



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



2024-2718

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 248 E. 11th Avenue,
Columbus, OH 43201 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 10/14/2024
Activity Location: Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton and Lipperman –
Business – 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220
Author: SA James H Gore, #168

Narrative:

On the morning of September 10, 2024 at approximately 0130 hours, Lamine Mahmoudi (Mahmoudi), of 235 Chittenden Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, confronted officers from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) while armed with a meat cleaver and butcher knife. The incident took place in the rear parking lot of the CPD Precinct 4 substation. Mahmoudi was fatally wounded during the encounter. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by CPD to handle the Officer-Involved Critical Incident investigation. The six involved officers were identified as:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

On the afternoon October 14, 2024, BCI Special Agents (SA) James Gore and Kyle Douglass interviewed [REDACTED] at the Law Offices of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman. The purpose of the interview was to obtain [REDACTED] account of the critical incident. [REDACTED] was accompanied by legal counsel from the Fraternal Order of Police, attorney Nicole Wannemacher.

Before beginning the interview, SA Gore read and presented a "Criminal Investigation Notification" form to [REDACTED]. The form advised [REDACTED] of his rights, and it also advised that the investigation was not administrative in nature. [REDACTED] acknowledged his rights and he signed the form.

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Attorney Wannemacher presented a printed statement from [REDACTED] which summarized his involvement in the critical incident. SA Gore requested that [REDACTED] read his statement out loud, so that it could refresh his memory of the event. After reading, [REDACTED] signed his statement, and he agreed that it was an accurate representation of what he recalled of the incident.

[REDACTED] wrote in his statement that he became aware of an incident the prior shift handled involving Lamine Mahmoudi:

"At the start of the shift, during roll call which was approximately 3.5 hours prior to the incident, Sgt. Van Dusen told us that B company (2nd shift) officers had been called to a residence close to the substation (235 Chittenden) on reports of an individual who was making threats and had a knife. MCR (Mobile Crisis Response) Unit (specially trained officers and mental health professionals) had responded. They did not make an arrest and I believe that the individual, who was named Lamine Mahmoudi, refused to come out and there was no one else at the residence, so they left. We were told to be on alert since it was close to the substation and the substation parking lot is not secure.

Following roll call, I was assigned to guard duty. I was on guard duty until approximately 12:30 a.m. While I was at guard duty, I heard officers were dispatched to 235 Chittenden. From the radio traffic, it sounded similar to the prior call for service in that there was a suspect with a knife and he was refusing to come out. I believe MCR again responded and after about 45 minutes officers left the residence and the suspect was not transported. Once I completed guard duty, I returned to the 4-precinct substation."

[REDACTED] explained that guard duty is a task in which officers have to monitor suspects who are being treated at a hospital. The suspects have pending charges or warrants for their arrests. In this instance, [REDACTED] guard duty shift was unrelated to the matter involving Lamine Mahmoudi.

[REDACTED] statement continued:

"I backed my cruiser into spot [REDACTED]. The front of my cruiser was facing the alley. I talked to a couple of officers regarding the run. They pointed out the duplex that he lived in and that he had also been getting into a red Hyundai driving around. As I was sitting in my cruiser, I saw a male walking east in the alley. Sgt. Van Dusen had shown us an OLEG (sp) [OHLEG; Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway database] photo of the suspect at roll call and I thought the male in the alley looked like him. The window to my cruiser was down and I asked [REDACTED], who was in the cruiser next to me, if that was the guy. [REDACTED] got out of his cruiser and so did I.

Initially, I did not see anything in the suspect's hand. [REDACTED] walked north in the parking lot and was close to the alley. I had started walking north, when I heard someone, I believe [REDACTED], radio that he was in the alley and had a 33A (knife) in his hand. Other officers, who were either in the substation or in their cruisers, were now in the parking lot forming a half-circle along the south side of the parking lot. I unholstered my weapon and had it in the "low-ready" position. I walked back (south) to create more of a reactionary gap. It was dark outside but there are lights in the parking

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lot. Once the suspect walked east passed the police wagon, which was parked in the far northwest corner of the substation parking lot, I saw that he had 2 knives– one in each hand. I believe one was a large butcher knife and the other knife had a large square blade, like a meat cleaver."

