

# Florida Department of Law Enforcement

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**Use of Force Investigation**

**OR-27-0402**

**Special Agent Ryan Bliss**

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*Service - Integrity - Respect - Quality*

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement**  
*Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida*  
**OR-27-0402**



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# Florida Department of Law Enforcement

## Case Number: OR-27-0402

### Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida



#### Investigative Summary

#### Use of Force Investigation

Melbourne Police Department/  
Florida Institute of Technology

Incident Date: December 03, 2021

Case Agent:  
Special Agent Ryan Bliss

Subject:

Alhaji Sow  
Black/Male  
DOB: May 18, 2003

Involved Officer:

Officer  
Melbourne Police Department  
650 North Apollo Boulevard  
Melbourne, Florida 32935

Security Officer Carlos Garcia  
Florida Institute of Technology  
150 West University Boulevard  
Melbourne, FL 32901

Incident Location:

2725 Country Club Drive,  
Melbourne, Florida, 32901

## Summary of Events

On December 03, 2021, the Melbourne Police Department (MPD) requested the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) conduct an investigation into the use of force by MPD Officer [REDACTED] and armed Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) Security Officer Carlos Garcia, which resulted in the death of Alhaji Sow. The incident occurred at 2725 Country Club Drive, room number 106, Melbourne, FL.

FDLE Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Lee Massie, Special Agent (SA) Ryan Bliss, SA Christopher Deardoff, SA Christopher Shephard, and SA Scott Ratliff responded to the scene and assisted with various investigative activities.

On Friday, December 3, 2021, the MPD received a 911 call of an armed disturbance at 50 Babbling Brook Place on the FIT campus. The 911 caller advised that the subject, later identified as Sow, was dressed in dark clothing armed with a knife chasing him on campus. The caller ran into a building, secured himself inside the building, and lost sight of Sow. Additional information was received that Sow had assaulted other students on campus and ultimately entered the Campbell Hall Dormitory.

Officer [REDACTED] arrived on the scene and entered the Campbell Hall Dormitory with Security Officer Garcia. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia were directed to room number 106. The door to the dorm room was locked. Security Officer Garcia unlocked the door with a master key and Officer [REDACTED] entered the room. Officer [REDACTED] located Sow positioned behind a refrigerator with a skateboard covering his face. Sow lunged toward Officer [REDACTED] with a pair of scissors in his hand and stabbed Officer [REDACTED] in the leg. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia fired eighteen rounds and struck Sow multiple times. Sow was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A preliminary review of Officer [REDACTED] body-worn camera (BWC) video showed Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia entering the Campbell Dormitory. Campbell Dormitory resident Steven Chase approached Officer [REDACTED] and advised that he heard and saw Sow enter dorm room number 106. Security Officer Garcia inserted a master key in the door lock. Officer [REDACTED] opened the door and entered the room. Security Officer Garcia remained positioned at the opened door. None of the lights in the dorm room were illuminated. Officer [REDACTED] activated the light on his pistol. Officer [REDACTED] observed Sow crouched behind a refrigerator with a skateboard covering his face and the front portion of his body. Officer [REDACTED] said, "hey" and reached for the skateboard. Sow immediately lunged forward with an object in his right hand, later identified as a pair of scissors.

MPD Officer [REDACTED] and FIT Security Guard Garcia fired 18 rounds and struck Sow multiple times.

Officer [REDACTED] received a minor injury to his leg and Security Officer Garcia was not injured during the incident. No other students were injured during the incident.

The MPD Crime Scene Unit processed the crime scene at the direction of FDLE.

## 911 Calls / Radio Communications / CAD report

The Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) report, the 911 calls, and radio transmission from the incident were collected and analyzed, each record should be referred to for complete details. SA Bliss completed a review of the items. Below is a synopsis.

### CAD Report

After a thorough review by SA Bliss, it was determined that the CAD report was consistent with the radio traffic and contained no significant differences. The CAD report was recorded in actual time. The following is a synopsis of the information entered in CAD by the Communications Center.

TIME	DESCRIPTION
22:49:42	Armed Disturbance at 50 Babbling Brook Place at Columbia Village.
22:51:19	Male wearing all black was sig 52 multiple people and compl stated the male had a sig 0 knife and is chasing the compl.
22:51:57	B102 Operator:4177 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Preempted and dispatched to call.
22:52:18	Running from the male and compl is now T97 in the building unk where the went.
22:52:20	B102 Comment toned B30 copies B92 Unit ID:B102 Location: Columbia Village.
22:52:37	Backer (B92 Officer Nicolas Harris - Commons Bldg (FIT), Mel Operator:4855 Location Common Village.
22:52:54	Backer (B82 Officer Jordan Wilson) - Commons Bldg (FIT), Mel Operator:4778 Jordan Wilson
22:53:00	T39ing FIT Security.
22:53:03	Compl stated the male had a sig 0 knife then dropped it in the garage of Columbia Village.
22:53:43	It was B/M drk skin lsw all black.
22:53:48	B102 Officer [REDACTED] on scene
22:54:04	FIT Security adv it is at Campbell Hall.
22:54:20	FIT chased suspect...sus has knife
22:54:41	lsw blk hooded sweater...poss W/M.
22:54:54	Suspect is 5'8 drk skin B/M and speaking to another victim that was sig 52'd a female in the face. Location: FIT Campbell Hall (Building 116).
22:54:56	Comp adv that security guard chased someone into Campbell Hall with a sig 0 gun. Security gun in Campbell Hall.
22:55:07	Last seen inside east wing of Campbell Hall.

22:55:23	Backos - B91 UnitID:B102 Location: Columbia Village Commons bldg (FIT) Mel Operator 4738, 5027 Opernames: Moreno, Pearson,Keandre; Hamilton,Kyle
22:55:30	Backos-R26 Operator 3581 Officer Brett Self Commons bldg. (FIT)
22:55:59	FIT is outside Campbell Hall, sus went inside
22:56:04	Joshua phone 859-638-6916 comment susp allegedly went to east side of building comp will T56 in front of Campbell Hall in on teh street by the quad
22:56:06	B82 on scene
22:56:20	Joshua adv he saw the gun in the susp hand
22:56:27	B92 on scene
22:56:33	22:56:33 FIT security is outside
22:56:40	Compl also stated that the male was hitting cars with is fist in the Columbia Village garage
22:59:11	Security calling adv that one security guard chased oen susp with sig 0 to Roberts and another security guard chased one susp with another sig 0.
22:59:17	Comment: Only description of B/M.
23:00:04	Correction second susp was chased to Campbell. Hall and first was chased to Roberts Hall. Compadv that students are also reporting being hit by either other students or people outside
23:01:21	B91 Comment: Sig 0 gun was owned by security.
23:01:42	B30 (Officer Charles Braden) Unit ID: B102 Columbia Village Commons Bldg (FIT) Mel Operator:279 Operator names Braden, Charles
23:01:57	Commons bldg (FIT) Mel Operator 353 Shelley, Sheridan
23:03:22	B102 (Officer ██████) Shots fired.
23:03:41	B82 Comment: shots fired in the building 106 susp down all ofc. okay
23:05:44	B30(Officer Charles Braden) Any requested rescue? Need rescue to Evans Hall student center

The remainder of the CAD Report predominately pertained to post-shooting activities and notifications.

The MPD dispatch center called the FIT Security mobile telephone number.

MPD dispatch called the FIT Security mobile telephone number. Security Officer Garcia answered the telephone. The MPD dispatcher informed Security Officer Garcia that MPD officers were responding to the Columbia Village commons building in reference to a possible armed disturbance. Security Officer Garcia advised that the armed disturbance was at Campbell Hall. Security Officer Garcia stated that he was involved in a foot pursuit with possibly a white male. Security Officer Garcia could not advise on the race because the individual was wearing a "black hoodie" and was armed with a knife. The MPD dispatcher asked if Security Officer Garcia could see the officers on the scene. Security Officer Garcia advised that he could not because he was inside the Campbell Hall. Security Officer Garcia advised that the individual was inside the Campbell Hall on the east side. The call ended

## **911 Calls**

First 911 call

A FIT resident assistant called 911 and advised that a black male wearing an all-black hoodie was in the Columbia Village garage hitting people and hitting cars. The individual dropped a knife on the sidewalk between the Columbia Village garage and Roberts Hall. The caller advised that the individual was chasing her, another resident assistant, and a girl (later identified as Eliza Osborn, hereinafter Osborn) that was punched in the garage. They were running to the Columbia Village office for safety. The caller lost sight of the individual and did not know his direction of travel. The MPD dispatcher asked the caller to describe the individual and she could not. The caller gave the telephone to Osborn and described the individual as "five feet eight inches tall, dark-skinned black, wearing all black, with fair skin." Osborn advised that "he came out of nowhere and just started beating the shit out of me." Osborn did not need rescue for the injuries sustained from the battery. Osborn advised that he was walking around the parking garage punching and kicking cars. The call ended when Osborn saw MPD officers on scene and was directed by the dispatcher to speak with them.

Third 911 call

FIT student Joshua Calhoun called the MPD dispatch and advised that the FIT security officer chased someone into Campbell Hall and the security officer was holding a gun. The FIT security officer told Calhoun to call the police. The dispatcher could hear the conversation in the background and asked Calhoun who had a gun. Calhoun advised that the FIT security guard advised that the subject he was chasing had a gun. Calhoun advised that he could hear approaching police car sirens. The dispatcher asked where the FIT security officer was and Calhoun advised that he was in the main room of Campbell Hall and the subject ran to the east end of Campbell Hall. The dispatcher asked Calhoun if he saw the gun the subject was carrying and Calhoun confirmed that he did.

Fourth 911 call

The fourth call is a copy of the third call.

Fifth 911 call

The FIT security dispatcher center called MPD dispatch and requested "multiple backups of MPDs on this campus." The MPD dispatcher stated, "Campbell Hall." FIT dispatcher requested backup at Roberts Hall, Evans Hall, Campbell Hall, and CV (Columbia Village). The MPD dispatcher advised that they received a call about a FIT security officer chasing a guy with a knife or a gun. The FIT dispatcher advised that it was for Roberts Hall, but another FIT security officer chased another suspect at Evans Hall. The MPD dispatcher asked if two FIT security officers were chasing two different people. The FIT dispatcher confirmed there were two separate incidents. Students continued to call the FIT dispatch to advise that students were going into their dorms for safety from people trying to hit them. The students advised the subject was a black male and they did not know if the subject was a student.

## Sixth 911 call

The FIT security dispatch center called MPD dispatch and advised there were shots fired at Campbell Hall, the subject was shot, and rescue was needed to respond.

## Seventh 911 call

FIT student Jacob Lovisone called the MPD dispatch to report an interaction that occurred earlier in the evening related to the campus lockdown. At approximately 2230 hours, Lovisone was in his girlfriend's dorm room, A100 in Shaw Hall, when he heard a knock on the door. The individual was described as a black male wearing a dark puffy jacket with the hood up covering his head. Lovisone did not recall what color or type of pants the individual was wearing. Lovisone believed the individual to be about nineteen or twenty years old. The individual was asked to speak with a student, Sid Fredricksberg that lived in the dorm, but Lovisone advised that she was sleeping. The individual then said, "the singularity is coming." Lovisone was very confused and did not know what he was talking about. The individual then began to "jump" around on different topics to discuss like what they were watching on the television. The individual then walked away and knocked on other dorm room doors. Lovisone did not see his hands and did not believe he had any weapons in his hands.

Lovisone believed that because of the odd interaction, the individual may have been under the influence of something.

