



To:	Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor	
From:	Matt Collins, Senior Special Agent, Ohio BCI	
Date:	January 25, 2022	
Involves:	Kyle Veyon; CPD Ofc. Andrew Hawkins; CPD Ofc. Steven Balmer	
BCI Case Numbers:	mbers: 2021-2286	
	BCI Laboratory: 21-110670	

### **Investigative Request**

On Wednesday, September 29, 2021, through an active MOU, Chief Elaine Bryant of the City of Columbus-Division of Police (CPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on September 29, 2021, in the area of 2469 Kimberly Pkwy E and resulted in the death of Kyle Veyon.

### Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the September 29, 2021, officer-involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.





### **Investigative Team**

Lead BCI Special Agent:

• SA Matt Collins

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Shane Hanshaw
- SA John Butterworth
- SA Jim Mulford
- SA Ryan Scheiderer

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Aja Chung
- SA Chad Holcomb

**BCI Criminal Intelligence Personnel:** 

• Jennifer Lester

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

• Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau

#### **Summary of Process**

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview with officer Andrew Hawkins, who discharged his weapon
- Recorded interview with officer Steven Balmert, who deployed his taser
- Recorded interview with officer Henry Brown, who was involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of nine (9) civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interview with first responder or medical personnel, Jason Reed
- Interview of family members, during death notification.



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- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident \_
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident -
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence -
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident -
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident -
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  - 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
  - 2. Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through court order
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered



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### Incident Summary/Overview

The following information is based on the review/s of radio traffic, 911 calls, body worn cameras, witness statements and officer's statements.

On September 29, 2021, there was a 911 call made where it appeared someone had either set the phone down or was not otherwise speaking directly into the phone. There were voices heard in the background of both a male and a female. CPD Ofc Andrew Hawkins and CPD Ofc. Steven Balmert (two-man unit, with Hawkins being the driver) responded to an open-line disturbance call in the area of 2469 Kimberly Pkwy. Ofc. Hawkins and Ofc. Balmert were not originally assigned as a two-man unit but they were en route to the ninth precinct in order to obtain Ofc. Balmert's vehicle. CPD Ofc. Henry Brown also responded to the open-line call. According to dispatch records and officer's statements, specific information was not known at the time of officers' initial response. It was not until officers had already been in the area, when they were notified of the specific address of the potential incident (Apartment Q-2) and that the male subject may be in possession of a 33A (person with a knife).

Officers were approached by a female, who identified herself as Felicia Marshall (Marshall). While speaking with Marshall, a male, later identified as Kyle Veyon (Veyon), approached the roadway where Marshall and the two CPD marked patrol cars were sitting. Veyon approached Ofc. Hawkins with a light colored, bladed object in his right hand, just as Hawkins was exiting the driver's side of the patrol car. Veyon was moving towards Ofc. Hawkins (who drew he firearm) as Ofc. Hawkins backed-up, creating distance between he and Veyon.

Marshall was standing near the front of Ofc. Hawkins' patrol car when Veyon turned his attention away from Ofc. Hawkins and began running north, into the direction of Marshall. Marshall was heard yelling, "get him, get him." Ofc. Hawkins and Ofc. Balmert pursued after Veyon. Ofc. Balmert deployed his Taser at Veyon. However, the Taser was shown to be ineffective. Otherwise, the Taser did not cause Veyon to stop running in the direction of Marshall, nor did Veyon drop the bladed object (later learned to be a kitchen knife with the handle removed or broken off). At one-point Marshall quickly changed direction and began running east into the roadway and Veyon ran past her.

It appeared at that point, Veyon turned his attention away from Marshall and focused on Ofc. Hawkins. That observation was apparent from Ofc. Hawkins statement which was consistent with what was viewed in multiple BWCs. Veyon moved into the direction of Ofc. Hawkins, still armed with the knife, Veyon could be heard yelling, "Kill me" multiple times. Also, Ofc. Hawkins could be heard saying either "stop" or "drop it." As Veyon continued towards Ofc. Hawkins, Ofc.





