

**San Francisco Police Acting Commander Mark Im  
Talking Points and Briefing Material**

**23-003 OIS Town Hall Remarks**



**Safety with Respect**

**SFPD Headquarters  
Conference Room 1025  
Date: August 4, 2023 — Time: 1500 hrs.**

## Introduction

The Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) incident discussed in this presentation started on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at approximately 2:46 PM and took place at the intersection of Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street in the Bayview Hunter's Point neighborhood. This incident involved San Francisco Police Department plainclothes officers assigned to the Community Violence Reduction Team (CVRT) and uniformed patrol officers assigned to Bayview Police Station.

The officers who discharged their firearms were two uniformed officers assigned to Bayview Station.

In this presentation you will hear the following police terminology and radio code language commonly used by officers:

- **407** is police radio code for Prisoner Transportation.
- **408** is police radio code for Ambulance.
- **917** is police radio code for Suspicious Person.
- **216** is police radio code for Shots Fired.
- **221** is police radio code for Person With A Gun.
- **10-13** is police radio code for Advise Condition At Scene.
- **10-25** is police radio code for Respond As Back-up.
- **10-97** is police radio code for Arrived At Scene.
- **10-98** is police radio code for Enroute To New Location.
- **Code-3** is police radio code for Emergency Response.
- **Code-33** is police radio code for Emergency - Clear Channel.
- **BWC** is Body Worn Camera.
- **OIS** is an Officer Involved Shooting.
- **Company** is police terminology for the Station.
- **Dispatch** is the Department of Emergency Management Dispatcher and Radio Communications System.

- **Plainclothes** refers to non-uniformed, sworn police officers who detect crime, conduct investigations, conduct surveillance, and participate in both planned operations and directed enforcement.
- **Public Safety Statement** is information obtained by a supervisor from an officer who utilized lethal force at an Officer Involved Shooting. Questions are intended to determine existing threats to public safety and identify transitory evidence that must be preserved. The scope of this statement is limited to the collection of such critical, fleeting information in the immediate aftermath of these critical incidents. It is the Department's policy to deactivate body worn cameras before obtaining Public Safety Statements. The policy instructs the supervisor to remind the involved officers not to discuss the incident further at the scene.

The precise chronology of this incident is currently under investigation. The times presented are approximate. The following is a summary of the events as they are understood as of today and may evolve as further information is learned through the investigation.

A word of caution; there is profanity and graphic images in this presentation.

As of August 4, 2023, we believe the facts are as follows:

## **Incident Narrative**

1. At approximately 2:30 pm, three officers assigned to CVRT were working in the Bayview Hunter's Point neighborhood, driving an unmarked department vehicle. These officers were working in a plainclothes capacity, equipped with their department issued firearm, their Body Worn Camera, and their department issued radio. The CVRT officers wore clothing that displayed the word Police and SFPD logos.
2. The CVRT officers observed a group of five people on the pedestrian walkway at the end of Cashmere Street and Hudson Avenue.
3. The CVRT officers recognized one person, who had an active felony warrant for their arrest.
4. When the CVRT officers circled back to take enforcement action, the group of people were no longer in the same area.
5. The CVRT officers exited their vehicle and walked the pedestrian pathway, going towards Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street.
6. At approximately 2:44 pm, the CVRT officers went through an open gate and located the same group of people in the courtyard of an apartment complex on the 1000 block of Fairfax Avenue.
7. The CVRT officers confirmed the wanted person's identity, advised the person of their warrant, and placed them under arrest.

8. The CVRT officers advised Dispatch to put them on a suspicious person call and escorted the person in custody to the corner of Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street.
9. The remaining four people from the group and an unknown female bystander also followed the CVRT officers to the corner of Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street.
10. The CVRT officers requested a unit to respond to their location to provide prisoner transportation.
11. Less than two minutes later, the CVRT officers asked for an expedited response on prisoner transport and for an additional unit to assist them as the person in custody became increasingly agitated, yelling profanities at the officers and refusing to go into the unmarked department vehicle.
12. Uniformed patrol officers assigned to Bayview Station started their response to Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street.
13. While the CVRT officers were standing by, a man unrelated to the warrant arrest confronted the officers.
14. The man, later identified as Mr. Ryant Bluford, screamed “What the fuck are y’all doing?! What the fuck are ya’ll doing in my neighborhood!”
15. CVRT Officer #1 advised Mr. Bluford that the individual in handcuffs had an active warrant.
16. Mr. Bluford screamed, “He ain’t got no warrant! And ain’t no fuckin’ police, [n-word]! Ain’t no fuckin’ police bitch ass [n-word]!”