## Radio Traffic

The radio traffic was recorded in real-time. A review of the audio radio traffic revealed that the call for service was initiated by a 911 call that somebody was being chased with a knife in Columbia Village. A male dressed in all black, 52'd (committed battery) on multiple people and chased the complainant with a knife. B30 (Officer Charles Braden) acknowledged the call and asked if FIT security was on the scene. The dispatcher could not advise if FIT security was on scene and stated that there was a possibility of a gun involved, but the MPD dispatch did not receive any information of a gun. The dispatcher informed Bravo 102 (Officer [REDACTED]) that the caller was inside the building at 50 Babbling Brook and the caller did not know the suspect's direction of travel or location.

The dispatcher informed Officer [REDACTED] that the subject may have dropped the knife in the garage of Columbia Village. Officer [REDACTED] asked if a description of the subject was provided. The dispatcher advised that the description was a black male dressed in all black. Another 911 caller spoke of a gun, but it was unclear if the caller referenced the FIT security officer being armed or if the subject was armed. Officer Keandre Pearson arrived on the scene and advised that the 911 caller was speaking about the gun held by FIT security. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he was walking to Campbell Hall, located at 2725 Country Club Road, which was the last location the subject was seen. Officer Pearson requested to contact the FIT security landline.

Officer [REDACTED] announced, "shots fired." Officer Jordan Wilson advised, "106 west Hall, suspect down, all officers are okay." Officer [REDACTED] could be heard in the background saying, "he came at me." The other part of the radio transmission was inarticulate. Officer Braden asked if anyone had requested rescue. The dispatch advised no. Officer Braden then requested rescue. An officer announced that the scene was secure and rescue was clear to come in. Officer Pearson advised that he was getting an AED. Rescue arrived on the scene.

Radio traffic continued with the officers on scene securing the crime scene and notifications being made.

The 911 calls provided by the MPD were labeled incorrectly. There were a total of six 911 calls. The calls were labeled first call, third call, fourth call, fifth call, sixth call, and seventh call. The second call was not listed. SA Bliss spoke with Detective Tom Cahalan and he advised that there were only six calls. All of the calls were accounted for and included.



## Law Enforcement Interviews

### Officer [REDACTED]

On December 10, 2021, SA Bliss and SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Officer [REDACTED]. The interview was conducted at the MPD Headquarters located at 650 North Apollo Boulevard. Prior to any questioning, SA Bliss read an FDLE Use of Force Incident Interview Preparation Statement to Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] agreed to provide a sworn voluntary audio-recorded statement. Police Benevolent Association (PBA) appointed Attorney Marty White was also present representing Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] reviewed the body-worn camera (BWC) video with PBA Attorney Marty White prior to the interview.

Officer [REDACTED] has been employed as a sworn law enforcement officer with the MPD for approximately five years.

On December 03, 2021, Officer [REDACTED] was assigned to area 10, his call sign identifier was Bravo 102. Officer [REDACTED] shift was from 6 PM to 6 AM. Officer [REDACTED] was wearing an MPD uniform; black pants, a black polo-type shirt with Melbourne Police Department patches on both sleeves, a sewn badge on the front of the polo shirt, and an outer vest carrier with police embroidered on the front and back. Officer [REDACTED] was wearing his duty belt, which held his Glock 17 9mm pistol equipped with an extended magazine that held twenty-one rounds of ammunition. The magazine was loaded to full capacity. Officer [REDACTED] could not recall if the magazine was loaded to full capacity with a round in the chamber. Officer [REDACTED] had three additional fifteen-round magazines on his duty belt, a Taser Electronic Control Device, and an ASP baton. Officer [REDACTED] was driving his assigned marked MPD patrol car equipped with emergency overhead lights.

Officer [REDACTED] was dispatched to a bicycle theft on the FIT campus at 50 Babbling Brook Place. Officer [REDACTED] met with FIT Security Officer John Manoli and the victim of the bicycle theft. Officer [REDACTED] then traveled to the security office with Security Officer Manoli to view the surveillance video in an effort to identify the subject(s) involved with the bicycle theft. While at the security office, a call was received by Security Officer Manoli that shots were fired in a dormitory Hall on campus. Officer [REDACTED] told Security Officer Manoli that he would follow him to the dormitory Hall. Officer [REDACTED] alerted the MPD dispatch of the shots fired call.

Officer [REDACTED] followed Security Officer Manoli back to 50 Babbling Brook Place and parked his patrol vehicle. Security Officer Manoli told Officer [REDACTED] that Security Officer Garcia was in a foot pursuit of a black male, later identified as Sow wearing dark clothing armed with a knife. Security Officer Garcia was pursuing Sow in the direction of Campbell Hall. Officer [REDACTED] walked in that direction when a female approached Officer [REDACTED] and advised that a black male wearing dark clothing physically attacked her and punched her multiple times and Security Officer Garcia was pursuing him on foot.

Officer [REDACTED] asked the location of Campbell Hall to coordinate with the responding MPD officers and to inform the MPD dispatch. Officer [REDACTED] arrived at Campbell Hall, located Security Officer Garcia at the exterior of the southwest corner of Campbell Hall, and learned that a female student told her that a black male dressed in dark clothing punched her several times and ran away. A pizza delivery person told Security Officer Garcia that a black male dressed in dark clothing was punching and kicking cars in the parking garage and was armed with a knife. Security Officer Garcia told Officer [REDACTED] that Sow had a knife in his hand, but he did not see Sow assault anybody with the knife, but Security Officer Garcia was "working on that."

Officer [REDACTED] asked Security Officer Garcia the "layout" of the Campbell Hall dormitory and if the dormitory was occupied with students. Officer [REDACTED] was concerned because of the initial call for service of an individual possibly armed with a firearm, someone being chased with a knife, and someone being physically attacked. Officer [REDACTED] attempted to gain entry to the dormitory Hall via the west side door, but the door was locked. Officer [REDACTED] walked to the main doors to the dormitory and those doors were also locked. A FIT security officer opened the door via an access card. Officer [REDACTED] entered the main lobby and requested Security Officer Garcia to follow him inside.

Upon entering the lobby area, Security Officer Garcia motioned the direction of the Hallway(s) to get to the west side of the dormitory Hall. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia walked the Hallway to the west side of the dormitory. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia checked for unsecured doors and cleared the bathrooms. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia walked to the stairwell at the west end of the dormitory. Officer [REDACTED] opened the exterior door and provided MPD Officer Wilson, MPD Officer Pearson, and Officer Kyle Hamilton a description of the subject and advised he was armed with a knife.

Officer [REDACTED] directed Officer Pearson and Officer Hamilton to remain at the exterior door and watch to see if the subject exited through one of the other exterior doors. Officer [REDACTED] Officer Wilson, Security Officer Garcia, and Security Officer Marudin were talking when a student, later identified as Steven Chase approached and advised that the individual (Sow) that they were looking for was in room number 106. Chase advised that Sow grabbed him by the shirt, pushed him against the wall, and tried to get into Chase's room. Chase informed Officer Wilson, who was positioned behind Officer [REDACTED] that Sow was armed with a pair of scissors. Chase did not know Sow and advised that Sow did not live in the room. Chase did not know if the room was occupied by another student.

Due to Sow's previous violent behavior, Officer [REDACTED] believed that he needed to get into the room immediately to determine if someone was being attacked. Officer [REDACTED] Security Officer Garcia, and Security Officer Maudin approached room number 106, while Officer Wilson remained in the Hallway speaking with Chase. Officer Garcia retrieved his key ring and located the key for room number 106. Officer [REDACTED] unlocked and opened the door to the left. Officer [REDACTED] saw the room was completely dark. Officer [REDACTED] illuminated the room with the light on his pistol. Officer [REDACTED] entered the room and did not see anyone. Officer [REDACTED] continued into the room, looked to the right side of the room, and saw a waist-high refrigerator and believed someone could be positioned behind the refrigerator. Officer [REDACTED] continued into the room and saw a black male wearing a black hoodie-style sweatshirt crouched to the ground with a skateboard in his hands covering his face.

Officer [REDACTED] believed that Sow held the skateboard covering his face with both hands. Officer [REDACTED] believed that he said a few things to Sow and saw the skateboard move as Sow came forward with a pair of scissors in his right hand and stabbed Officer [REDACTED] in the leg. After reviewing the BWC video, Officer [REDACTED] saw that he had entered the room, took a few steps, turned, and located Sow. Officer [REDACTED] saw that Sow was only holding the skateboard with a few fingers with one hand. Officer [REDACTED] reached for the skateboard with one hand while he held his firearm in the other hand. Officer [REDACTED] pointed his firearm at Sow because of the information he received that Sow was possibly armed with a firearm, a knife, or scissors. When Officer [REDACTED] grabbed the skateboard and pulled it away, Officer [REDACTED] advised that "Sow moved forward, saw a long piece of metal, with two loops at the bottom with a green handle" that made contact with Officer [REDACTED] leg. Sow moved forward enough and was very close to Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] held his department issued firearm close to his body because of how close Sow was to him and fired two to three rounds at Sow.

Officer [REDACTED] stated that he was "incredibly worried at the point after the scissors came out because I felt pain in my leg and with everything as fast as it was happening, I was worried that he was going to either a, stab me in the leg and hit my femoral artery or go for my stomach." Officer [REDACTED] believed because of the close distance between them, approximately two feet, Sow could "rapidly attack" him. Officer [REDACTED] took a few steps back and heard more gunshots. Officer [REDACTED] recalled that the room was dark, and Security Officer Garcia was behind Officer [REDACTED] at the door. Officer [REDACTED] believed that Sow, "had come at me with the scissors and he was either, shooting at me now or was shooting at Security Officer Garcia."

Subsequent to Officer [REDACTED] shooting the initial rounds, Officer [REDACTED] heard more rounds that were very loud, echoing off the cement walls in the small dormitory room. Officer [REDACTED] saw Sow fall to the ground and Officer [REDACTED] shot a few more times. Security Officer Garcia moved out of the room and the door closed. The room was illuminated with the light on his gun and Officer [REDACTED] waited for someone to open the door. Security Officer Garcia opened the door, Officer [REDACTED] holstered his pistol and kicked the scissors away from Sow's leg. Officer [REDACTED] handcuffed Sow while requesting someone to call for rescue to respond to the scene. Officer [REDACTED] felt for a pulse and remembered thinking, "please don't die" and remembered trying to get something done because "I was not ready for something like that to happen." Other MPD officers arrived and Officer [REDACTED] was removed from the scene.

Officer [REDACTED] advised that Sow never said anything during the incident. Officer [REDACTED] explained that the light coming from the dormitory Hallway light illuminated the area behind him while the gun light illuminated everything in front of him. SA Bliss asked Officer [REDACTED] if he announced his presence upon entering the room. Officer [REDACTED] believed that he did, but upon watching the BWC, Officer [REDACTED] realized that he did not. Officer [REDACTED] biggest concern was that someone was being attacked by Sow in the room. Officer [REDACTED] did not want to reveal his position to Sow by announcing his presence and possibly being shot by Sow upon making an entry in the room. SA Bliss asked Officer [REDACTED] if he gave Sow verbal commands. Officer [REDACTED] believed that he did, but upon watching the BWC, Officer [REDACTED] realized that he did not.

SA Bliss asked Officer [REDACTED] why he shot Sow. Officer [REDACTED] stated when he realized that Sow had the weapon in his hand, he was in close distance from Sow and Sow was approaching him quickly and had already stabbed Officer [REDACTED] in the leg. The only thing that Officer [REDACTED] thought was, "he was going to kill me or do really great harm to me." Officer [REDACTED] believed the length of the scissors to be five inches long and that the scissors could kill him.

SA Bliss asked Officer [REDACTED] why he stopped shooting at Sow. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he fired his initial shots and back peddled to create distance from Sow and Officer [REDACTED] continued to hear shooting. The door was partially open and he could see the weapon that Sow had and realized that Sow was not a threat and knew that he had been shot. SA Bliss asked Officer [REDACTED] why there was a delay between a series of shots he fired. Officer [REDACTED] advised that at the time he fired the initial shots, Officer [REDACTED] brain was telling him to announce shots fired and he was stuck in a "loop" between notifying people and hearing gunshots from Security Officer Garcia. Officer [REDACTED] "brain was telling him to keep shooting."

