



Missouri State Highway Patrol
Supplemental Report
Incident # 210592169

SUPPLEMENT 10 - OFFICER POTTORFF INTERVIEW
DATE OF REPORT - NOVEMBER 17, 2021

1. On November 17, 2021, at 1603 hours, I conducted an in-person interview of Columbia Police Officer Gardner Pottorff, date of birth July 21, 1993. This interview was about an officer involved shooting which occurred November 14, 2021, near Plaza Tire Parking Lot and Vibe Lounge on North Fifth Street in Columbia, Missouri. The interview was conducted at the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop F Headquarters, address 2920 North Shamrock Road, Jefferson City, Missouri. Officer Pottorff's attorney, Donald Weaver, was present for the interview. At the beginning of the interview, I read the officer involved shooting formal interview advisory.

2. At the time of the incident, Officer Pottorff stated he's been with the Columbia Police Department for approximately one and half years. Officer Pottorff stated he was hired in May of 2020, by the Columbia Police Department. Officer Pottorff graduated from the Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) in August of 2020. Officer Pottorff stated he was a patrol officer with the Columbia Police Department, and his primary duties were to respond to calls for service and conduct traffic enforcement. Officer Pottorff explained his uniform is black with Columbia Police Department patches on the side of his arms, and his outer carrier vest has Columbia Police on the back and front. A body camera was mounted on the center of his chest attached to his vest. Officer Pottorff explained on November 14, 2021, he was driving a Columbia Police Department Ford Explorer (Car Number 1148) and described the vehicle as all black with Columbia Police Department decals in white on the side of the vehicle and light bar mounted on top. Officer Pottorff explained he typically works 12 hour shifts and his shift began at 1800 hours on November 13, 2021.

3. Officer Pottorff stated his assigned area of the night was the downtown area and explained due to several incidents and a "high rate of crime" he was aiding in extra patrol in the area. "I just initiated a traffic stop at 7th and Broadway. I was traveling west on Broadway, toward 5th street towards Vibe." Officer Pottorff explained he had his window down on his patrol vehicle and was on Broadway between 5th and 6th Street when he heard "8-to-15-gun shots." Officer Pottorff continued, "I see a patrol car in the parking lot, I see Officer Brown running and falls over and I think oh shit he's been shot. I pull up to Plaza Tire, as I am pulling up, I see Sergeant Schuster chasing somebody across 5th street. I park my car and get out and about that time there is female laying over on the sidewalk just south of Vibe. She's screaming and a civilian is trying to help her. I think she's been shot. I jump over the drop off to the parking lot, Sergeant Schuster fires. I see the guy running and see he has a gun in his hand." Officer Pottorff explains he sees the suspect has a gun in his right hand, and Officer Pottorff reenacts the suspect's actions, with his right hand extended out towards the outside of his body with his elbow tucked into his side. "Sergeant Schuster fires, I fire, and the guy falls down to the ground. I fired twice. I move up to Sergeant Schuster and tried to give him commands. I can clearly see that he's got a gun on his chest." Pottorff positioned his hand up to his chest to reenact the male subjects positioning.

"He wasn't listening at all to us. We called for medics and call for a shield and trauma kit. We move up to the guy and he still has a gun in his hand." Pottorff explained when they approached the male subject, he reached down to the male's hands and grabbed the gun out of the suspect's hand and threw the gun off to the side. "I roll him over and handcuff and rolled him back over and provided life saving measures on him." I asked Officer Pottorff why he fired his gun and he replied, "I honestly can't say that." Officer Pottorff stated when he approached the male, he took the gun from the suspect's hand, and threw it to the side and another officer on scene secured the firearm.

4. Office Pottorff explained his in-car camera was activated because he never turned it off from the traffic stop, he conducted prior to the shooting. Officer Pottorff explained he hopped out of the car and attempted to activate his body camera. After firing the shots, he looked down and tried to turn on his body camera again. Officer Pottorff stated "I looked down again and realized it wasn't on and at some point, it came on." Officer Pottorff stated he did activate the body camera but wasn't sure at which point in time it turned on.

5. Officer Pottorff stated he was carrying a department issued Glock 17, 9-millimeter, with one magazine inserted, and two additional magazines carried on his vest. All three magazines were full and contained 17 rounds each. The pistol had one round in the chamber and fully loaded magazine loaded into the pistol. Officer Pottorff explained this is typically how he carries his weapon, and he checks the condition of his weapon every morning. Officer Pottorff stated he did not manipulate his firearm after the shooting.

6. After the scene was secured, Officer Pottorff stated he was escorted by Officer Wulff to the Columbia Police Department and "someone from the highway patrol" came and took possession of his firearm.

7. Officer Pottorff stated he had not spoken to Sergeant Schuster about the incident.

8. I read Officer Pottorff the video advisory and he stated he understood. I played multiple body camera and in-car camera footage of the incident. Officer Pottorff was able to view the incident from multiple different angles. After reviewing the footage, Officer Pottorff stated he did not want to change or make any additional statements.

9. This report is a summary of the interview, and information contained in this report may be in a different order than was recorded to aid in readability. For additional details, please see the attached recording of the interview.

10. This interview was recorded by the Division of Drug and Crime Control interview room camera. A digital copy of this interview is attached to this report and will be maintained with the departmental case file.

11. This investigation is open.

S. D. Gordon, Trooper
Division of Drug and Crime Control

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