Hawkins fired three (3) shots from his drawn firearm. Veyon fell backwards and ultimately to the ground. Ofc. Balmert, Ofc. Brown and Ofc. Hawkins each rendered aid to Veyon in some fashion until other CPD units and EMS personnel arrived.

Veyon was transported to Grant Medical Center where he'd succumbed to his injuries.

### Subsequent Investigation

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports



BCI CSU Photo ALC\_4978; Overall of scene, facing west/southwest.

BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) agents processed the scene and noted the following:

"The incident took place in the middle of the roadway on Kimberly Parkway (Pkwy) E, south of Macsway Avenue, in front of 2469 Kimberly Pkwy E. CPD cruiser 9091 was parked on the grass, however, it was moved from its original position in the road for responding medics. The driveway to 2469 was a dual entrance driveway. CPD Cruiser 94 was parked in the road, by the southern-





most entrance of 2469 Kimberly Pkwy E. The 911 caller/female witness was in the back of CPD cruiser 94 and provided consent to search her apartment, Q2."

CSU SA Chung collected the following items of evidence:

Item #	Description	Location
2	Kitchen knife blade with floral print and suspected blood on it	Roadway
3	Deployed taser cartridge, wires and prongs with AFIDS	Roadway
4	Taser cartridge	West side of road, on curb
5	Lighter	Roadway
6	9mm casing (Speer headstamp)	East side of road, next to curb
7	Two 9mm casings (Speer headstamp)	East side of road, next to curb



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Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.



CSU Photo ALC\_5071; Ofc. Hawkins' firearm



CSU Photo ALC\_5085; Ofc. Balmert's Taser





The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearm. By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from the weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

The BCI *Lab\_Item#3*, the Smith and Wesson firearm possessed by CPD Ofc. Andrew Hawkins, was found to be operable. The weapon was further linked to the two fired bullets recovered from the body of Kyle Veyon.

Taser:

A Taser was said to be utilized by Ofc. Balmert during the incident. The Taser was submitted to the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) for analysis and testing. A review of the CCU report indicated the Taser was functional, but did however appear to have an inconsistent audible spark test. The report further indicated one of the probes was slightly bent and had a red residue on it. When the data of the Taser information was downloaded, it revealed the Taser had a one (1) second trigger pull on September 29, 2021 at 09:38:03 a.m.

### Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent (Kyle Veyon) was requested from the Franklin County Coroner's Office. However, at the time of this summary, the autopsy reports were not yet available.

### **Investigative Interviews**

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsized below.

# Ofc. Hawkins-

Ofc. Hawkins, who was driving the marked CPD patrol car (9091), also had with him, Ofc. Balmert as a passenger. Ofc. Hawkins stated he responded to a disturbance call at 2469 Kimberly Pkwy E. He stated the initial details or information was "vague." Ofc. Hawkins believed the call had come in as an unknown caller or an open line. He understood the address was for the apartment complex and that a specific apartment number was not yet known.



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Ofc. Hawkins said he and Ofc. Balmert arrived in the area as well as Ofc. Brown (single-man unit). Ofc. Hawkins said Ofc. Brown told him apartment "Q-2" had just come up on their screen. He said a female, Felicia Marshall (Marshall) approached them and was speaking with Ofc. Brown. Ofc. Hawkins stated he could not hear all of the conversation, but believed he'd heard Marshall say a male "pulled a knife on her and that they weren't supposed to be around each other, or words to that effect." Ofc. Hawkins said, as Ofc. Brown was speaking with Marshall, he heard Ofc. Brown say something like *"stay there."* Hawkins said he saw a black male (Veyon) approaching from the rear of his patrol car.