SA Bliss asked Officer [REDACTED] if he had previous calls for service that required him to use FIT security officers for more than information gathering or access to rooms. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he has not had to use them for more than that on prior calls. SA Bliss asked why he chose to use a civilian security officer to assist him with an armed individual and not the MPD officers on the scene. Officer [REDACTED] advised that FIT security was used because of the exigency of the circumstances.

Officer [REDACTED] advised that he was the senior officer in the south end of the city, Officer [REDACTED] had been to more scenes than anyone else on the shift, and Officer [REDACTED] had active shooter training. Officer [REDACTED] biggest concern was that someone was being harmed in the room. Once Officer [REDACTED] opened the door and realized that no one was on the far side of the wall and Officer [REDACTED] located Sow, Officer [REDACTED] knew that he had to stop whatever was going on and detain Sow until he could figure out everything that was going on.

Officer [REDACTED] knew it was exam week and everyone was on campus on Friday night and there was a possible stabbing and shots fired. Officer [REDACTED] believed that someone had gotten onto the campus to do as much damage as possible. Officer [REDACTED] learned from the active shooter training to find the threat and stop the threat by detaining them, securing them in a location, or stopping any further threats from happening. Officer [REDACTED] advised that there was no tactical planning with Security Officer Garcia prior to entering the room.

### **Officer Kyle Hamilton**

On December 04, 2021, SA Ratliff conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Officer Hamilton of the MPD. The interview was conducted at the MPD Criminal Investigations Division (CID), located at 701 South Babcock Street, Melbourne, Florida 32935. Detective Jennifer Frost of the MPD was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Officer Hamilton stated he was riding with Officer Pearson when they received a call for service regarding a disturbance involving an armed individual on the FIT campus. Officer Hamilton stated that as they drove through the FIT campus, they were flagged down by several individuals. Officer Hamilton stated the individuals directed them to the area of the disturbance.

According to Officer Hamilton, he accompanied Officer Pearson and Officer Wilson up to the building (Campbell Hall) where Sow was last seen. Officer Hamilton stated that he was initially going to enter the building, but a decision was made for him to take a position outside of the building.

Officer Hamilton stated that several minutes passed when he heard gunshots. Officer Hamilton stated that he immediately directed students to evacuate the area. Officer Hamilton and Officer Pearson drew their weapons and entered the building. Officer Hamilton stated once inside of the building, he observed Sow laying on the floor. Officer Hamilton immediately began to provide medical assistance to Sow until relieved by fire-rescue personnel.

Officer Hamilton did not have any additional information. The interview was then concluded.

### **Officer Jordan Wilson**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Officer Wilson. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan of the MPD was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Officer Wilson responded to a disturbance involving an armed individual at the FIT campus. The subject, later identified as Sow, was chasing people on campus with a knife. Radio traffic also reported that Sow may have had a gun and possibly shots had been fired. Officer Wilson responded to the FIT Campus and was met by several students who attempted to explain what they had seen. Officer Pearson told the student to show them where they had last seen Sow. Officer Wilson and Pearson were directed to Campbell Hall where they made contact with Officer [REDACTED] who requested assistance with clearing the building.

Officer Wilson was going to check the second-story building when they were confronted by a student, later identified as Chase, who stated he had been confronted by Sow and then went into a room on the lower level of Campbell Hall. Officer [REDACTED] explained to Officer Wilson that Sow had attacked a group of people and had brandished a knife.

Officer Wilson continued speaking with Chase as Officer [REDACTED] and FIT security officers approached the dorm room where Sow was last seen. Officer Wilson heard a FIT security officer state that he had keys to the room and they were going to enter the room. Officer Wilson continued to speak to Chase to obtain what had occurred and the charges that may have occurred.

Officer Wilson heard the door to the dorm room open, so he turned around to see what was happening and to assist with entering the room. Officer [REDACTED] entered the room and turned to the right with his firearm out of the holster. Officer [REDACTED] gave a command that Officer Wilson could not recall as shots were fired and Officer Wilson saw Sow fall to the ground. Officer Wilson recalled hearing the command of "hands" and multiple shots being fired in succession. Officer Wilson could not see Sow's hands during the incident but noted a pair of scissors near Sow.

Officer Wilson left Campbell Hall to use his radio to advise that shots were fired and requested medical. Officer Wilson went to his vehicle to get his medical kit and returned to the dorm room. Officer Wilson provided first aid and Officer Pearson brought his AED [Automated External Defibrillator]. The AED was placed onto Sow and they were advised to continue CPR [Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation]. Once Officer Wilson was relieved by Fire Rescue, he assisted with establishing a crime scene.

Officer Wilson made contact with a male student at Roberts Hall who reported that he had been assaulted by Sow and Sow had dropped a knife as he left the area. Officer Wilson could not provide the victim student's information. Officer Wilson stayed with the knife until it was collected.

Officer Wilson noted a shoe, Florida Tech identification card, blood, and a sheath to a knife on the sidewalk near Campbell Hall. These items were included in the crime scene.

### **Officer Keyndre Pearson**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Officer Pearson. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Officer Pearson responded to a disturbance involving an armed individual at the FIT campus. Officer Hamilton was riding with Officer Pearson when they received a call for service regarding a disturbance involving an armed individual [Sow] on the FIT campus. Information was provided that Sow was armed with a knife and possibly a firearm. On arrival, Officer Pearson was advised by students that security had chased Sow into Campbell Hall. Officer Pearson was informed by FIT students that they saw security officers with a gun and not Sow. Officer Pearson provided this information over the radio.

Officer Pearson and Officer Hamilton met with Officer [REDACTED] and then Officer Pearson met with security to ascertain how many exits to Campbell Hall so he could secure the building and contain Sow. Officer Pearson and Officer Hamilton stayed outside of Campbell Hall while Officer [REDACTED] and FIT security officers entered the building. Officer Pearson remained at the door to Campbell Hall and spoke with students. Officer Pearson gathered further information and was writing down the names of students when he heard eight to nine gunshots. Officer Pearson "paused in his tracks" to make sure he had just heard gunshots. Officer [REDACTED] called out "shots fired" over the radio and Officer Pearson gave the car keys to Officer Hamilton to get a trauma kit out of the trunk. When Officer Pearson entered the room, Sow was being placed into handcuffs.

Officer Pearson went to the trunk of his vehicle to get the AED and to find his trauma bag. Officer Pearson returned with the AED and assisted with providing first aid until fire rescue arrived on the scene. Once Sow was pronounced deceased, Officer Pearson assisted with securing the crime scene. Officer Pearson noted a pair of scissors with a green handle near Sow. Officer Pearson remained at the crime scene until relieved by MPD personnel. Officer Pearson did not witness the use of force.

### **Officer Nicholas Harris**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Officer Nicholas Harris of the MPD. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Officer Harris responded to a disturbance involving an armed individual at the FIT campus. Officer Harris was directed to assist with securing the east door to Campbell Hall to ensure that the subject [Sow] was unable to exit the building. While standing at the door, Officer Harris heard seven to eight gunshots from inside the building. Officer Harris entered the building and observed Sow laying on the ground of the dorm room.

Officer Harris assisted with providing first aid and performed at least five sets of CPR on Sow. Officer Harris also assisted with placing the AED on Sow. Officer Harris continued to provide first aid until fire rescue arrived on the scene.

Officer Harris remained at the crime scene until relieved by MPD personnel. Officer Harris noted that there was a pair of scissors with a green handle near Sow. Officer Harris stated that he was on the other side of Campbell Hall and could not hear anything other than gunshots. Officer Harris did not witness the use of force.

## **FIT Security Officer Interviews**

### **Security Officer Carlos Garcia**

On December 15, 2021, SA Ryan Bliss and SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Security Officer Garcia. The interview was conducted at the FDLE Brevard Field Office located at 6769 North Wickham Road # B104, Melbourne, FL 32940. Prior to any questioning, SA Bliss read an FDLE Use of Force Incident Interview Preparation Statement to Security Officer Garcia. Subsequent to reading the

statement, Security Officer Garcia agreed to provide a sworn voluntary audio-recorded statement. Attorney Charles Hughes was present representing Security Officer Garcia.

Security Officer Garcia has been a certified armed security officer for approximately three years. Security Officer Garcia completed the forty-hour security training to become a certified class D unarmed security officer and the twenty-eight-hour security training to become a certified class G armed security officer. The class G armed security training provided basic firearm safety, weapon mechanics, legal principles, and the expectations of how to carry a firearm on duty.

Security Officer Garcia has not had any prior law enforcement experience. The training he has had at the FIT is from a third-party company identified as "Tactical Edge." The trainers at "Tactical Edge" are certified instructors with prior law enforcement experience. FIT security officers and the MPD officers do not participate in joint training exercises. Security Officer Garcia has been employed as an armed security officer at the FIT for approximately one year and ten months. While employed at the FIT, Security Officer Garcia has had active shooter training.

On December 03, 2021, Security Officer Garcia was the interim supervisor for the squad that he was assigned, which is a twelve-hour shift from 1800 hours to 0600 hours. Security Officer Garcia patrolled the FIT campus in a vehicle marked FIT Security equipped with front and rear green and white strobe lights. Security Officer Garcia was wearing a navy-blue uniform that has FIT Security patches on both shoulders, a badge on the front of the shirt, a duty belt that held OC spray, a radio, a set of keys to the FIT buildings and facilities, a department-issued Glock 19 9mm pistol with a fifteen-round magazine. The magazine was loaded to full capacity with an additional round in the chamber. Security Officer Garcia had two additional fifteen-round magazines on his duty belt.

Security Officer Garcia was called by the FIT dispatch to respond to the Columbia Village for a stolen bicycle. MPD Officer [REDACTED] was called to take the report for the stolen bicycle. While speaking with the victim of the bicycle theft, Security Officer Garcia saw a female student run from the Shaw Hall screaming, "hey get back here you piece of shit." Security Officer Garcia walked over to the female to determine what happened and as he approached four or five other females that exited from the Shaw Hall and said that male (later identified as Sow) had run by them and slapped one of the females on the buttocks and ran away. Security Officer Garcia searched the area for the male but was unsuccessful in locating him. Officer Garcia escorted the females back to their dorm room(s) and began to get additional information when the FIT dispatch alerted Security Officer Garcia that someone had been battered in the parking garage.

Security Officer Garcia ran to the parking garage and learned that a black male (Sow) wearing a dark-colored hoodie-style sweatshirt began punching a female student in the face several times and ran off. Security Officer Garcia searched the area for Sow. While searching for Sow, Security Officer Garcia was approached by a pizza delivery person who advised that he saw a black male dressed in dark clothing armed with a knife trying to break into Roberts Hall. Security Officer Garcia told the pizza delivery person to come with him to Roberts Hall to show where he was last seen. As they approached the rear of Roberts Hall, the pizza delivery person saw the black male wearing a dark-colored hoodie running south down a driveway to Roberts Hall.

Security Officer Garcia began pursuing Sow on foot toward Campbell Hall because of the perceived armed threat on campus. The pizza delivery person did not continue with Security Officer Garcia. During the foot pursuit, Security Officer Garcia was giving verbal commands for Sow to stop running, but Sow failed to comply. Security Officer Garcia estimated the distance from Sow was approximately twenty-five yards. During the foot pursuit, Security Officer Garcia did not see a knife or any object in Sow's hand(s). Security Officer Garcia arrived at Campbell Hall and observed Sow enter Campbell Hall via the front doors by an unknown means. The doors are always locked and open with an access card. Security Officer Garcia attempted to give a verbal command for Sow to stop but could not because he was out of breath from the foot pursuit. Sow entered the dormitory Hall and went toward the west wing.

