my body worn camera (BWC) mounted on the outside of my vest carrier and it was activated during this incident. I was carrying my township-issued Glock 17 9mm service weapon which was loaded with township-issued ammunition. I am current in my range qualifications with this weapon. I was not carrying a backup firearm. I was not working with a partner. I was in cruiser 9.

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my uncorrected vision is good. I do not wear hearing aids and my hearing is good. I do not suffer from any disabilities. I was not taking any medication, prescription or over the counter, that could impact the performance of my duties. I had not consumed any alcohol in the 24-hours before this incident. I had not worked any special duty or overtime in the 24-hours prior to this incident. I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

Immediately before this incident, I was in the Kroger parking lot which is located in a shopping plaza at 5991 Sunbury Road. I was assisting a civilian who had locked her keys in her car. The locked car was parked right next to (east of) the handicapped space and was parked facing south. I had been attempting to get the car unlocked for probably 4-5 minutes when Sergeant Moynihan pulled up. He had also been in the parking lot taking a report on a hit-skip accident. Sergeant Moynihan offered to assist in trying to get the civilian's vehicle unlocked. While I was attempting to get the front driver's side door unlocked, Sergeant Moynihan attempted to put his hand down the rear passenger's side window because the window was opened a few inches.

I was in the process of inflating the air wedge to try and open the door when I saw Sergeant Moynihan walk south. A second or two later I heard Sergeant Moynihan say out of the car or get out of the car. I saw him standing at the driver's side of a black sedan that was backed into a handicapped parking spot that was south and west (diagonal) of the car I was attempting to unlock. He was hitting the driver's side window while telling the driver to get out of the car. I walked over to assist Sergeant Moynihan and I heard him tell the suspect that they said she stole something and to get out of the car. She was not complying.

There was a car parked to the east of the black sedan. I walked between the cars and behind Sergeant Moynihan. Since he was already positioned on the driver's side, I took a position at the front of the stationary black sedan. On the west side of the black sedan there were several shopping carts and a white female was standing there. There was a black female in the driver's seat who Sergeant Moynihan was continuing to order out of the car but she was refusing. She was saying something to Sergeant Moynihan but I could not hear exactly what she was saying. However, based on her refusal to exit the vehicle and the inflection in her voice, I believed she was arguing with him.

After Sergeant Moynihan told her multiple times to get out of the car, I drew my weapon and ordered her to get out of the car. She did not and I again told her to get out of the car. Instead of complying, she accelerated the car towards me. I tried to move to my right (east) to avoid being struck but the front bumper of the car hit my legs/shins. When it hit me, I leaned forward and placed my left hand on the hood of the car to brace myself in an effort to not fall to the ground and be run over. Suddenly, my feet were completely off the ground and my waist was on the hood of the car and my body was being carried by the car as she continued accelerating. It was at that moment that I fired one round through the windshield. I immediately noticed the car was turning to the right (west) and seemed to slow down. I slid off the driver's side front corner of the car and got my feet back onto the ground. The car continued west towards the Kroger. It veered south, along the Kroger, and then up onto the sidewalk perimeter of the shopping plaza. The car was not moving very fast and I ran up to the driver's side, while airing shots fired. As soon as I reached the car, I tried to open the driver's side door but it was locked. The car kept moving until it hit the exterior brick wall of Kroger and stopped.

Sergeant Moynihan attempted to break the driver's side window but was unsuccessful. I struck the window with the end of my flashlight and I unlocked the driver's side door. I opened the door and the suspect did not appear to be moving. I could not reach her because there was a pillar next to the opened door. I walked around the pillar and tried to get her out of the car. However, her foot was still on the gas pedal and as I attempted to get her out, the car started moving forward again and I fell to the ground. The car kept moving south and the suspect fell out of the car onto the sidewalk.

Sergeant Moynihan and I secured the suspect and I aired to make sure medics were being dispatched. I saw the suspect was bleeding and I ran to my cruiser to retrieve my trauma bag. I placed a seal on the bullet entrance wound which was in her chest. Sergeant Moynihan and I rolled her over to check for an exit wound but could not find one. A male approached us and stated he was an ER doctor. We told him we were trying to get her stable and that we had placed a chest seal and Sergeant Moynihan held pressure on the wound. Additional officers arrived and began securing the scene.

Officer Support arrived and I returned to the Blendon Township Police Department. I waited there until BCI agents collected my weapon and photographed me. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I initially drew my weapon to provide lethal cover as the suspect was not complying with Sgt. Moynihan's repeated orders and I did not know if she had access to any weapons in the vehicle. I fired one round at the suspect. I believe I was approximately 5-8 feet from the suspect at the time I fired my weapon. I fired from a position on the hood of the suspect's car, specifically with my waist and left hand on the hood of the suspect's car and my feet off the ground, while the vehicle was moving. I fired with a right strong-hand grip and I do not believe

I used my sights. The direction of my shot was north at a slightly downward angle because I was on the hood of the car. My backdrop was the interior of the suspect's car. My target was the suspect's center mass. I only fired one shot because I was no longer on the hood of the car.

At the time I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life, as the suspect had just struck me with her vehicle—my feet were no longer on the ground and the top half of my body was on the hood of her car. Immediately before I fired, the suspect had ignored repeated commands to get out of the car and instead of complying, accelerated her vehicle directly at me and struck me. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life from the suspect's actions. Once I realized the car was accelerating, I tried to get out of the way but the suspect's vehicle struck my legs/shin and lifted my feet off the ground and the suspect was trying to flee with me being carried on the hood of her car. I did have a taser but a taser would not have been effective because it would not have penetrated the windshield. I fired my weapon because I believed that I was going to be seriously injured or killed by being thrown from the vehicle and/or run over.

I have now had an opportunity to review the body worn camera footage of this incident, on the footage I am able to hear what she was saying to Sergeant Moynihan but during the incident I knew she was saying something to him but did not know exactly what she was saying. I also know now that the white female I saw standing on the passenger side of the suspect's car was the clerk who alerted Sergeant Moynihan to the theft. On the footage, it also appears that the suspect's tires squealed just before she struck me but I do not specifically recall if I heard this during the incident.

I now know the suspect's name is Ta'Kiya Young. I did not recognize her and I do not believe I have ever had any prior encounters, professional or personal, with her.

This concludes my statement.

 #292

Officer Connor Grubb Badge #292