Ofc. Hawkins had pulled his patrol vehicle forward and exited the driver's side. Ofc. Hawkins stated, as he'd exited his patrol car, Veyon was just a few feet away from him and Ofc. Hawkins drew his firearm. Ofc. Hawkins stated he witnessed Veyon with a knife in his right hand and he was moving it back and forth across his (Veyon's) neck, while walking towards Hawkins. Ofc. Hawkins was asked if the reason he did not fire his weapon at that time was because Veyon was not a threat to him (Hawkins). Hawkins responded, *"I mean he was definitely a threat. Cause, when you're suicidal, you're homicidal. That's what they teach us."* Hawkins stated he told Veyon to back up as Hawkins pointed his gun at Veyon. Hawkins said, *"He was focused on me."* Hawkins said he continued to tell Veyon to stop and Hawkins took a couple steps backward along the driver's side of his patrol car, moving towards the rear of his patrol car.

Ofc. Hawkins said Veyon, suddenly stopped at the front driver's side of his patrol car and began running north after Marshall who was on the sidewalk. Ofc. Hawkins believed Ofc. Balmert had deployed a taser, because he could see wires as Veyon continued chasing Marshall. Ofc. Hawkins said Marshall ran east, across Kimberly Parkway, screaming as Veyon was chasing her with the knife. Ofc. Hawkins said he continued to yell at Veyon. Ofc. Hawkins stated, once Marshall was on the east side of the roadway, Veyon turned his focus toward Ofc. Hawkins. Ofc. Hawkins said Veyon was still in possession of the knife and had it up to his (Veyon's) neck. Ofc. Hawkins stated Veyon repeatedly yelled, "Kill me" as he "advanced quickly towards me, as I was stepping backwards, with my gun pointed at him. I continued to yell 'stop' or words to that effect but he continued to come towards me with the knife in his hand." Ofc. Hawkins continued by stating Veyon had come within approximately six to seven (6-7) feet of Ofc. Hawkins, "...still armed with the knife, and that is when I fired my weapon at him." Ofc. Hawkins said he believed he'd fired three (3) rounds while Veyon was approximately six to seven feet away." Ofc. Hawkins described that he'd fired his shots in "...rapid succession, and I believe I fired all my shots in a second or two." Ofc. Hawkins further stated he had fired his rounds in a north/northwestern direction at Veyon's "center mass." Ofc. Hawkins continued by stating he had chosen that as his target



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because he was "trained to shoot center mass to neutralize the threat, as center mass is the largest target. We are not trained to shoot at an extremity or weapon, as that is a small target and increases the probability of injury to another person." Ofc. Hawkins, when describing the surroundings, stated he did not have any cover or concealment. Ofc. Hawkins said, "At the times I fired my weapon, I was in fear for my life. The suspect had just chased the female with a knife. I ran after him and he turned his attention to me and I believe that the female was behind me. I believed that the suspect was going to stab me and seriously injure or kill me and that if I was injured, he would go after the female again. It is at that moment that I began firing my weapon. I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life and the life of the female who the suspect was just chasing with the knife, at the time I fired my weapon. The suspect had ignored my repeated commands to stop, chased after the female with a knife in his hand despite our presence, and continued to aggressively advance towards me, screaming 'kill me!' with a knife in his hand."

Hawkins stated Veyon fell backwards onto the street and dropped the knife. Hawkins stated *"I stopped firing because the suspect fell backwards, dropped the knife and therefore was no longer an immediate threat."* Hawkins witnessed Ofc. Balmert approach Veyon and kick the knife towards Hawkins. Hawkins said he continued to hold cover as Ofc. Balmert approached Veyon. Hawkins stated he witnessed Ofc. Brown and Ofc. Balmert provide medical aid to Veyon. Hawkins stated, *"I aired 10-3 and shots fired."* He believed Ofc. Brown had radioed for medics to arrive. Hawkins said, after looking for medical supplies, he too assisted in providing medical aid to Veyon.