The Halls in the Campbell Hall dormitory have several corners and Security Officer Garcia did not feel comfortable entering the Hallways alone, so he waited for other officers to arrive on the scene. Security Officer Garcia told Officer [REDACTED] about the subject being armed with a knife and assaulting other students on campus. Security Officer Garcia and Officer [REDACTED] walked through the Hallways and cleared the bathrooms. Security

Officer Garcia and Officer [REDACTED] proceeded to the second floor via the stairs on the west-end of the dormitory, when a student later identified as Chase advised that he saw someone enter a dormitory room next to his dormitory room and could hear noises in the room. Security Officer Garcia advised that Officer [REDACTED] had “stacked up on that door and we were going to make entry into that room.” SA Bliss asked if a tactical plan of entry to the room was discussed prior to making entry. According to Security Officer Garcia, he and Officer [REDACTED] “did not necessarily stop and plan out what we were doing because this is something, you know armed intruders on campus is something we train for regularly and we are familiar with how to deal with that. It was an unspoken thing we knew what to do.” Security Officer Garcia knew they had to get into the room immediately to help the person in the room that could potentially be harmed by Sow.

Security Officer Garcia unlocked the door and took a position behind Officer [REDACTED]. Security Officer Garcia signaled to Officer [REDACTED] that he was ready to make entry. Officer [REDACTED] opened the door, entered the room, and cleared the room from left to right. Security Officer Garcia remained at the doorway entrance. On the right side of the room, there was a half-size refrigerator that someone could be positioned behind. Officer [REDACTED] turned to the right and activated the light on his pistol. Officer [REDACTED] began to give a verbal command as Sow jumped from the crouched position, lunged at Officer [REDACTED] and started stabbing Officer [REDACTED] in the side. Officer [REDACTED] light on the pistol disengaged and the room became dark. The light from the Hallway provided light into the dorm room. Security Officer Garcia saw Sow’s arm moving rapidly as if stabbing Officer [REDACTED] in the side. Security Officer Garcia saw a knife or a “stabbing instrument” in his right hand. Security Officer Garcia then saw the muzzle on Officer [REDACTED] gun get pushed down. Security Officer Garcia then heard Officer [REDACTED] shoot. Security Officer Garcia then fired his firearm, fearing for Officer [REDACTED] safety because he was actively being stabbed and to protect his own life.

Sow fell to the ground and Security Officer Garcia asked if Officer [REDACTED] was okay. Officer [REDACTED] advised that he was okay. Security Officer Garcia covered Sow with his pistol and Officer [REDACTED] began to render care. The other MPD officers and the FIT security relieved Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia.

Security Officer Garcia stopped shooting because he believed the active threat was over. SA Bliss asked what caused him to believe the active threat was over, and Security Officer Garcia stated that when the subject hit the ground and his attack on Officer [REDACTED] had stopped, “was when I elected to stop firing.” SA Bliss advised that he continued to shoot while Sow was on the ground and Security Officer Garcia stated, “I don’t know at what point I stopped shooting, I shot until he stopped moving.” SA Bliss again said that Sow was on the ground and the gunshots continued. Security Officer Garcia replied, “I couldn’t see his hands throughout this, I couldn’t see, it all happened so quickly.”

SA Bliss asked Security Officer Garcia why he entered or stood at the threshold of the room. Security Officer Garcia advised that part of his job description is to protect life and they (FIT security) work side by side with the MPD and he went into the room because he was positioned behind Officer [REDACTED]. Security Officer Garcia advised that his job is to protect life on campus. There was an armed intruder on campus and the purpose of the armed intruder training was to eliminate that threat. SA Bliss asked Security Officer Garcia to describe that armed intruder training. The armed intruder training consists of ongoing in-service training mainly for an active shooter.

Security Officer Garcia advised that the FIT policy is “to seek out and stop the threat.” SA Bliss asked if that policy changes once a sworn law enforcement officer arrives on the scene and if the law enforcement officer’s presence takes precedence over the FIT security officers. Security Officer Garcia advised that he does not believe that law enforcement officers take charge of the scene or take precedence over the FIT security officers. Security Officer Garcia advised that the FIT security officers know the campus better than the law enforcement officers and the FIT security officers have keys to all of the buildings. Security Officer Garcia advised that without him, Officer [REDACTED] would not have gotten into the room or it would have been very difficult to get into the room.

### **FIT Security Officer Michael Marudin**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of FIT Security Officer Marudin. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Security Officer Marudin was at the FIT Church when he heard Security Officer Garcia call over the radio that he was in a foot pursuit and requested the MPD response. FIT dispatch stated a male, later identified as Sow, in Evans Hall with a knife. Officer Marudin checked Evans Hall but was advised they were in Campbell Hall. Security Officer Marudin entered Campbell Hall and was notified by a student that he was in a dorm room. The student was later identified as Chase.

MPD Officer [REDACTED] went to the door, Security Officer Garcia used his keys to unlock the door as Security Officer Marudin stood near the door. Security Officer Garcia unlocked the door and Officer [REDACTED] yelled for Sow to come out of the room. Sow was behind a “chest of drawers,” hiding behind a chair. Officer [REDACTED] threw the chair out of the way and Sow lunged at him. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia both discharged their firearms, shooting Sow. Security Officer Marudin could not determine from his location if Sow had a weapon in his hand.

MPD officer provided first aid to Sow and established a crime scene. Security Officer Marudin exited the building and advised dispatch that shots had been fired. Security Officer Marudin drove to the MPD in a FIT security vehicle.

## **FIT Student Interviews**

### **Steven Chase**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of FIT Student Chase. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Chase was in his dorm room located in Campbell Hall when he heard a knock on the door. Chase opened the door and observed a male, later identified as Sow, standing at the door with a pair of scissors in his hand. Chase noticed that the scissors and Sow’s hands had blood on them. Sow grabbed Chase by the shirt and demanded that Chase give him his phone. Chase pushed Sow back and shut the door. Through the peephole of his door, Chase could see Sow knocking on Matias Galvez’s door. Chase knocked on Galvez’s door earlier and Galvez was not home, but his door was unlocked.

Chase observed Sow go into Galvez’s room and shut the door. Chase continued to look through the peephole and saw a law enforcement presence in the dorm. Law enforcement was about to exit the dorm, so Chase left his dorm room to inform the officers that he had seen Sow go into Galvez’s room.

Chase witnessed law enforcement approach the door of Galvez’s room. Chase stated that he heard an exchange at the door, someone from the inside asked, “who is it,” and law enforcement responded that it was the “it’s the God damn police.” The door was opened, Chase heard “get on the ground” and gunshots. Chase explained that he was guessing the Sow ran at the police from the corner of the room because Chase observed Sow fall to the ground with momentum. Chase could not see Sow until he fell to the ground. Chase had some previous encounters with Sow on the night of the incident and felt Sow’s behavior was out of the ordinary.

### **Eliza Osborn**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of FIT Student Osborn. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Osborn was walking through the parking garage back to her dorm room when she noticed a male, later identified as Sow whom she had never met before. As Osborn was walking she was looking at her phone, and as she was about to walk past Sow, she looked up from her phone and smiled. Sow pushed Osborn against the pillar in the parking garage and punched her several times in the stomach. Osborn punched Sow back and pushed him away from her. Osborn walked away from Sow, who was still looking at her. Osborn turned and asked Sow, “what the fuck is your problem?” Osborn walked away and called FIT security to report the incident. As Osborn was walking away, she heard banging, turned around to see Sow hitting several vehicles in the parking lot.



Osborn left the parking lot and met with MPD and FIT security. Osborn described Sow as a black male approximately five foot two inches tall, slim build, and dark clothing with a hoodie. Osborn did not see a weapon in Sow's possession. Osborn stated that she felt the attack was personal, but she could defend herself from Sow. Osborn did not witness the use of force.

### **Joshua Calhoun**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of FIT Student Calhoun. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Calhoun has known Sow since the beginning of the school year and they spend time together on most weekends. On December 03, 2021, at approximately 2000 hours, Calhoun and Sow went to a friend's dorm room. Sow took three tabs of LSD (Lysergic Acid Diethylamide). Calhoun later noted that he has seen Sow use LSD on previous occasions. It was also rumored that Sow ingested some "shrooms" (Psilocybin Mushroom) before meeting with Calhoun.

Calhoun had seen Sow take LSD before and described his behavior as happy. On the day of the incident, Sow appeared to be in a depressive mood. Between 2130 hours and 2200 hours, Sow told Calhoun that he was leaving. Calhoun asked why and Sow said that he had a feeling that he wanted to leave. Sow left without saying goodbye to anyone else. Calhoun left approximately thirty minutes later and walked to Columbia Village. Calhoun spoke with Giannie Ventura and explained that Sow had stopped at her dorm and made sexual advances. Ventura asked Sow to leave and go back to his dorm. Calhoun believes that this was the last time any of the FIT students saw Sow.

Calhoun was going to leave campus with friends and after leaving Columbia Village he noticed a law enforcement presence. Calhoun left campus with friends and monitored social media to determine the reason for the law enforcement presence. Calhoun heard several rumors of why law enforcement was on campus to included that Sow had charged law enforcement and was shot. Calhoun had not seen Sow behave in this manner before. Calhoun was not present during the use of force.

### **Gianne Ventura**

On December 04, 2021, SA Shephard conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of FIT Student Giannie Ventura. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Cahalan was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Sow and Ventura are friends and met during school. On December 03, 2021, Ventura was going to hang out with Sow and a couple of their friends. At approximately 2030 hours, Sow went to a friend's dorm room in Roberts Hall and met with Sow. They were listening to music and at approximately 2115 hours, Ventura noticed Sow had left the room. Ventura explained that it was not normal for Sow to leave without saying goodbye.

Ventura left to go back to her dorm at approximately 2200-2215 hours to get ready to leave campus with some friends. Ventura heard knocking at her door and assumed it was friends. Ventura walked to the door wearing a sports bra. She opened the door and no one was there. Ventura looked outside of the door and heard rustling in nearby bushes and assumed it was friends about to attempt a prank.

Ventura walked to the bushes, where she saw Sow hiding in the bushes. Ventura asked Sow why he was hiding in the bushes. Ventura helped Sow out of the bushes and walked back to her dorm room. Sow "inappropriately" touched Ventura by rubbing her bare stomach. Ventura stopped Sow from touching her by pushing him away from her. Ventura told Sow to go back to his dorm and Sow insisted that he was "fine." Ventura's roommate opened the door and Sow entered Ventura's dorm room. Ventura told her roommate to go into the room and shut the door.

Sow then attempted to push Ventura into her dorm room and Ventura pushed Sow back with one hand. Ventura explained that she was trying to show Sow that she was not trying to hurt him, but to just push him away from her. Ventura explained that Sow took her actions very seriously, that he acted like, "she just spit in his face." Sow looked at Ventura very aggressively. Ventura believed that Sow was on drugs and pushed him back to her living room. Ventura told Sow that he had to go back to his dorm. Sow asked if he could stay and Ventura explained that his behavior was not okay and he had to leave. Sow still did not leave, so Ventura grabbed Sow by his hoodie and walked him to the door. Sow left and appeared to be very angry that Ventura made him leave.

Ventura explained that she had not seen Sow use any type of alcohol or drugs, but believed he had to ingest something because of the drastic change in his behavior. Ventura did not have a romantic relationship with Sow. Ventura believed the actions of Sow were sexual and he was not attempting to cause her harm.

### **Peter Wilson**

On December 04, 2021, SA Ratliff conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Wilson. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Frost was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Wilson stated he was in his dormitory room (Campbell Hall #109) when he heard gunshots coming from the Hallway. According to Wilson, there were approximately six gunshots fired in rapid succession. Wilson stated he was not sure if the gunshots were being fired from a single weapon, or if multiple weapons were being fired. Wilson immediately sought cover behind his bed.

Wilson stated the gunshots sounded like a loud bang or a small explosion and that he was familiar with what gunshots sounded like. Wilson stated he knew immediately what was happening.

