

**Acting Chief Janke:**

Hebert's father has been notified. We have become—we have begun parallel investigations into this incident. Lt. Col. Vincent Demassi is in charge of our criminal investigations section. They have begun an investigation. The Cincinnati Police Department's Internal Investigations section, commanded by Capt. Paul Humphries, has begun an investigation. And I want to recognize, in the back, Mr. Ken Glenn. Mr. Glenn is the director of the Citizen Complaint Authority. They also will begin a parallel investigation.

This incident began when District 5 officers received a report of a cutting on Virginia Avenue in District 5. Officers responded to the scene, and a description of two subjects wanted for investigation of the cutting was broadcast. The broadcast included information that the subject was possibly armed with a knife. Officers approached two subjects who matched the descriptions on Chase Avenue. An officer questioned Mr. Hebert, who was one of the two subjects.

He questioned him about whether he had a knife. Mr. Hebert denied having the knife—having a knife. Mr. Hebert put his right hand into his front right pants pocket. An officer ordered Mr. Hebert to keep his hand out of his pocket at least twice. Mr. Hebert pulled a knife from his pocket, raised his arm with the knife and made what is described as a “swipe” at the closest officer to him, which was the officer giving him the commands, and Mr. Hebert took a step toward the officer as he did that.

As Mr. Hebert pulled the knife from his pocket, Sgt. Andrew Mitchell, who was serving as a cover officer, drew his fire arm. And as Mr. Hebert stepped and swiped toward the officer, the other officer—Sgt. Mitchell—fired two rounds, striking Mr. Hebert with both rounds. Mr. Hebert fell to the ground. Mr. Hebert was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The involved officers are on administrative leave and, as I said, three parallel investigations have begun, and those investigations are ongoing. We have a Power Point presentation, which will set the incident in a geographic context for you. We also will have some audio on these slides. The audio we will not play in its entirety. For example, the original 911 call made by the victim of the cutting—that phone call is about 5 minutes, plus. We are just going to play portions of the audio. Those other tapes—all these tapes—will be available in their entirety.

This is the address on Virginia where the original cutting occurs.

**911 Dispatch Recording:**

I'd like a supervisor, we've got a report of a cutting in the basement apartment of the [?] building at 4532 Virginia. Jason Whaler said he was cut by a male and a female. They're armed with a sword. He's cut on his left hand. I'm not sure if fire is responding, I don't think it--it doesn't look like it was serious—oh! He's refusing medical, they're saying. The suspects were—number one was Bones, a male white in his forties, 5-9...5-10.

**Sgt. Mitchell radio recording:**

5350, it's going to be a male white, female white suspect---[unclear under Janke's description] real short, possibly bald head, uh, short hair. Black leather jacket, black jeans. The female was wearing all black, she's about 5-6 or so. And they had a big dog that they were walking. They were headed, seems, down on Virginia

**Janke:**

This is Sgt. Mitchell giving out the description. He had responded to the scene.

This puts these two locations in context. You see 4352 Virginia Avenue on the left, and 1833 Chase, which is where the investigative stop eventually occurs. Here's a close-up of the 1833 Chase. And this is the address itself. It all occurred in between the tree and the parked car. A very close—everyone was in close proximity.

This is the knife. This is a folding switchblade. And you see the ruler there, I asked you to look in the context of the ruler. Knives of this “look” often are not this large. As you see, it's a full 13 inches long.

This is Mr. Hebert.

Next, you'll see four slides of the officers involved. Sgt. Mitchell fired two shots. Both struck Mr. Hebert. These other officers were on the scene.

More specific detail will be finalized and determined as the course of these three parallel investigations continues. At this point, I can answer questions, and also the mayor.

**Reporter:**

Well, Colonel, who was the officer—which one of the officers first approached Mr. Hebert?

**Col. Janke:**

The first two officers on the scene were Officer Kneller and Officer Johnson.

**Reporter:**

So Kneller and Johnson approached and Mitchell was, as you said...?

**Col. Janke:**

Yes. Cover officer. And all the officers arrived within a very close time span of each other. All officers testify to the fact that the commands were given and that the subject's actions were very quick. Very rapidly, he put his hands in his pockets—in his pocket—did not comply with orders, and drew the knife and raised his arm very rapidly.

**Reporter:**

Did he say anything when he was doing that?

**Janke:**

No. We have no information at this point that he said anything.

**Reporter:**

So, which officer did he lunge toward? And how close were they?

**Janke:**

Officer Johnson. And the information I have right now is that he was within one to two feet. And as you can see by the slide, with the tree and the parked car, and how all this action occurred within that short amount of space, it was close quarters for a very rapid action on the part of the subject.

**Reporter:**

Did he know the, uh, the Jason Whaler?

**Janke:**

Yes.

**Reporter:**

So they had some sort of personal issue? Because he knew his name. He knows his name.

**Janke:**

Yes, they know each other.

**Reporter:**

So he *knew*...

**Janke:**

Yes.

**Reporter:**

And he identified him as the man who cut him?

**Janke:**

Yes.

**Reporter:**

Any indication as to what that was about?

**Janke:**

At this point, that's still part of the ongoing investigation.

**Reporter:**

Um, what about the woman?

**Janke:**

She is a local person. And she also is—information from her is part of the ongoing investigation.

**Reporter:**

Are you naming her?

**Janke:**

Not at this time.

**Reporter:**

Was she arrested for anything?

**Janke:**

No. At this time, no one has been arrested.

**Reporter:**

Was she there when the cutting happened?