# Ofc. Balmert-

Ofc. Balmert stated he was not yet assigned a patrol vehicle for his shift so he was getting a ride from Ofc. Hawkins and they were in route to the CPD precinct on Groves Road. Ofc. Balmert stated while they were in route, they were dispatched to 2469 Kimberly Pkwy E. He stated information was vague in the initial dispatch. Ofc. Balmert stated, he and Ofc. Hawkins arrived, as did CPD Ofc. Brown. Ofc. Balmert said, as they were speaking with Ofc. Brown, additional information was received from dispatch. Dispatch indicated a female, Felicia Marshall, from apartment Q2 was advising there was a knife involved.

Ofc. Balmert said a female approached and spoke with Ofc. Brown. Ofc. Balmert said he could not hear all of the conversation but did hear the female say "he" was not supposed to be there and he had threatened her with a knife. Ofc. Balmert estimated it was only a few seconds later,





he heard Ofc. Brown say, "Stay right there." Ofc. Balmert said Ofc. Hawkins pulled the patrol vehicle forward and Ofc. Balmert exited the passenger side.

Balmert stated he'd moved to the rear of the patrol car and continued around to the driver's side while drawing his weapon. Balmert witnessed Ofc. Hawkins with his handgun drawn, issuing commands to Veyon. Balmert said the command/s was something to the effect of, "get back." Balmert said when Veyon backed up, with his hand up to his neck, Balmert transitioned from his firearm to his taser because Ofc. Hawkins had lethal force back-up. Balmert stated he believed it was reasonable to deploy his taser on Veyon.

Balmert understood he needed to be within 7-15 feet "for optimal deployment of taser." Balmert moved towards Veyon, however, Veyon began running after or "chasing" Marshall. Balmert heard Veyon say, "kill me" as he was chasing Marshall. Balmert believed it was about that time he had deployed his taser at Veyon (at approximately 10-15 feet from Veyon). When asked about his point of aim on Veyon, Balmert stated he was moving so he could get a shot at Veyon's front but due to Veyon turning and running towards Marshall, Balmert does not know where exactly his taser potentially made contact. Balmert stated he deployed his taser because he was in fear for the life of Ofc. Hawkins and Marshall, whom Veyon was chasing. Balmert stated he intended to gain Veyon's compliance and secure him. Balmert recalled seeing the taser wires as Veyon continued to chase after Marshall. Balmert stated the taser appeared to have no effect on Veyon and he was unsure if the darts had even connected with Veyon. Balmert believed Veyon was intending on stabbing Marshall. Balmert stated he recalled hearing Marshall screaming, "like screams of horror. I can't remember if she was saying, 'stop him' or 'get him', but you could tell she was terrified."

Balmert said he attempted to load a new cartridge into his taser when he witnessed Veyon begin to "aggressively advance (he was taking big, fast steps, screaming, 'kill me!') towards Officer Hawkins, while Officer Hawkins was retreating backwards down the street. I saw the suspect get to approximately five (5) feet from Officer Hawkins and I heard three gunshots."

# Ofc. Brown-

Ofc. Brown (single-man unit) was dispatched to a "34" or an unknown call where yelling was heard in the background. Ofc. Brown said he arrived and witnessed Ofc. Hawkins and Ofc. Balmert already in the area. While speaking with officers Hawkins and Balmert, Ofc. Brown noticed apartment Q2 appeared on his computer screen and shortly thereafter, a female was seen coming from apartment Q2. Ofc. Brown said he spoke with Marshall and she indicated her



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boyfriend (Veyon) was still inside the apartment and "he" tried to stab her. Ofc. Brown said Marshall further advised they were not supposed to be around each other. Ofc. Brown said Veyon appeared out of nowhere and was in front of his patrol car.

Ofc. Brown said Veyon approached, produced a knife and Veyon put the knife on his neck and began pressing and pulling the knife down. Ofc. Brown said it did not appear to draw any blood, but Veyon was heard saying, "kill me." Ofc. Brown said Veyon lunged at Marshall, who was still standing beside his patrol car. According to Ofc. Brown, Veyon began chasing Marshall.