According to Wilson, at the time of the gunshots, he was sitting at his desk working on his computer while wearing headphones. Following the gunshots, Wilson stated that he heard voices yelling. Wilson thought the voices were from police officers. Wilson was alone in the room, so he proceeded to lock the door to avoid any danger. Wilson confirmed that he did peer through the peephole in his door and observed a police officer bring in an AED.

Wilson stated that he heard something related to "Down" being yelled. Wilson remained in his room until he was notified by law enforcement personnel that it was safe to exit. According to Wilson, as he exited his room, he observed three evidence markers placed next to blood droplets on the floor.

Wilson stated he was brought to a dormitory building directly across from his building where he remained. Wilson said he only spoke to law enforcement personnel following the incident.

### **Shane Kaplan**

On December 04, 2021, SA Ratliff conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Shane Kaplan. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Frost was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Kaplan stated that he was hanging out in his dormitory room (Campbell Hall #108) with several friends playing Wii sports. According to Kaplan, his friend Bradley Barbosa returned to the room looking nervous and frantic. It was at that point his roommate Chase opened the door.

Kaplan stated he observed Sow standing at the door with scissors in his hand and Sow was requesting Chase's phone. Kaplan advised Chase refused to provide Sow with his phone. Sow then grabbed Chase by the shirt resulting in Chase pushing him away. Chase then closed and locked the door. According to Kaplan, Chase told them he noticed blood on Sow's hands.

Kaplan stated they were all nervous following the incident and they heard banging coming from the dormitory room next door. Kaplan stated he immediately called the room's occupant, Galvez to see if he was in the room and if he was "Ok." Galvez informed him he was not in his room and was unaware of what was going on.

Kaplan said that campus security arrived and after looking out the peephole, Chase opened the door to explain what had occurred. Kaplan immediately closed the door and locked it after Chase exited the room because they were frightened. Kaplan stated shortly afterward, he heard gunshots in the Hallway. Following the gunshots, an officer came to the room and recorded their names.

Kaplan said there were six people in the room at the time of the incident. Kaplan stated that when Barbosa returned to the room he informed them, "He didn't look right," as he referred to Sow. Further, Kaplan stated that Barbosa told them Sow had "Kind of had this dead look in his eyes, and he just didn't recognize him."

Sow was wearing a dark gray hoodie and jogging-style pants. Kaplan was able to describe the scissors Sow was holding at the time of the incident. The scissors appeared to be five to six inches in length. Further, Kaplan advised that Sow was holding the scissors in his hand with the sharpened end pointing outward. Kaplan did not hear Sow say anything other than his request for Chase's phone.

Kaplan did not personally know Sow but described him as a fellow floormate from Atlanta, Georgia. Kaplan explained that Sow and Galvez were former roommates. According to Kaplan, he had known Sow since August 2021, and that Sow was always nice to everyone, so the circumstances had taken him by surprise.

Kaplan explained that he was familiar with the sound of gunshots. Further, Kaplan described the sounds he heard, as pounding and that he could feel them in his chest. Kaplan stated immediately after the gunshots, he heard an officer state, "Shots fired."

Kaplan stated that he and the others exited the room through the window following the incident. Kaplan admitted to looking through the peephole to see what was happening in the Hallway but did not observe anything.

### **Ashton Bennett**

On December 04, 2021, SA Ratliff conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Ashton Bennett. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Frost was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Bennett stated that she was in her boyfriend's Kaplan dormitory room (Campbell Hall #108) sitting on a bed next to the door when she observed Sow with a pair of scissors in his hand. Bennett said, one of her friends, Chase, answered the door and had asked Sow, "Hey, What's up?" According to Bennett, Sow asked Chase for his phone. Chase replied, "No I'm not going to give you my phone." At that point, Sow grabbed Chase by the shirt, getting blood on it.

Bennett said that Chase observed blood on Sow's hands and proceeded to push Sow out of the doorway and close the door. Bennett stated they did not know what to do at that point. Bennett immediately heard banging noises and yelling coming from the dormitory room next door. According to Bennett, Chase saw a security guard and exited the room to tell them what had occurred.

Bennett stated they closed and locked the door after Chase exited and then heard gunshots and yelling but did not see anything. Bennett was unable to discern what was being said. Bennett compared the gunshots to what she has heard on television. According to Bennett, it sounded similar to fireworks going off. Bennett estimated she heard five to six gunshots.

Bennett described Sow as a 5-foot, 5 inch, African-American with a slender build. According to Bennett, Sow appeared very angry at the time and she did not know why. Sow had a pair of scissors in his hand and presented himself in a "stiff stance" as if he were squaring up to fight. Bennett described how Sow grabbed Chase's shirt and pulled at it.

After the contact, Bennett stated, she observed blood on Chase's shirt. According to Bennett, Sow was holding the pair of scissors in his hand with the sharpened end pointing outward, as he requested the phone from Chase. Bennett did not hear anything else being said by Sow.

Bennett said there were a total of six people in the room at the time. Bennett identified them as Barbosa, Edward Laureano, Trevor Mellow, Chase, Kaplan, and herself.

Bennett stated she did not personally know Sow but did recall meeting him on three separate occasions around the campus. Bennett explained that after she heard the gunshots, she was scared and proceeded to hide behind the bed.

### **Bradley Barbosa**

On December 04, 2021, SA Ratliff conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Barbosa. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Frost was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Barbosa stated he was hanging out in Kaplan's dormitory room (Campbell Hall #108) playing Wii bowling. According to Barbosa, he left the dormitory room to go to the restroom when he encountered Sow in the Hallway. Barbosa observed blood all over Sow's jacket pocket and hand. Barbosa said that Sow was holding a green pair of scissors or a knife in his hand, which appeared to be sharp. Barbosa was within two feet of Sow at the time and was shocked by the sight, causing him to become scared.

Following his initial observations, Barbosa stated that he put his hands up and began to walk quickly backward away from Sow. Sow asked for his phone, as he moved away from him. Barbosa stated, Sow had the pair of scissors in his pocket and was not pointing them at him. Sow allowed him to move away and he saw "Darkness" in Sow's eyes and became fearful for his life.

Barbosa stated, he opened the door and ran into the dormitory room. Once in the room, Chase opened the door, and Sow immediately asked for his phone. Barbosa stated, Sow, grabbed Chase by the shirt, and stated, "Give me your phone." Chase pushed Sow away and immediately locked the door.

Barbosa said they called and reported the incident to the resident assistant (RA). A couple of minutes later, Chase opened the door and exited the dormitory room to summon security personnel. Barbosa heard the door close to the room next door, followed by a series of banging noises.

Barbosa said they opened the door slightly and were informed by law enforcement personnel to stay in the room. Barbosa looked through the peephole of the door to see an officer standing in the Hallway near the door and the officer had his gun drawn. Barbosa stated that he figured there were going to be gunshots, so he began to cover his ears.

Barbosa heard the door open to the room next to his, followed by a series of popping noises. Barbosa claimed the sounds were sudden and that he didn't expect it. Barbosa did not remember hearing anything being said at the time of the noises. Barbosa claimed that there were at least two or three officers shooting at the same time.

Barbosa remained in the room following the incident, periodically looking through the peephole of the door. Barbosa was able to describe the layout of the Hallway where he encountered Sow.

Barbosa stated Sow appeared "Determined, "I don't believe he came there to kill because he did let me go off to the room." Barbosa explained, Sow held the pair of scissors in his pocket as he told him, "Yo, just give me your phone, give me your damn phone."

Barbosa described his movements, as he backed away from Sow. Barbosa initially thought the situation was a joke but felt the need to contact the RA.

Barbosa stated there were a total of six people in the dormitory room at the time. Barbosa identified them as Ashton Bennett, Alex (Edward Laureano), Trevor Mellow, Chase, Kaplan, and himself.

Barbosa did know Sow, but not too well despite being in a computer science class together. According to Barbosa, Sow had visited his dormitory room in the past, and the two had conversed on several occasions. Barbosa stated that through conversations, he learned that Sow liked anime and a television show titled "One Piece." Barbosa stated, "One Piece" was generally the topic of discussion when they would meet.

Barbosa stated that Sow was once roommates with Matias Galvez.

### **Edward Laureano**

On December 04, 2021, SA Ratliff conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio-recorded interview of Laureano. The interview was conducted at the MPD CID. Detective Frost was also present during the interview. The following is a summary of the interview:

Laureano stated that he was in Chase's dormitory room (Campbell Hall #108) when he heard a knock at the door. According to Laureano, Chase answered the door that was when he observed Sow with a frantic look on his face. Chase appeared to be disturbed by Sow. Laureano explained that Chase stepped back, and immediately closed the door. Laureano said that someone mentioned blood, at which point he looked up to see blood on Chase's shirt. Chase told them that he was grabbed by Sow, causing the blood on his shirt.

Laureano observations were limited due to his positioning, but he did hear Sow ask Chase for his phone.

Laureano heard Sow walk over to the dormitory room belonging to Galvez. Moments later, Laureano heard banging noises as Sow knocked on the door. According to Laureano, the room was left unlocked by Galvez. As he listened, Laureano heard Sow open the door and enter the room.

Laureano heard things being moved around in the room. At that point, Chase contacted security. A short time later Chase exited the room, and he heard law enforcement officers in the area. Laureano peered through the peephole in the door and observed several officers in the Hallway aiming guns at a door.

Laureano stated that he stepped back and immediately heard gunshots. Laureano believed that several gunshots were fired by each officer. Laureano estimated that he heard a total of fifteen gunshots. Laureano stated that the gunshots were loud and rapid.

Laureano did know Sow and that the two had engaged in "friendly talk" on several occasions. According to Laureano, through conversations, he learned that Sow liked the television show "One Piece" and it was one of his favorite shows, so he and Sow would talk about it.

Laureano confirmed that just prior to Sow knocking on the door, Barbosa had returned to the room with a paranoid look on his face. Barbosa informed them he had observed Sow in the Hallway and that Sow appeared frantic. Further, Laureano stated that Barbosa told him Sow scared him, so he immediately returned to the room.

### **Elizabeth Hayes**

On December 04, 2021, FIT student Elizabeth Hayes notified the FIT security that the individual described on the news in the officer-involved shooting matched the description of the individual that slapped her on the buttocks in front of her dorm room the previous night. Detective Callahan and Detective Frost conducted a sworn audio-recorded interview with Hayes at the FIT security office. Hayes resides on campus in Columbia Village at the Shaw Hall in room number 103.

On December 03, 2021, at approximately 2234 hours, Hayes walked outside of her dorm room for better Wi-Fi reception on her cell phone. While standing alone on the balcony in front of her room, Hayes heard someone approaching from behind. At the time, Hayes was not concerned because students walked around the dormitory frequently. Hayes described the individual, later identified as Sow as a "dark-skinned male, with a large mouth and large lips, wearing tighter pants, and a dark-colored hoodie style sweatshirt." As Sow walked close to Hayes, Sow slapped Hayes on the buttocks. Sow continued to walk toward the stairs and Hayes shouted, "Hello" because Hayes did not know Sow. Sow looked back and said, I'm good or it's good and continued to walk. Hayes

then said, "What the fuck" and went back inside of her room to tell her roommate. Hayes and her roommate went outside to confront Sow and saw Security Officer Garcia outside handling a separate call.

Security Officer Garcia asked what happened and asked for Hayes's identification to include in a report of the incident. While Security Officer Garcia was walking Hayes and her roommate back to the room, Hayes heard a call on Security Officer Garcia's FIT radio that an individual was in the parking garage "assaulting girls or touching girls." Security Officer Garcia left Hayes to go to the parking garage.