**Janke:**

That's a part of the ongoing investigation. I should also say that none of the officers are injured. None of the officers are injured.

**Reporter:**

The dispatcher said that it was a man and a woman there at the time of the cutting. Did the dispatcher say that?

**Janke:**

The dispatcher said that, and that's part of the ongoing investigation.

**Reporter:**

Would you clear up for me a little bit about the sword? The dispatcher also said that they were armed with a sword.

**Janke:**

Yes. That clarification on that is also part of the ongoing investigation. You see the—you saw the knife that we recovered at the scene. That's the knife that he stepped toward the officer and swiped at the officer with that knife. The details of another weapon or the sword continue to be part of the ongoing investigation. The interview process is not complete.

**Reporter:**

Was he armed with anything other than the 13 inch folding knife?

**Janke:**

At the scene? No.

**Reporter:**

Where does Hebert live?

**Janke:**

Hebert does not have an address locally.

**Reporter:**

Can you spell his last name?

**Janke:**

H-E-B-E-R-T.

**Reporter:**

No address locally, you say?

**Janke:**

That's correct?

**Reporter:**

Where does he?

**Janke:**

At least at this point we do not have an established—we do know that he is from, at some point, New Orleans.

**Reporter:**

I know that you said his actions were swift, according to all of the officers that were there, that they were rapid, but were there any attempts on the officers' part to step back? Or to move back in an effort to get away from this guy, or—

**Janke:**

The officer who the step and the swipe were directed at, that direction that he went, there were actually *two* officers in that direction, they both, uh..I don't want to say that they say that they stepped back because the timing was so fast, that they saw that they had to do something to avoid...but, it happened so rapidly, that their accomplishment of that and where it went...this was just a very, very quick incident.

**Reporter:**

But they knew that they were approaching someone who reportedly had a sword...potentially?

**Janke:**

Potentially.

**Reporter:**

In your opinion, do you think that if they did not fire, that one of those officers

would have been cut? Was it that close?

**Janke:**

That would be very difficult for me to make a statement about. That has been articulated in the interview process, and I think the significant points here that are kind of...that at least address some of these questions, are that we had a definite offense involving a cutting. That was confirmed by officers. We had a question and a denial, relating to whether this subject had a weapon, and then we had a very quick action on his part.

**Reporter:**

What had been—you said it had been articulated that somebody—one of the police officers—said, “I think he would—if I hadn’t shot then he would have cut them?”

**Janke:**

The officers, in their interviews, conveyed information the way that I’m conveying it to you. And at this point, that’s part of the ongoing investigation. I think, as you know, we’re not going to detail, specifically, what each officer said. That’s part of the ongoing investigation, but the officers did speak about a threat in this action that I’m describing. Very rapidly, very close proximity.

**Reporter:**

Were the officers that were closest to this Hebert, were they not able to—and I understand you’re saying this was swift—but grabbing their tasers was not an option?

**Janke:**

None of them perceived that as an option. They simply didn’t have time, is the best way to describe it.

**Reporter:**

But the one officer had time to reach for his hand gun?

**Janke:**

When encountering an edged weapon, a threat of serious physical harm, depending on other circumstances, in general, drawing—for a Cincinnati police officer to draw their firearm in response to a threat of an edged weapon...drawing a firearm is appropriate.

**Reporter:**

Where—if Sgt. Mitchell was acting as a cover, can you give me an idea—so these two were in front of the guy with the knife, and where is Sgt. Mitchell in relation to where all this is going on?

**Janke:**

Uh, the best way to say that is he is positioned in a good cover position, not so that he’s

directly on the other side of the subject, but in a—an angle opposite of where the subject steps toward the other officers. So, the subject is between the two officers and Sgt. Mitchell, but not a direct line.

**Reporter:**

So, was he shot from behind, then?

**Janke:**

He ends up being shot in the chest.

**Reporter:**

Both rounds in the chest?

**Janke:**

Yes. Upper left chest.

**Reporter:**

So, did he turn toward the officer upon the officer—Sgt. Mitchell yelling at him?

**Janke:**

As he stepped and swiped, Sgt. Mitchell also stepped, and the rounds hit Mr. Hebert in the front.

**Reporter:**

How far away was he from the [...]?

**Janke:**

I have no information on that.

**Reporter:**

So it was not an MHRT run?

**Janke:**

It was not an MHRT run. Att this point, I'd like the Mayor to make some comments, if you'd like. Mr. Mayor...

**Mayor Mallory:**

Thank you. Um, first of all, let me thank you for putting this information together as quickly as you have. As you know, in our community, we will always take an incident like this very seriously. It's always unfortunate when someone loses their life in the force of the Cincinnati Police Department doing its job, and keeping our community safe. I will express condolences to the family of Mr. Hebert. I'm also glad to know that the officers involved were not injured in any way.

This situation will obviously be investigated. As you've just heard, there are three different tracks for investigations that are ongoing. Again, I would ask the community, as

I always do in situations like this, to please reserve judgment and wait for the results of the investigation to be announced. I don't know if you have any questions for me, but I think that, uh, Colonel Janke—a lot of information has been put out. You all have it now.

**Reporter:**

How long have these officers been with the department? All three of them?

**Janke:**

We will make this Power Point available, and each slide has all of that information. We will make all of this available to answer those questions.

**Reporter:**

You said Hebert has no local address, but—and maybe a New Orleans address—but any criminal history or any--?

**Janke:**

I'm not aware of that right now. We will update you with that as we come upon it. Thank you very much.

**Mayor Mallory:**

Thank you.

END PRESS CONFERENCE