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

2022-1782
Officer Involved Critical Incident -3295 Sullivant Avenue, Apt. H, Columbus OH 43204 (L)

Investigative Activity:	Interview with Officer
Involves:	Sgt. Chance Knox (W)
Date of Activity:	08/30/2022
Activity Location:	- 4683 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220, Franklin County
Author:	SA James Poole

Narrative:

On February 22, 2023 at approximately 1817 the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole) and Jim Mulford (SA Mulford) conducted a follow up interview of Columbus Police (CPD) Sergeant Chance Knox (Sergeant Knox). This investigation is in regard to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI; shooting) that occurred on August 30, 2022 between CPD K9 Officer Ricky Anderson (Officer Anderson) and the now deceased Donovan Lewis (Lewis). The interview took place at 4683 Winterest Dr Columbus Ohio.

Before conducting the interview SA Poole and SA Mulford explained that this was a criminal investigation regarding the death of Lewis and the interview was in fact voluntary. SA Poole advised Sergeant Knox of his right to stop answering questions at any time and his right to have council. Present during the interview was Lathan Lipperman, an FOP Attorney representing Sergeant Knox. SA Poole asked if Sergeant Knox would like to continue the interview in which he stated yes.

SA Poole asked for Sergeant Knox's assignment during the time of the incident. Sergeant Knox stated he was temporally assigned as the sergeant of the Zone 3 enforcement team. Sergeant Knox explained the team was compromised of officers who did not take dispatched runs, but were proactive in serving arrest warrants, making traffic stops, and initiating proactive policing in the area.

SA Poole asked Sergeant Knox what equipment he carried during the time of the incident. Sergeant Knox explained he wore his normal duty equipment which included non-lethal CPD issued Taser and mace.

SA Poole asked Sergeant Knox if he had any specialty training. Sergeant Knox explained he was grenadier certified and a patrol rifle officer.

SA Poole asked Sergeant Knox who initiated looking for Lewis. Sergeant Knox explained Officer

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Harry Dorsey (Officer Dorsey) had prior knowledge of the incident between Lewis assaulting his pregnant girlfriend and knew Lewis had an outstanding warrant. Sergeant Knox stated they verified the active warrants which lead them to Lewis's apartment at 3295 Sullivant Ave Apt H Columbus Ohio.

SA Poole asked after William Chatters (Chatters) and Aaron Washington (Washington) exited the apartment what made him believe Lewis was still inside. Sergeant Knox explained that due to both those individuals not being Lewis, he believed Lewis was still inside. Sergeant Knox also stated he believed one of the individuals made a statement about someone being in the back bedroom still but didn't say who.

SA Poole asked Sergeant Knox if it was common practice to use a K-9 Officer in that situation when clearing a house. Sergeant Knox said yes, especially for a barricaded situation with a wanted person for violent offenses.

SA Poole asked if Officer Anderson was given a brief of the situation when arriving. Sergeant Knox stated he didn't believe so.

SA Poole played a portion of Sergeant Knox's Body Warn Camera (BWC) to clarify a conversation he had with Officer Anderson. SA Poole asked if Sergeant Knox could verify if Officer Anderson stated, "Does someone have a taser?" Sergeant Knox said, "Yes."

SA Poole asked if Sergeant Knox could verify if he replied with, "Nah, he has a gun." Sergeant Knox stated yes that was him, but he clarified that he said, "Nah, he has a gun *warrant*."

SA Poole asked why Sergeant Knox gave that reply to Officer Anderson. Sergeant Knox stated because Lewis had an offense of violence warrant, a gun warrant, and they heard Lewis slam the door shut when the K-9 tried to enter. He did not want to meet a potentially armed suspect with a Taser. Sergeant Knox clarified that if he knew Lewis for fact had a gun they would not have entered the apartment, but thought he potentially could have one.

SA Poole asked where Sergeant Knox was positioned at the when Officer Anderson opened the back bedroom door and why. Sergeant Knox explained he was to the left side of Officer Anderson and had his firearm positioned to scan from right to left in the room while Officer Anderson was positioned to scan left to right. Sergeant explained it as and "X" formation for clearing the room.

SA Poole asked Sergeant Knox why he did not fire his weapon. Sergeant Knox explained when the door opened he was focused on scanning the right side of the room and saw Lewis in his peripheral vision. By the time he cleared his corner of the room and scanned towards Lewis Officer Anderson fired his weapon and Lewis was not in the up right position any more.

SA Poole asked Sergeant Knox once Officer Anderson struck Lewis if the threat was over and if he was not in fear for his life anymore. Sergeant Knox stated, no and explained how he could not see what was in Lewis' hands at the time or what Officer Anderson saw in Lewis' hands. Sergeant Knox explained he was still in fear for his life until they were able to place Lewis in handcuffs and in custody.

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SA Poole asked if Sergeant Knox' actions and all officers' actions around him were consistent with their training. Sergeant Knox said, "Yes."

SA Poole asked if Sergeant Knox' actions and all officers' actions around him were within legal policies and procedures. Sergeant Knox said, "yes."

The interview concluded at 1837.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: SGT Knox Follow up interview 2-22-23

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