When Sow slapped Hayes on the buttocks, Hayes did not see a weapon in Sow's hands. Hayes believed that after Sow slapped Hayes on the buttocks, he placed both of his hands inside the pockets on the hoodie-style sweatshirt. Hayes believed that Sow was looking for someone to do something to because Sow walked from the far end of the Hallway toward her. After slapping Hayes on the buttocks, Sow continued toward the parking garage or Columbia Village. Hayes did not see any blood on Sow's body or clothing and Sow seemed very relaxed.

Hayes did not see the officer-involved shooting.

### **Mia Dattis**

On December 08, 2021, Detective Cahalan conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio recorded interview of FIT student Mia Dattis. The following is a summary of the interview:

Dattis resides on campus in Columbia Village at the Shaw Hall in room number 202D. At approximately 2230 hours, Dattis was in her dorm room talking on the telephone with a friend when she heard her name being called with repeated knocking on the door. Dattis slightly opened the door and saw Sow standing at her door wearing a hoodie sweatshirt on his head with his hands in his pockets. Dattis knew Sow from the different school organizations and clubs she attended at the FIT.

Sow's visit was completely unexpected and he had never been in her dorm room before. Dattis and Sow were not romantically or sexually involved. Dattis could not recall if she invited Sow into the room or if Sow just walked in. Sow asked if he could sit on her bed and sat in the center of her bed. Dattis remained at the door. Sow then asked Dattis to sit on the bed next to him. Dattis sat on the edge of the bed as far from Sow as possible. Sow reached out to touch her foot and Dattis pulled her foot under her body to prevent Sow from touching her. Dattis remembered that Sow had a flowery fragrance smell on his body and Dattis recognized the smell to be similar to a "Vap" smell.

Sow told Dattis to turn the lights off and close the door. Dattis was very startled because that was not Sow's normal behavior. Sow was usually very friendly and had nothing "ominous" about him. Dattis continued to ask Sow if he was okay. Sow's voice was "slurry and slow and he didn't say much." Dattis couldn't tell if Sow was under the influence of a controlled substance or possibly having an emotional breakdown. Dattis overheard Sow talking about changing his major at one of the club meetings earlier in the week. Sow took his hands out of his pocket and Dattis did not see cuts or bleeding on his hands. Sow then "patted" his chest and told Dattis to take off her pants and sit on his chest. Dattis asked why and Sow said, "I want to feel good." Dattis said no and that she was feeling extremely uncomfortable. Sow told Dattis that he was "tripping on LSD." Dattis could not recall if Sow said how much LSD he had used. Sow continued to sit on the bed and asked if Dattis knew how to get to Roberts Hall. Sow told Dattis that there was a girl named "Gia" that he liked, but she could not give him what he wanted. Sow continued to sit on the bed and then he stood up and left. Dattis then received Snapchat text messages from her roommates that were sitting in the common area. Dattis's roommate, "Anna" came into her room and told Dattis that she needed to get Sow out of the common area. Anna advised that Sow walked from Dattis' room into the common area, sat down, and began to watch the television with her roommates. Sow turned his head from the television and began to stare at "Anna." Dattis walked into the common area to tell Sow to leave and saw Sow exiting the dorm room.

Dattis called security about Sow's behavior. Dattis told Detective Cahalan that a friend told her that Sow had used an assortment of different illegal narcotics, but his drug of choice was LSD and Sow used it out of peer pressure. The illegal narcotics were used at Columbia Village.

## **Tom Pauchet**

On December 08, 2021, Detective Cahalan conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio recorded interview of FIT student Tom Pauchet. The following is a summary of the interview:

Pauchet was visiting Hayes in her dorm room at Shaw Hall when Hayes walked outside of her dorm room for better phone reception. A few minutes passed and Hayes came back in the dorm room and said that someone groped her. Pauchet and Hayes' other roommate went outside to confront the individual later identified as Sow. Pauchet saw Security Officer Garcia and Pauchet and Hayes told Security Officer Garcia what happened. Security Officer Garcia walked them back to the dorm room and Pauchet heard on Security Officer Garcia's radio that a female had been assaulted in the parking garage.

Security Officer Garcia told Hayes and Pauchet to call the office later in the evening to file a report and Security Officer Garcia ran to the parking garage. Pauchet saw three resident assistants (RAs) running and yelling, "he's coming this way." Pauchet quickly left Hayes dormitory because Pauchet was a student at the Parkland High School when the mass shooting occurred and had to get back to his dorm room to be with his emotional support animal (ESA) due to flashbacks and PTSD from the mass shooting.

Detective Cahalan received information that Pauchet owned a motorcycle parked in the garage where the female was assaulted by Sow. The parking garage video surveillance revealed that Sow removed a knife from the saddlebag on the motorcycle. Pauchet advised that he did have an approximate three-inch-long Gerber knife in a sheath in the saddlebag. Pauchet also had several other items to include; the insurance card, the registration, black tape, and zip ties in the saddlebag that were also stolen.

## **Matias Galvez**

On December 04, 2021, SA Bliss and Detective Cahalan conducted a voluntary, sworn, and audio recorded interview with FIT student Matias Galvez. The following is a summary of the interview:

Galvez and Sow were roommates in Campbell Hall in dorm room number 107. Approximately four weeks earlier, Galvez moved into dorm room number 106. Galvez moved because Sow and Galvez's sleep schedules were different and it was very inconvenient for Galvez to remain quiet most of the day while Sow slept. Galvez described Sow as very relaxed and kind. Galvez saw Sow angry one time when Sow was intoxicated.

Galvez did not know the exact type of illegal narcotics that Sow used, but Galvez knew that Sow preferred psychedelic drugs. Sow talked about purchasing the psychedelic drugs on the "dark web" and using "Tabs" (which is slang for LSD.) Sow also told Galvez that prior to attending FIT, he used marijuana, mushrooms, and other psychedelic drugs. Galvez saw Sow "tripping" on psychedelic drugs at least once a week and when Sow would be "tripping," he would just sit and not be very active. Galvez did not know if Sow purchased any illegal drugs on campus. Galvez never saw Sow act aggressive or violent while under the influence of LSD.

Galvez saw Sow on December 03, 2021, at approximately 1200pm as they passed each other in the Hallway near the bathroom. Both Sow and Galvez said hello, but they did not discuss any plans or activities for the night. Sow has been in Galvez's room on two separate occasions with Galvez, but Galvez never permitted Sow to go in his room alone. Galvez advised that he left his room in a hurry on December 03, 2021, and forgot to lock the door. Galvez never saw Sow with a knife and did not recall seeing Sow with a pair of green handle scissors in the dorm room. Galvez described Sow as nice, relaxed, and trustworthy. Galvez heard rumors on campus that Sow stabbed three girls on campus.

## **Diego Diesel**

On December 03, 2021, MPD Detective Mark Brackett conducted a voluntary, sworn, interview of FIT student Diego Diesel. The following is a summary of the interview:

Diesel is a Resident Assistant (RA) at Evans Hall but was covering a shift at Columbia Village for another RA. While working, Diesel received a report of a bicycle theft from a student at another Hall. Diego and Security Officer Garcia were speaking with the victim of the bicycle theft when a female student approached and advised that she was physically attacked by an unknown black male dressed in all black, who was later identified as Sow. After the attack, Sow fled toward the Columbia Village parking garage. While en route to the parking garage, another female student, Osborn advised that she was attacked by Sow in the Columbia Village. Diesel and Security Officer Garcia continued toward the parking garage when a series of loud bangs that sounded like gunshots were heard near Roberts Hall. As Diesel and Security Officer Garcia walked on the sidewalk, a black knife sheath was observed lying on the sidewalk.

As Diesel and Security Officer Garcia approached Roberts Hall, Security Officer Garcia approached the front of Roberts Hall and Diesel walked to the rear of Roberts Hall. As Diesel approached the rear of Roberts Hall, Sow ran out of Roberts Hall via the back doors and ran directly at Diesel yelling. Diesel was afraid of being attacked like the other students and began to run from Sow. Diesel ran through the Columbia Village parking garage and alerted other students to run as Sow approached. Diesel continued to run as Sow was actively pursuing him. Diesel out ran Sow and made it inside Evans Hall.

Once inside, Diesel quickly told another RA what happened. Diesel and another RA went outside to alert other students to get to a safe place. Once Diesel went outside, he saw Sow attack another student, identified as John Quick who was standing in front of Campbell Hall. Quick was able to get away from Sow and Diesel yelled for Quick to come inside Evans Hall for safety which he did.

### **John Quick**

On December 03, 2021, Detective Brackett conducted a voluntary, sworn, interview of Quick. The following is a summary of the interview:

Quick was walking from the Columbia Village parking garage to Evans Hall when he observed Resident Assistant Diesel from Evans Hall run by him. A few seconds passed and Quick observed Sow run past. Quick was not concerned because students were always running around campus. As Quick approached Campbell Hall, Quick heard someone pounding on a metal door. Quick continued to approach Campbell Hall and observed Sow pounding on the southwest side door, trying to get someone to let him inside. Quick was not alarmed because that happens when students forget their identification cards and can't get inside the dormitory through the main doors.

Quick passed Sow and felt someone grab his wrist and pull him backward. The forceful action demonstrated by Sow caused Quick to turn around. As Quick turned around, Sow began to deliver several closed fist punches to the left side of Quick's head and neck. Quick was able to push Sow backward and pull free from Sow's grasp. Sow then ran to the main doors of Campbell Hall, and Quick ran to Evans Hall, where Diesel was yelling for him to come for safety. Quick ran inside Evans Hall and lost sight of Sow.

Quick had no further interaction with Sow and did not witness the MPD use of force.

### **Neighborhood Canvass**

On December 03, 2021, SA Deardoff conducted a neighborhood canvass of the FIT campus residents near Campbell Hall to identify any witnesses to the use of force incident. Multiple FIT students and residents of the area, who were possible witnesses, were transported to the MPD CID for interviews. The following is a synopsis of the canvass.

201 E Campbell Hall SA Deardoff made contact with Trevor Mellow, who did not witness the use of force because he was inside his dorm room at the time. However, he did hear approximately five gunshots from outside of his dorm room.



110 W Campbell Hall SA Deardoff made contact with Brandon Alston, who did not witness the use of force because he was inside a dorm room next to where the use of force occurred. However, he did hear approximately ten gunshots from outside of the dorm room.

203 E Campbell Hall SA Deardoff made contact with Edward Laureano, who did not witness the use of force because he was inside his dorm room at the time. However, he did hear approximately fifteen gunshots from outside of his dorm room.

Common Area of Evans Hall SA Deardoff made contact with Charles Borden, who did not witness the use of force because he was not in the building the use of force occurred. However, he did hear approximately five to six gunshots from inside the Evans Hall building.

### **Melbourne Fire Department interviews**

On December 06, 2021, SA Bliss traveled to the Melbourne Fire Department located at 151 East University Boulevard, Melbourne, Florida, 32901 and conducted a sworn interview of MFD Lieutenant Walter Eugene Mizelle, Paramedic Jason Frost, Paramedic Rodney Calloway, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Ryan Gordon. Lieutenant Mizelle is a paramedic and was dispatched to 2725 Country Club Drive on a gunshot wound medical call. Lieutenant Mizelle traveled to the scene with Paramedic Frost, Paramedic Calloway, and EMT Gordon.

Upon arrival at the scene, Lieutenant Mizelle exited from the vehicle and observed chaos. Lieutenant Mizelle was not informed that the call was an officer-involved shooting. Lieutenant Mizelle retrieved the trauma bag and approached room number 106 with Paramedic Frost, Paramedic Calloway, and EMT Gordon. Lieutenant Mizelle saw that Sow was shot several times in the center mass and was unresponsive. Paramedic Frost checked Sow's pulse with the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The AED indicated "no shock." Paramedic Frost declared Sow deceased on the scene. Lieutenant Mizelle did not hear any of the officers on the scene say anything involving the shooting. Paramedic Frost did not hear any of the officers on the scene say anything involving the shooting. EMT Gordon heard an unknown officer talk about a knife located near Roberts Hall. Paramedic Calloway did not hear any of the officers on the scene say anything involving the shooting. No medical aid or efforts to regain life were attempted.