██████████ explained that the "low ready" position mentioned in his statement is a condition in which a drawn handgun is pointed downward, held around the officer's waistline. ██████████ also explained that the "reactionary gap" that he mentioned is a principle whereby increased space between officers and subjects affords officers more time to respond to a subject's actions.

██████████ further wrote:

"I was at the far east end of the line/semi-circle and ██████████ was north of me. Officers were yelling at the suspect to put the knife down. He continued walking east in the parking lot. Once he was about 30–40 feet east of the police wagon, he stopped and looked at us. I believe I raised my firearm up into the "high-ready." He drew back his right arm and pumped it forward, like he was going to throw the knife at us. Someone, I am not sure who, yelled at him not to throw the knife. The suspect stopped for a second or two and then began advancing southeast towards the northern edge of the parking lot.

He was closing the distance between himself and ██████████, who was several feet northeast of me. The suspect stepped up into the parking lot with his body bladed towards ██████████. He moved his right arm back and I believed he was going to attack ██████████. It is at that moment that I discharged my weapon. I also heard other officers simultaneously firing their weapons. The suspect fell to the ground."

██████████ reported that after Mahmoudi was secured, officers began to render first aid to him. ██████████ said he assisted with securing the scene by blocking the alley and putting up crime scene tape. ██████████ said he later reported to the Columbus Police Training Academy, where he met with BCI agents who photographed him and collected his weapon.

██████████ said he believed he fired three rounds, and this was confirmed with a round count when his weapon was collected by a BCI agent. ██████████ estimated that he was approximately twenty feet from the suspect when he fired.

██████████ stated that he was familiar with a recent incident in which three SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) officers were severely injured by a suspect who threw knives at them. ██████████ opined that given the similar threat that Mahmoudi posed to officers, his reaction to the threat was consistent with his training.

Copies of the Criminal Investigation Notification form, ██████████ written statement, and audio-recorded interview are available for further review as attachments to this report.

References:

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No references

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Criminal Investigation Notification CPD [REDACTED] 10-14-2024

Attachment # 02: CPD [REDACTED] written statement 10-14-2024

Attachment # 03: 10-14-2024 CPD [REDACTED] Interview – SA Gore, SA Douglass

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of Interviewee

10/14/24 1:55 P.M.
Date / Time

[Redacted]

James Gors 160

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

Mike Wannenmacher

STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is regarding my involvement in an incident that occurred on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, between approximately 1:30 a.m. and 1:35 a.m. in Columbus, 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 with the Columbus Division of Police (CPD or the Division) is [REDACTED]. My regular assignment is [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] until [REDACTED]. My regular days off are [REDACTED]. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I do not have any military experience. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Exercise Science from The Ohio State University. I do not currently have any uses of force that have been found outside of policy.

I was wearing the standard CPD patrol uniform consisting of navy pants and short sleeved shirt that displayed my badge and has CPD patches on both shoulders. I was also wearing an external ballistic vest. I had my body worn camera (BWC) mounted on the outside of my vest and it was activated during this incident. I was carrying my division-issued Smith & Wesson 2.0 9mm service weapon which was loaded with division-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 marked in as cruiser [REDACTED]

I do not wear glasses or contacts and my 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, which could affect the performance of my duties. I was not under the influence of any alcohol. I did not work any overtime or special duty in the twenty-four (24) hours prior to my shift and I arrived at the start of my shift well-rested.

At the start of the shift, during roll call which was approximately 3.5 hours prior to the incident, Sgt. Van Dusen told us that B company (2nd shift) officers had been called to a residence close to the substation (235 Chittenden) on reports of an individual who was making threats and had a knife. MCR (Mobile Crisis Response) Unit (specially trained officers and mental health professionals) had responded. They did not make an arrest and I believe that the individual, who was named Lamine Mahmoudi, refused to come out and there was no one else at the residence, so they left. We were told to be on alert since it was close to the substation and the substation parking lot is not secure.

Following roll call, I was assigned to guard duty. I was on guard duty until approximately 12:30 a.m. While I was at guard duty, I heard officers were dispatched to 235 Chittenden. From the radio traffic, it sounded similar to the prior call for service in that there was a suspect with a knife and he was refusing to come out. I believe MCR again responded and after about 45 minutes officers left the residence and the suspect was not transported. Once I completed guard duty, I returned to the 4-precinct substation.