Officer Brown said Officers Hawkins and Balmert were chasing Veyon, who was running along the sidewalk. When Veyon and Marshall stopped, Officers Hawkins and Balmert tried to talk to Veyon and calm him down. Veyon kept yelling, "kill me, kill me." Veyon ran after Marshall again and she took off running again. Veyon came out into the street about 15 to 20 feet from the sidewalk according to Officer Brown. Veyon was facing Officer Hawkins for the majority of the time and Officer Balmert and he (Officer Brown) were about 20 feet back. Officer Balmert moved in front of Officer Brown and had his taser out, or mentioned something about his taser. Veyon continued to say "kill me, kill me, kill me" and that is when Officer Hawkins fired his weapon. The distance according to Officer Brown was three to five feet, as Veyon had come up on him.

Officer Brown was asked if there was anything else he wished to add to his statement. Officer Brown thought about this case being a "suicide by cop" situation due to the actions of Veyon. Officer Brown said to himself, this is "suicide by cop" during the incident due to Veyon coming at the police officers out into the street, instead of Marshall.

# Felicia Marshall-

According to Marshall, Veyon made several calls to Marshall the night of September 28, 2021, which she did not answer. When Marshall woke this morning, she had texts from Veyon stating he had posted nude photographs of her on the internet. At approximately 08:15 Marshall went to work at Amazon as a driver. Veyon kept texting Marshall and ultimately sent her a picture of him holding a knife to his throat with the message "Thanks for the reason not to live." Marshall replied to that message with "I'm omw". The knife in the photograph Veyon sent Marshall appears to be a chef's knife with a red handle and floral print on the blade.

Marshall returned home to her apartment (Q2) and Veyon was standing outside waiting for her. Veyon began causing a disturbance with Marshall so she tried to enter the apartment. Veyon rushed past her and went to the drawer containing her kitchen knives and retrieved a knife. Veyon then "backed" Marshall into a corner in the bedroom and she pled with him to calm down.



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Veyon calmed down and Marshall was able to call her grandmother without Veyon knowing. Marshall left an open line with her grandmother and Veyon became suspicious of what was happening and attempted to "snatch" the phone from Marshall. At some point during that time, the phone disconnected.

Marshall believed her grandmother contacted the police because she received a call from CPD Dispatch. Veyon demanded to know who had called Marshall so she started talking in "code" to Dispatch and told Veyon she was speaking with her daughter's school. Marshall then walked outside while pretending to be speaking with the school and observed two (2) CPD cruisers in the roadway. Marshall walked guickly to the cruiser and positioned herself between them. Marshall attempted to tell the officers what was occurring and that Veyon was threatening to kill her and himself. Marshall said when officers exited their cruisers, Veyon ran from the apartments towards where Marshall and the officers were positioned in the roadway. Veyon stopped briefly and then started chasing after Marshall. Marshall ran away and looked back to see Veyon "rubbing" the knife across his throat. Marshal continued to run and heard officers yelling commands at Veyon followed by gunshots. After hearing the gunshots, Marshall stopped. Marshall stated 'the police ordered Veyon to stop numerous times and they wouldn't of had to shoot him had he listened to their commands.' Marshall was adamant that Veyon would have killed her and himself hadn't the police intervened. Marshall explained that during the August 2021 incident, Veyon "choked" her and was trying to kill her then. Veyon had made numerous threats to kill her when he was upset with her.

# Additional Witnesses-

While there were other civilians who were interviewed, there was no further or additional information provided not otherwise provided in the above summary of statements.

#### <u>Summary</u>

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this officer-involved critical incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.





Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

### **Contact Information**

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Senior Special Agent Matt Collins. SA Collins can be reached via email at Matthew.Collins@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at (216) 218-2380.