### **Crime Scene and Evidence Summary**

MPD Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Supervisor Kristen Meadows and CSI Linsi Greenberg responded and processed the crime scene.

On February 07, 2022, SA Bliss received the MPD Crime Scene Report. The report detailed each of the CSIs' involvement and duties related to processing the crime scene, including taking photographs and measurements, and collecting evidence. For a complete list of evidence collected, the CSI report should be referred to in further detail.

### **Round Count**

On December 03, 2021, SA Deardoff responded to the MPD headquarters to conduct the round count for Officer [REDACTED]. SA Deardoff also responded to MPD CID to conduct the round count for Security Officer Garcia. SA Deardoff witnessed MPD CSI Greenburg conduct the round counts of the firearms.

Officer [REDACTED] handgun:

Glock, Model 17, 9mm semi-automatic, serial number BCHK811. The twenty-one-round capacity magazine inside the handgun contained thirteen live rounds and there was one live round in the chamber of the handgun. Officer [REDACTED] indicated that he did top off the magazine and chambered an additional round in the handgun, for a total of twenty-two rounds. The three spare seventeen-round capacity magazines were each filled with eighteen rounds. CSI Greenburg photographed the handgun, ammunition, and Officer [REDACTED] in the uniform he was

wearing during the use of force. The handgun and ammunition were then sealed in evidence boxes by CSI Greenburg.

Security Officer Garcia's handgun:

Glock, Model 19, 9mm semi-automatic, serial number BMLM740. The fifteen-round capacity magazine inside the handgun contained three live rounds and there was one live round in the chamber of the handgun. Security Officer Garcia indicated that he did top off the magazine and chambered an additional round in the handgun, for a total of sixteen rounds. CSI Greenburg photographed the handgun, ammunition, and Security Officer Garcia in the uniform he was wearing during the use of force. The handgun and ammunition were then sealed in evidence boxes by CSI Greenburg.

### **Firearms Laboratory Report**

On February 03, 2022, SA Bliss reviewed the FDLE Laboratory Report dated January 20, 2022, authored by Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst (CLA) Linzee Willette, Firearms Section. The report references evidence submitted to the FDLE laboratory on December 21, 2021. Below is a synopsis of analysis completed on the evidence submitted to the lab, as it relates to the use of force incident.

Item 1 (Officer [REDACTED] Glock 17 Gen 4 9mm pistol and magazine)

- The pistol was test fired using the submitted magazine and was found to be functional.
- Two of the cartridges were used to test-fire the pistol. The remaining cartridges were not further examined.

Item 2 (Security Officer Garcia's Glock 19 Gen5 9mm pistol and magazine)

- The pistol was test fired using the submitted magazine and was found to be functional.
- Images of a cartridge case fired in the pistol were entered in and compared to NIBIN. No potential associations were made at this time.
- Two of the cartridges were used to test-fire the pistol.
- The remaining cartridges and the remaining magazine were not further examined.

### **Projectiles**

Items 3,5,6,11, &13-19

- The items were physically screened and determined to display similar general rifling characteristics as the Item 2 pistol (Security Officer Garcia's pistol).

Items 7-10, 12, & 21-23

The items were physically screened and determined to display similar general rifling characteristics as the Item 1 pistol (Officer [REDACTED] pistol).

- Items 20 The item is no value for microscopic comparison.

### **Biology Report**

On February 03, 2022, SA Bliss reviewed the FDLE Laboratory Report dated January 18, 2022, authored by Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst (CLA) Joseph Kennedy, Biology Section. The report references evidence submitted to the FDLE laboratory on December 21, 2021. Below is a synopsis of analysis completed on the evidence submitted to the lab, as it relates to the use of force incident.

#### **Item 4 Scissors with green handle**

Using a color-change test, Item 4 gave chemical indications for the presence of blood. The same complete DNA profile consistent with a male individual was obtained from Item 4 (handle) and Item 4 (Blades) (Male 1).

#### REMARKS:

- None of the information obtained from the DNA testing referenced above meets the criteria to be entered into CODIS.
- PCR-based STR DNA analysis was performed on samples from Items 4 (Blades) and Item 4 (Handle) utilizing the GlobalFiler PCR Amplification Kit.
- It is requested that buccal swabs from Officer [REDACTED] Security Officer Garcia, and Sow be submitted for DNA analysis.

#### **Trace Evidence Report**

On February 04, 2022, SA Bliss reviewed the FDLE Laboratory Report dated January 13, 2022, authored by Senior Crime Laboratory Analyst (CLA) Chad Brown, Trace Materials Section. The report references evidence submitted to the FDLE laboratory on December 21, 2021. Below is a synopsis of analysis completed on the evidence submitted to the lab, as it relates to the use of force incident.

The scissors in Item 4 were macroscopically and microscopically examined for the presence of fibers and other textile materials. Fibers and other questioned material were found adhering to the scissors and were collected. No further examinations were performed on this Item. No examinations were performed on Item 4.1.

#### REMARKS:

- Item 4 and 4.1 will be retained in this laboratory for further examination(s), which will be subject to a separate report.

#### **Collection and Submission of Sow's DNA and Officer [REDACTED] DNA and uniform**

In an effort to determine if the scissors that Sow used to stab Officer [REDACTED] contained Officer [REDACTED] blood and/or fibers of the uniform pants worn by Officer [REDACTED] SA Bliss submitted the scissors to the FDLE Biology Laboratory Section and to the Trace Materials Section for analysis on December 21, 2021.

On January 13, 2022, SA Bliss received the Trace Materials Section report that indicated the scissors were macroscopically and microscopically examined for the presence of fibers and other textile materials. Fibers and other questioned material were found adhering to the scissors and were collected.

On January 18, 2022, SA Bliss received the Biology Laboratory Section report that indicated the presence of blood on the scissors. To determine if Officer [REDACTED] blood was on the scissors, SA Bliss requested a buccal swab of DNA from Officer [REDACTED] and the uniform worn by Officer [REDACTED]

On February 08, 2022, SA Bliss collected the buccal swabs and the MPD uniform worn by Officer [REDACTED] and submitted the buccal swabs to the Biology Laboratory Section for comparison to the DNA collected from the scissors, and the MPD uniform that Officer [REDACTED] was wearing was submitted to the Trace Materials Section for comparison to the fibers and other question materials found adhering to the scissors.

To identify all of the contributors of DNA on the scissors, SA Bliss traveled to the Brevard County Medical Examiner Office on February 08, 2022, and met with Investigator Richard Huckabee to collect the DNA of Sow. The DNA was provided on a blood card from the blood drawn from Sow during the autopsy. The blood card was submitted to the Biology Section for comparison to the DNA collected from the scissors.

On April 15, 2022, SA Bliss received the Biology Laboratory section report of the submitted evidence to include the following:

FDLE Item #	Agency Exhibit #	Description
4	25	Scissors with green handle
24	73	Buccal swabs represented as being from Officer [REDACTED]
25	74	Blood stain card represented as being from Alhaji Sow

Complete DNA profiles were obtained from Items 24 and 25.

The DNA profile obtained from Item 4 (handle and blades) matches the DNA profile from Alhaji Sow (Item 25). The observed DNA profile is greater than 700 billion times more likely to occur if the sample originated from Alhaji Sow than from an unrelated individual.

## BWC Video Review

### Footage obtained from Officer [REDACTED] BWC:

On December 08, 2021, SA Bliss of the FDLE obtained and reviewed a body-worn camera (BWC) video from Officer [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] arrived on the scene and briefly spoke with FIT student Osborn. Osborn told Officer [REDACTED] that she was walking through the parking garage when a black male described as five feet eight inches tall wearing all black (later identified as Sow) came out of nowhere and began to “beat the shit out of me.” Officer [REDACTED] was provided a direction of travel and walked toward the Columbia Village parking garage. Officer [REDACTED] received information from the FIT security officers on the scene that Sow was located at Campbell Hall. Officer [REDACTED] continued toward Campbell Hall and met with Security Officer Garcia. Security Officer Garcia told Officer [REDACTED] that Sow was inside Campbell Hall. Security Officer Garcia told Officer [REDACTED] that he chased him into Campbell Hall through the front main doors. Security Officer Garcia advised that Sow was wearing a black-colored sweatshirt, black pants, and white shoes.

Officer [REDACTED] asked Security Officer Garcia what happened and if he saw anything. Security Officer Garcia replied that a girl (later identified as Osborn) approached and advised that this guy punched her in the face in the parking garage. Security Officer Garcia began to pursue Sow when a pizza delivery person advised that he saw an individual armed with a knife trying to break into Roberts Hall. Security Officer Garcia saw Sow walking on the south side of Roberts Hall. The pizza delivery person told Security Officer Garcia that the individual he saw armed with the knife trying to break into Roberts Hall. Security Officer Garcia yelled for Sow to stop and observed a knife in Sow’s hand. Security Officer Garcia advised that Sow ran into Campbell Hall. Officer [REDACTED] asked, “you didn’t see him threaten anybody with the knife?” Security Officer Garcia replied, “we are working on that.”

Officer [REDACTED] walked into Campbell Hall with Security Officer Garcia. Security Officer Garcia and Officer [REDACTED] walked through the Hallway to the west end of Campbell Hall. Officer [REDACTED] and Security Officer Garcia cleared the bathrooms near the room where Sow was ultimately located. Officer [REDACTED] opened the exterior door of Campbell Hall and directed the other MPD officers to assist him with clearing the second floor.

As Officer [REDACTED] and the other MPD officers were preparing to ascend to the second floor, FIT student Campbell Hall resident Chase opened the interior Hallway door and advised that Sow was in the room next to Chase’s room, number 106. The BWC captured Security Officer Garcia approaching the door to room 106 with his firearm pointed in the direction of the room. Officer [REDACTED] approached and was informed that the door should be unlocked. Officer [REDACTED] attempted to open the door and discovered the door was locked. Security Officer Garcia retrieved the master keys to the dorm rooms and requested the “director of security goddamnit!!”

Security Officer Garcia unlocked the door and Officer [REDACTED] opened the inward swing door. The light was activated on Officer [REDACTED] pistol. The left side of the room was open with no obstructions and quickly cleared. Officer [REDACTED] entered the room and progressed to the right side of the room, where a mid-size refrigerator was located. Officer [REDACTED] continued to walk toward the refrigerator and observed Sow crouched behind the

refrigerator holding a skateboard covering his torso and head. Officer [REDACTED] announced “hey” while reaching for the skateboard with his left hand.

As Officer [REDACTED] grabbed the skateboard, Sow immediately jumped up from the crouched position and lunged forward toward Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] immediately began to shoot Sow. Security Officer Garcia was observed standing at the threshold of the doorway, firing several rounds. Security Officer Garcia announced shots fired. Officer [REDACTED] approached Sow and secured Sow’s hands with handcuffs. Officer [REDACTED] requested someone to call rescue. Officer [REDACTED] was heard saying, “he came at me with fucking scissors.” MPD officers arrived on the scene, relieved Officer [REDACTED] and maintained and controlled the crime scene.