I backed my cruiser into spot [REDACTED]. The front of my cruiser was facing the alley. I talked to a couple of officers regarding the run. They pointed out the duplex that he lived in and that he had also been getting into a red Hyundai driving around. As I was sitting in my cruiser, I saw a male walking east in the alley. Sgt. Van Dusen had shown us an OLEG photo of the suspect at roll call and I thought the male in the alley looked like him. The window to my cruiser was down and I asked [REDACTED] who was in the cruiser next to me, if that was the guy. [REDACTED] got out of his cruiser and so did I.

Initially, I did not see anything in the suspect's hand. [REDACTED] walked north in the parking lot and was close to the alley. I had started walking north, when I heard someone, I

believe [REDACTED] radio that he was in the alley and had a 33A (knife) in his hand. Other officers, who were either in the substation or in their cruisers, were now in the parking lot forming a half-circle along the south side of the parking lot. I unholstered my weapon and had it in the "low-ready" position. I walked back (south) to create more of a reactionary gap. It was dark outside but there are lights in the parking lot. Once the suspect walked east passed the police wagon, which was parked in the far northwest corner of the substation parking lot, I saw that he had 2 knives- one in each hand. I believe one was a large butcher knife and the other knife had a large square blade, like a meat cleaver.

I was at the far east end of the line/semi-circle and [REDACTED] was north of me. Officers were yelling at the suspect to put the knife down. He continued walking east in the parking lot. Once he was about 30-40 feet east of the police wagon, he stopped and looked at us. I believe I raised my firearm up into the "high-ready." He drew back his right arm and pumped it forward, like he was going to throw the knife at us. Someone, I am not sure who, yelled at him not to throw the knife. The suspect stopped for a second or two and then began advancing southeast towards the northern edge of the parking lot.

He was closing the distance between himself and [REDACTED] who was several feet northeast of me. The suspect stepped up into the parking lot with his body bladed towards [REDACTED]. He moved his right arm back and I believed he was going to attack [REDACTED]. It is at that moment that I discharged my weapon. I also heard other officers simultaneously firing their weapons. The suspect fell to the ground.

We approached the suspect. He still had one knife in his hand and officers removed it, secured him and started rendering aid while waiting on medics to arrive. I moved my cruiser to

block off the alley and started putting up scene tape to preserve the evidence. Once medics arrived and there were sufficient officers to secure the scene, I left the substation.

I went to the Columbus Police Training Academy. I waited there for BCI Agents to arrive. There they photographed me and collected my weapon. This ended my involvement in this incident.

I believe I fired three rounds at the suspect. This is based off the round count, as I had 15 rounds remaining. I believe I fired all three shots in rapid succession. I think I may have heard a shot a split second before I fired. I believe I was approximately 20 feet from the suspect at the time I fired. I fired from a standing position with a two-handed grip. I believe I used my sights. I did not have any cover or concealment when I fired at the suspect. My backdrop was the unoccupied car behind the suspect. The direction of my shots was north. My target was center mass. I stopped firing because the suspect went down to the ground.

Immediately prior to firing at the suspect, he had refused multiple commands to drop the knives and advanced into the parking lot, towards [REDACTED]. At the moment I fired, the suspect had extended his right arm out at a 90-degree angle at the elbow, with his left shoulder bladed towards [REDACTED] and his knees bent, I thought he was going to attack [REDACTED] by charging him or throwing the knives at him. At the time I discharged my weapon, I was in immediate fear for the life of [REDACTED] as well as the lives of everyone else in the parking lot. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the life of [REDACTED] as well as my own life and the lives other officers in the substation parking lot at the time I discharged my weapon.

I did have a taser on me at the time of this incident. However, I did not utilize my taser as [REDACTED] had his taser for less lethal force. I did not believe it would be reasonable

to have two officers with less lethal force when the suspect was armed with deadly force. In addition, I was aware of an incident that had occurred a few weeks earlier in which a suspect threw knives at SWAT officers and severely injured 3 of them, even though they were armed with tactical gear and shields.

I have now had an opportunity to review the body worn camera and cruiser camera footage of this incident. On the footage, after being told to drop the knives, the suspect responded that he was not dropping anything. I can hear it on the footage but I do not recall hearing him say anything during the incident.

I know that the name of the suspect is Lamine Mahmoudi. I do not recognize this name or this individual as anyone who I have had prior contact with, either professionally or personally.

This concludes my statement, and I will now answer any additional questions you may have at this time.

