



Missouri State Highway Patrol
Supplemental Report
Incident # 210529169

SUPPLEMENT 9 - INTERVIEW OF TURNER SCHUSTER
DATE OF REPORT - NOVEMBER 17, 2021

1. On November 17, 2021, at approximately 1508 hours, I interviewed Columbia Police Sergeant Turner H. Schuster at Troop F Headquarters located at 2920 North Shamrock Road in Jefferson City, Missouri. Sergeant Schuster was interviewed, in reference to his involvement in an officer involved incident on November 14, 2021, occurring in an alley on the north side of Plaza Tire, 419 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri. Sergeant Schuster's attorney Don Weaver was present in the room.
2. Prior to conducting the interview, I advised Sergeant Schuster of the Officer Involved Shooting Advisory. A copy of the Officer Involved Shooting Advisory is attached to this report and will be maintained with the departmental case file. While speaking with Sergeant Schuster, he indicated he had been employed with the Columbia Police Department for approximately 13 years and explained how seven and a half of those years was as a sworn police officer. He said he received his law enforcement certification from the Law Enforcement Training Institute (L.E.T.I.) in Columbia, Missouri. He described his duties as a "patrol cop" and said on November 14, 2021, he was working his normal scheduled shift, 06:00 PM to 06:00 AM. I asked Sergeant Schuster to describe the uniform he was wearing during his shift. He described his standard patrol uniform as "BDU's, Safari Land/Oregon City vest carrier," an Under Armor jacket he had "patched" and a department issued duty belt. He described "patched" as the Columbia Police Department's patch, and Sergeant stripes on both shoulder areas of the jacket which was worn under his vest carrier. He described his vest carrier as having a cloth badge with police on it as he pointed to the left area of his chest. He also described the vest carrier having "Columbia Police" in big letters on the back. I asked Sergeant Schuster if he was left hand dominant or right hand and he said, "I'm a righty." Sergeant Schuster later described wearing a body camera positioned on the front of his vest approximately at chest level. He said he didn't remember if he activated the body camera prior to hearing initial gunshots. He said he attempted to activate his body camera at the conclusion of discharging his firearm. He explained how the body camera would record video 30 seconds prior to the body camera's activation, however there would be no audio.
3. I asked Sergeant Schuster to explain the entire incident. Sergeant Schuster said he was working his assigned shift area and described it as being "downtown Columbia." He said he was monitoring "Vibez Lounge" which was located on Fifth Street in his assigned shift area. He later disclosed how he had previously been in contact with Vibez Lounge staff and was told the business was going to be closing at the normal time of 3:00 AM. He said the reason he was monitoring Vibez Lounge was due to previous shooting incidents in the area. He described an east/west alley located between Vibez Lounge and Plaza Tire. He said he was in the alley on the east side of Fifth Street at approximately 3:00 AM speaking with Sergeant Kesha Edwards as she was seated in her parked patrol vehicle. He explained how Sergeant Edwards and he were monitoring the area. He said at that time of morning they normally direct their focus to the area

of Fifth Street observing the front of Vibe Lounge "because that is where most of our problems kind of are." and described previous incidents of vehicles blocking travel to contact people exiting Vibe which developed into altercations.

4. Sergeant Schuster said as he was observing people exit the front of Vibe Lounge, he noticed a developing crowd out front getting loud. He said he could not decipher if it was due to the large amount of people or if there was a verbal argument taking place. He said he used the spotlight of Sergeant Edwards' patrol vehicle to light up the area of the crowd to obtain a better observation. He said as he was speaking to Sergeant Edwards, he heard a "Volley of gunshots." He described hearing approximately ten to fifteen shots, "I remembered thinking it was a lot." He described a sidewalk in front of Vibe Lounge where he observed the crowd "pushing" south. He said he first saw the suspect running from the direction of the crowd appearing to be out away from the side of the building and crowd. He described how the suspect was closer to him than the crowd. He said based on his experience playing sports and being at previous shooting incidents observing people running from gun shots, the suspect didn't appear to be running "right." He described the suspect's left shoulder and hands being dropped low as he ran. He described the suspects arms as, "they weren't moving" like when a person running would be moving their arms. It should be noted at 3:20:25 as Sergeant Schuster is describing the suspect's actions, he demonstrates with his hands what he saw the suspects hands doing, which resembles the two-hand grip on a handgun. He said after his observations he thought, "That's my guy. That's a suspect." He explained he could not see what the suspect had in his hands but thought he had something.

5. Sergeant Schuster said he doesn't remember when he retrieved his firearm. He said he pursued the running suspect on foot by crossing Fifth Street and traveling west in the alley between Plaza Tire and Vibe Lounge. He said he gave the suspect commands but did not remember the exact verbiage he used. Sergeant Schuster believed the commands he gave were police, stop or get on the ground. Sergeant Schuster described Plaza Tire building front being offset to the Vibe Lounge building as you observe it from Fifth Street. He said for some unknown reason the suspect fell face first to the ground. He said the suspect rolled to his back and "I saw the gun." Sergeant Schuster described observing a black gun "vividly" compared to the white surface background of the concrete, "it stood out." He said he remembered the suspect looking at him or in his general direction. At 3:22:21 Sergeant Schuster verbally and visually described how the suspect was holding the gun and "the gun started to come up and around towards me." He said he planted his foot, took a step to his left and discharged his firearm at the suspect. I later asked Sergeant Schuster if he remembered how many times, he had discharged his firearm and he said, "I don't remember a specific number. I think it was around eight. I wasn't counting rounds. I shot and then he stopped moving and I stopped shooting." He said he didn't hear or see any additional discharges of a firearm except for his as he described the flash from his firearm muzzle being "bright." He described how he moved behind a trash dumpster in the alley north of Plaza Tire and reassessed. He verbally and physically described how the suspect was still holding the gun in his right hand, arm across the chest and the gun resting on the suspect's chest. He said he gave the suspect verbal commands, "put the gun down, you're under arrest."

6. Sergeant Schuster said he requested a ballistic shield and emergency medical assistance prior to approaching the suspect. He said upon approaching the suspect he ordered Columbia Police Officer Euer to secure the suspect's firearm, the suspect was handcuffed and medical aid was

administered on the suspect. Sergeant Schuster said he started securing the scene and assisted with coordinating medical assistance to gunshot victims. He explained how after the incident his firearm was placed in his duty belt holster. He said it remained in his holster until he was driven to the Columbia Police Department and later released his firearm to Missouri State Highway Patrol Master Sergeant M. Reynolds (see supplement two for details).

7. During the investigation, it was determined there were officers' body cameras and patrol vehicle recordings. At this point I advised Sergeant Schuster we had video footage we would allow him to watch. Sergeant Schuster indicated he would view the video. I advised Sergeant Schuster of the Officer Involved Shooting Video Advisory then played the video files for him.

8. At the conclusion of the video, I asked Sergeant Schuster if he wanted to discuss anything or if he recalled any additional details not already discussed. Sergeant Schuster said he did not realize he ran north on Fifth Street towards the area of the gunshots.

9. This interview was audio and video recorded. A copy of the audio/video recording and the Officer Involved Shooting Advisory is attached to this report and will be maintained with this departmental case file. 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 listen and watch the attached audio/video recording.

10. This case is open.

G. L. West, Corporal
Division of Drug and Crime Control

GLW:lab

Attachment:

- 9.1 Officer Involved Shooting Advisory

Media Attachment:

- 9.1 Turner Schuster Interview