## **FIT Video Surveillance**

On December 08, 2021, SA Bliss met with Investigator Jack Gordon of the FIT to collect the exterior video surveillance that captured Sow traveling on foot at different areas on the FIT campus and Security Officer Garcia traveling on foot at different areas on campus. The exterior video surveillance was not equipped with audio. The following is a summary of the video surveillance captured at different exterior locations on campus:

December 03, 2021, at 10:17:19 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Parking Garage 1 South West captured Sow wearing dark pants, a dark hoodie sweatshirt, dark-colored slip-on shoes, and white socks. Sow had both in hands in the pockets of the hooded sweatshirt. The video ended at 10:17:38 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:18:08 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Bridge Recreation Room Hallway captured Sow wearing dark pants, a dark hoodie sweatshirt, dark-colored slip-on shoes, and white socks. Sow had both in hands in the pockets of the hooded sweatshirt. The video ended at 10:18:44 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:41:56 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Bridge Recreation Room captured Sow walking across the bridge wearing dark pants, a dark hoodie sweatshirt, dark-colored slip-on shoes, and white socks. The video ended at 10:42:27 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:42:32 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Parking Garage 1 South East captured Sow walking through the opposite end of the parking garage. The video ended at 10:42:51 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:43:10 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Parking Garage 1 South East captured Sow walking through the opposite end of the parking garage. The video captured Sow punching the exterior driver-side portion of a parked red Mustang convertible car several times. Sow sat on the ground against the car for a short time. Sow stood up and began to walk through the garage. The video ended at 10:42:51 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:45:02 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Parking Garage 1 South West captured Sow walking in the parking garage toward bicycles, motorcycles, and scooters. Sow straddled one scooter and began to aggressively move back and forth on the scooter, ultimately knocking the scooter to the ground. A scooter parked next to that scooter was also knocked to the ground. Sow left both scooters lying on the ground and approached a parked motorcycle. Sow reached into a saddlebag on the motorcycle and removed unidentified items from the saddlebag and ran out of camera view at 10:45:46 PM. The video continued and at approximately 10:46:46 PM, Security Officer Garcia was observed walking into the parking garage with FIT RA Diesel and two female students following behind. The video ended at 10:48:10 PM as Security Officer Garcia walked out of the camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:46:12 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Bridge Recreation captured Security Officer Garcia running toward the bridge with RA Diesel and two female students following behind. The video ended at 10:46:49 PM as Security Officer Garcia ran out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:48:09 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Roberts Hall rear bike rack captured Sow walking toward the rear door of Roberts Hall. Sow's left hand was observed to be empty. Sow's right hand was in the pocket of the hoodie sweatshirt. Just prior to going out of camera view, Sow removed his right hand from the pocket and it could not be determined if the hand was empty. The video ended at 10:48:13 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:50:28 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Roberts Hall rear bike rack captured Sow walking into camera view from the side of Roberts Hall not covered under video surveillance. Sow lifted the front tire of a bicycle locked to a bike rack. Sow walked back out camera view to the side of Roberts Hall. Sow walked back into camera view as he walked away from the area. Both hands appeared empty when Sow placed both hands in the hoodie-style sweatshirt. The video ended at 10:50:42 PM as Sow walked out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:50:54 PM, the exterior video surveillance of a partial view of parking lot 6 captured Sow running on the access road through the grass. The video ended at 10:51:05 PM as Sow ran out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:50:55 PM, the exterior video surveillance of the Columbia Village Parking Garage 1 South West captured RA Diesel and two female FIT students running through the parking garage. The video ended at 10:50:59 PM as RA Diesel and the female students ran out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:51:00 PM, the exterior video surveillance of parking lots 6 and 7 and the tennis courts captured Sow running toward Campbell Hall with Security Officer Garcia in foot pursuit. The video ended at 10:51:40 PM as Security Officer Garcia ran out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:51:04 PM, the exterior video surveillance of Roberts Hall and Parking Lot 7 captured Security Officer Garcia and a pizza delivery person running on the sidewalk of Country Club Drive. The video ended at 10:51:12 PM as Security Officer Garcia and the pizza delivery person ran out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:51:03 PM, the exterior video surveillance of Roberts Hall Front Entrance View from the Roof captured Security Officer Garcia and a pizza delivery person running on the sidewalk of Country Club Drive. The video ended at 10:51:10 PM as Security Officer Garcia and the pizza delivery person ran out of camera view.

December 03, 2021, at 10:51:30 PM, the exterior video surveillance from the Evans Hall Roof Top captured Diesel running through the common area with Sow running behind Diesel. Sow was observed going out of camera view. The investigation revealed that Sow attempted to gain entry into the Campbell Hall via the west side door. Sow walked back into camera view and approached FIT student John Quick. The investigation revealed that Sow punched Quick. Sow then ran from Quick to the entrance of Campbell Hall and entered Campbell Hall. At 10:52:19, Security Officer Garcia was observed running to the entrance of Campbell Hall. At 10:55:10 PM, Security Officer Garcia was observed exiting Campbell Hall standing in the common area. At 10:58:47PM, Officer ██████ was observed entering Campbell Hall, followed by Security Officer Garcia. At 11:00:38 PM, additional MPD Officers were observed approaching the Campbell Hall westside door. At 11:11:25 PM, the MFD arrived on the scene. The video ended at 11:21:31 PM.

December 03, 2021, at 10:53:56 PM, the interior video surveillance of the Evans Hall Lobby Front Entrance captured several students in the lobby. The video captured Diesel in the lobby wearing one shoe. During the investigation, information was received that Diesel ran out of his shoe when Sow was chasing after him. The video ended at 10:55:09 PM.

#### **FIT Use of Force Policy**

On December 12, 2021, Special Agent (SA) Ryan Bliss of the FDLE interviewed Security Officer Garcia. During the interview, Security Officer Garcia was asked about the FIT use of force policy and Security Officer Garcia advised that the FIT policy is to seek out and stop the threat.

SA Bliss contacted FIT Director of Security Frank Iannone and requested a copy of the use of force policy. Director Iannone provided SA Bliss with a copy of the use of defensive weapons written directive that states the following:

Security officers shall undergo formal training in the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) spray so that they can be formally certified to carry this instrument. The O.C. shall be placed in the standard belt holder and shall be drawn only as a last resort in self-defense or defense of a third party under threat of immediate physical harm, and the instrument shall only be used defensively. The Security Officer may be certified as being "exposed" or "non-exposed" to O.C. spray.

In general, five stages of intervention may be identified, with the use of O.C. spray restricted to the fourth of five stages. These stages are:

1) Officer Presence: many times, an officer's professionalism, uniform, and duty belt as well as the marked golf cart or vehicle the officer uses to patrol is sufficient to neutralize the situation. The visual presence of authority is normally enough for a subject to comply with an officer's lawful demands.

2) Verbal Communication: a security officer may be able to bring an unruly situation under control through calm, authoritative conversation with the principals.

3) Empty Hand Control: in some cases, the security officer may need to separate principals involved in an altercation or to restrain a party physically.

4) Intermediate – Less than Lethal Weapons: Chemical, if all else fails, the pepper spray may be drawn by the security officer to defend themselves or someone else from immediate physical harm by a violent aggressor. The use of this weapon shall be restricted to defense only and may not be employed offensively. The degree of defensive resistance shall be limited to the minimum amount of force necessary to counter the attack.

5) Lethal force/Deadly force – a force with a high probability of causing death or serious bodily injury. Officers use deadly weapons such as firearms to stop an individual's actions.

Anytime a security officer draws the O.C. spray, whether or not it is used, he or she shall file a report explaining and justifying the action. This report shall be submitted to the immediate supervisor and shall be reviewed by both the Director of Security, the University Attorney and the President; and if, in their judgment, the security officer is found to have drawn the weapon without sufficient justification, the officer shall be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

Director Iannone provided SA Bliss with the FIT Firearm Safety written directive that states the following:

Firearms will be handled and used in accordance with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Licensing; specifically the "Class – G" license. Any mishandling or any action that could be considered unsafe and/or horseplay may be grounds for immediate termination of the employee.

At no time will a firearm be surrendered to anyone, except a supervisor or law enforcement. While on duty all officers must maintain direct possession of their firearms. All officers are assigned to an armed position and will only carry an approved firearm while on duty. All deviations from assigned equipment, such as ammunition, holster, etc., must be approved by the Director of Security. No other employees may carry any type of firearm on campus with the exception of law enforcement employees, firearms safety in reference to the use of deadly force.

Director Iannone informed SA Bliss that The FIT Security Department does not have a defined "Use of Force" policy. All Florida Tech Security Officers are required to be certified with a Class "G" Statewide Firearms License. This requires yearly training, including, both range and classroom training. The classroom training covers the legal aspects of liability and the use of deadly force (test included). The training has been contracted with a third-party training company since the University began carrying firearms.

Director Iannone advised that future training will be handled “in-house” with a FIT Security Training Officer who maintains a Class “K” instructor license. A draft Use of Force Written Directive has been procured with training materials that will be used in the future.

**Medical Examiner**

On April 18, 2022, SA Bliss obtained a copy of the Eighteenth District Medical Examiner's autopsy report. Medical Examiner Sajid Qaiser, M.D., reported that the cause of death for Sow was due to multiple gunshot wounds to the back, right flank, right shoulder, right arm, left hand and left middle finger. Postmortem toxicology revealed positive findings for lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) in the body system, in 0.81 ng/mL quantity, chest blood toxicology.

The manner of death was a homicide. Please refer to Doctor Qaiser's report for specific details on the examination.

**Witnesses**

**Law Enforcement Witnesses**

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement – Brevard/Volusia Field Office  
6769 Wickham Road Suite #104, Melbourne, Florida 32940 – (321) 752-3107**

- Special Agent in Charge Lee Massie ➤ SA Chris Deardoff
- SA Ryan Bliss (Case Agent)
- SA Chris Shepard
- SA Scott Ratliff

**Melbourne Police Department  
650 North Apollo Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32935 – (321) 616-5904**

- Officer [REDACTED] ➤ Officer Nicholas Harris
- Officer Kyle Hamilton
- Officer Keandre Pearson
- Officer Jordan Wilson

**Civilian Witnesses**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
Carlos Garcia FIT Security Officer	FIT Security Office, 2785 Country Club Road, Melbourne, FL 32901
Mike Marudin FIT Security Officer	FIT Security Office 2785 Country Club Road, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Steven Chase	2725 Country Club Road #108, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Matias Galvez	2725 Country Club Road #106, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Eliza Osborn	50 Babbling Brook, Husband Hall #102B, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Joshua Calhoun	2625 Country Club Road #204N, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Gianni Ventura	50 Babbling Brook, Columbia Village, #101, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Peter Wilson	2725 Country Club Road #109, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Shane Kaplan	2725 Country Club Road #108, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Ashton Bennett	2725 Country Club Road #108, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Bradley Barbosa	2725 Country Club Road #205, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Edward Laureano	2725 Country Club Road #203, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Trevor Mellow	2725 Country Club Road #201, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Elizabeth Hayes	50 Babbling Brook Place #201A, Melbourne, FL 32901



FIT student Mia Dattis	50 Babbling Brook Place Shaw Hall # 202D, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Tom Pauchet	50 Babbling Brook Place Ramon Hall #200A, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Diego Diesel	2745 Country Club Road, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student John Quick	2745 Country Club Road, Melbourne, FL 32901
FIT student Brandon Alston	2725 Country Club Road, #110, Melbourne, FL 32901

**Conclusion**

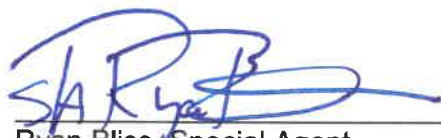
The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has completed a comprehensive investigation into the use of force by Melbourne Police Department (MPD) Officer [REDACTED] and FIT Security Officer Carlos Garcia. This presentation of facts is based on law enforcement witnesses, civilian witnesses, and physical evidence. FDLE submits this investigative summary to the Office of the State Attorney for their review and disposition.

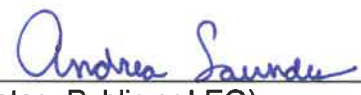
**Notarizations**

I swear that the foregoing is a true and accurate summary of facts either personally known to me, or derived from statements provided to me or other law enforcement officers during the course of this investigation.

SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED

this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2022

  
 Ryan Bliss, Special Agent  
 Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
 Brevard/Volusia Field Office  
 6769 North Wickham Road, Suite #104  
 Melbourne, Florida 32940

  
 (Notary Public or LEO)

