



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: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sgt. Erick Moynihan (W)
Date of Activity: 10/11/2023
Activity Location: Blendon Twp. Police Department – Business – 6340 Hempstead Rd,
Westerville, OH 43081
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On October 11, 2023 at approximately 1627 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and James Mulford (SA Mulford) conducted an interview with Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) Sergeant Erick Moynihan (Sgt. Moynihan), regarding an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH on August 24, 2023. The interview took place at the BTPD station located at 6340 South Hempstead Road in Westerville, OH. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information known or observed by Sgt. Moynihan as a witness to the OICI.

Prior to conducting the interview, SA Douglass advised Sgt. Moynihan he was being interviewed as a witness to the OICI, and his statement was voluntary. Sgt. Moynihan acknowledged and agreed to answer questions regarding the OICI. Sgt. Moynihan's legal counsel from the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Nicole Wannemacher, was also present during the interview.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Sgt. Moynihan became a certified peace officer in Ohio in 2003. Prior to working for BTPD, Sgt. Moynihan was employed part-time with the Mexico Beach Police Department in Florida. In Ohio, Sgt. Moynihan was a reserve officer for Kirkersville Police Department, and a full-time police officer for Granville Police Department. Sgt. Moynihan also has military experience with the United States Air Force (USAF) where he served as a [REDACTED]. Sgt. Moynihan has been with BTPD for 15 years, since 2008. Sgt. Moynihan was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2011, and has been a second-shift supervisor for most of that time period.

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
10/30/2023

On August 24, 2023, Sgt. Moynihan was working his normal assignment on [REDACTED]. Sgt. Moynihan's assigned cruiser is Car 10. Sgt. Moynihan was wearing his normal duty vest and belt, which included handcuffs, a taser and a baton. Sgt. Moynihan was carrying his assigned duty weapon, a Glock 17 9mm pistol.

Sgt. Moynihan recalled he was in the parking lot near Kroger on South Sunbury Road where he has just finished taking a statement from a witness involved in a minor vehicle accident. Sgt. Moynihan stated BTPD Officer Connor Grubb (Ofc. Grubb) was in the Kroger parking lot assisting someone with a vehicle lockout. Sgt. Moynihan drove over to Ofc. Grubb's location to offer assistance if needed.

Sgt. Moynihan was listening to radio dispatch traffic when a Kroger employee exited the store and advised him of a nearby female who had stolen items from the store. The female had entered a vehicle parked adjacent to where Ofc. Grubb was assisting with the vehicle lockout. Sgt. Moynihan immediately noticed the vehicle had no license plates. Sgt. Moynihan wanted to keep the vehicle on scene because he there was no license plate to be able to identify the vehicle later if the female drove away. Sgt. Moynihan did not recall if the vehicle was running or not.

Sgt. Moynihan explained Ofc. Grubb walked behind him to the front of the female's vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan said he was focused on the female and giving her several verbal commands to exit the vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan recalled the female started the vehicle and put the car into gear. In response, he made two attempts to break the vehicle window. The female driver "took off" with Sgt. Moynihan still holding onto the top of the window. Sgt. Moynihan said he was "pulled alongside the car for a moment" before bumping into Ofc. Grubb. Sgt. Moynihan heard a loud bang and realized Ofc. Grubb had fired a shot with his duty weapon. Sgt. Moynihan then drew his duty weapon as the vehicle continued moving. Sgt. Moynihan gave the female commands to stop the vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan realized the female was no longer in control of the vehicle, which strikes the front of the Kroger building. Sgt. Moynihan made several more attempts to break the vehicle's window. Ofc. Grubb was able to break the window and open the door. There was a pillar obstructing Sgt. Moynihan and Ofc. Grubb from being in a position to remove the female from the vehicle. Ofc. Grubb was attempting to remove the female from the vehicle when Sgt. Moynihan believed he commented that her foot was still on the gas pedal. The vehicle moved forward, scraping along the wall before striking an abutment and coming to a stop. Sgt. Moynihan observed the female fall out of the vehicle, nearly face down and onto the ground. Sgt. Moynihan handcuffed her and removed a satchel from her person. Sgt. Moynihan instructed Ofc. Grubb to get a chest seal, and Ofc. Grubb ran to his cruiser to get his medical kit. Sgt. Moynihan turned the vehicle off and put gloves on. When Ofc. Grubb returned, they tore the female's shirt open, found a wound and applied a chest seal. Sgt. Moynihan was approached by an male who identified himself as an emergency room physician. Sgt. Moynihan asked him to check the female for a pulse. When no pulse was found, Sgt. Moynihan began administering CPR to the female. Law enforcement responders from other agencies arrived and took over emergency first aid until EMS medics arrived. Sgt. Moynihan remained on scene until BTPD Chief John Belford arrived.

Sgt. Moynihan confirmed the vehicle driven by the female was a black Lexus sedan. At the time of the incident, Sgt. Moynihan did not immediately recognize the female driver, who was later

identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young). Sgt. Moynihan did recall taking several reports from Kroger of groups of three to four African-American females stealing bottles of alcohol from the liquor store and stealing diapers.

Sgt. Moynihan confirmed giving Young numerous verbal commands to exit the vehicle. Sgt. Moynihan explained Young partially rolled down her window to speak to him, and asked why she was being detained. Sgt. Moynihan told Young she had been accused of stealing from the store by a Kroger employee. Sgt. Moynihan recalled Young denied stealing anything from Kroger and claimed the items were stolen by someone else. Sgt. Moynihan confirmed he told Young she was not free to leave. Sgt. Moynihan believed he had struck the vehicle window one time. Then Young started to drive away, and Sgt. Moynihan struck the window a second time. When Young started to drive away, Sgt. Moynihan explained her vehicle was "moving parallel" with the front of the building, and was moving diagonally towards the building after pulling out of the parking spot.

Sgt. Moynihan first realized Young may have been injured before she struck the building because she did not seem to be in control of the vehicle. When Young attempted to flee the scene, Sgt. Moynihan did not perceive an immediate threat to himself but stated he was not fully aware of Ofc. Grubb's location at that moment until they bumped into each other. Sgt. Moynihan said he knew Ofc. Grubb was somewhere to his left and "generally" in front of the vehicle but was not aware of his exact positioning at the time of the incident. Sgt. Moynihan recalled Ofc. Grubb had discharged his weapon before they bumped into each other. Sgt. Moynihan also observed the Kroger employee standing somewhere on the passenger side of Young's vehicle.

Sgt. Moynihan recalled hearing one gunshot. Sgt. Moynihan did not remember hearing screeching tires at the time. Sgt. Moynihan did not perceive any other sounds that may have been mistaken for gunshots. Sgt. Moynihan explained there were other loud noises created by the vehicle striking the building multiple times, and possibly from their attempts to break the vehicle window.

Sgt. Moynihan stated a vehicle can be used as a deadly weapon. Sgt. Moynihan confirmed there were numerous people in the vicinity of the incident, whose safety could have been threatened by Young attempting to flee the scene. Sgt. Moynihan explained Young's vehicle was "backed in" to a handicapped parking space.

Interview concluded at approximately 1702 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-10-11 BTPD Sgt. Erick Moynihan Interview Audio