17. Mr. Bluford demanded multiple times for the officers to uncuff the person in custody.
18. Mr. Bluford then yelled, "On my mama's soul, uncuff him right now before I kill one of you! Uncuff him right now!"
19. The CVRT officers radioed for a status update from the responding units.
20. Dispatch advised that they were unable to hear the CVRT Officer's transmission due to the noise in the background.
21. The CVRT officers then notified Dispatch that a group of people had formed at their location.
22. Dispatch advised that five Bayview units were en-route to assist.
23. Mr. Bluford continued on, adamant the person in custody was not going with the police.
24. Mr. Bluford shouted, "Get the fuck out my hood! He ain't going nowhere! What the fuck you mean, [n-word]?! He ain't going nowhere!"
25. Mr. Bluford yelled a verbal threat, saying "Ya'll really wanna start with me? I'm not worried about the women. You want to start with me [n-word]? I'll fuck you up out here, [n-word]! Bitch ass [n-word], uncuff that [n-word] right now, [n-word]. Uncuff him!"
26. Mr. Bluford took a few steps back from the officers, lifted his sweatshirt, and reached toward his waistband with his right hand.
27. Mr. Bluford wrapped his right hand around the grip of a light-colored handgun and said "We finna go up!"

28. Mr. Bluford turned toward the officers and shouted, “We goin up! Let ‘em roll up here, [n-word]! Uncuff him right now!”
29. Mr. Bluford looked in the direction of the officers, held his grip on the handgun, and continued to yell at officers to uncuff the person in custody.
30. The CVRT officers yelled, “Hey!” and “He has a gun!” to alert others in the immediate area that Mr. Bluford had a handgun.
31. The CVRT officers called a Code 33 and 10-25 to Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street for a person with a gun.
32. The person in custody told Mr. Bluford, “Hey Unc, be cool! Be cool, Unc! Unc! Be cool!”
33. The CVRT officers described the suspect as an older black male, wearing a black beanie, grey jacket, and blue jeans. They advised that the armed subject was walking on foot towards Fairfax Avenue.
34. The person in custody also called to the bystander, saying “Hey sis! Back up, sis! Back up, come here! Sis, back up!”
35. Uniformed Patrol Officers #1 and #2 arrived at the intersection of Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street in a marked patrol vehicle. Mr. Bluford was in the middle of the intersection.
36. The CVRT officers confirmed over the radio that the subject in front of the patrol vehicle was the person armed with a handgun.

37. Both uniformed officers got out of their marked patrol vehicle. Patrol Officer #1 deployed his department issued patrol rifle and Patrol Officer #2 drew his department issued handgun.
38. Patrol Officers #1 and #2 ordered Mr. Bluford to put his hands up, while giving numerous warnings that failing to comply with these commands could lead to lethal force.
39. The CVRT officers ordered the bystander to move away from Mr. Bluford, saying “Hey, you need to get away! Come on! Please, let’s go! He’s got a gun, let’s go!”
40. The person in custody yelled, “Hey! Hey! Stop touching my sister, bitch!”
41. The CVRT officers advised the person in custody they did not want the bystander to get hit, as patrol officers were already interacting with Mr. Bluford.
42. Despite attempts to move the bystander, they refused, demanded not to be touched, and continued to record the event on their cellphone.
43. As the CVRT officers went to move the person in custody, they yelled, “Hey don’t touch me bitch! I don’t give a fuck bitch! You’re the one that got me arrested bitch!”
44. Patrol Officers continued giving commands to Mr. Bluford.
45. Patrol Officer #1 can be heard saying, “Get your hands up! Hands up or I’ll shoot! Hands up or I’ll shoot you in the head!”



46. Patrol Officer #2 can be heard saying, “Get your hands up right now! Get your hands out of your pants right now! Get your fuckin’ hands up!” and “Put your fuckin’ hands up or I’ll shoot you!”
47. Patrol Officer #1 also broadcasted over the radio, “One at gunpoint, not responding to commands!”
48. Patrol Officer #3 arrived on scene and ran to assist Patrol Officer #2.
49. Patrol Officer #2 pled with Mr. Bluford to put his hands up, saying, “Put your hands up, Please! Please put your hands up! Please, Please put your hands up! Please! Please! Put your hands up!”
50. Patrol Officer #2 also gave commands for bystanders to move away from the street.
51. For a period of 1 minute and 7 seconds, Patrol Officer #1 ordered Mr. Bluford 20 times to put his hands up and/or get down. Simultaneously Patrol Officer #2 ordered Mr. Bluford 27 times to put his hands up and/or get down on the ground.
52. Mr. Bluford, with his right hand still at his waistband, walked from the middle of the intersection towards the southeast corner of Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street.
53. Mr. Bluford continued to shout at the officers while keeping his right hand gripped on the handgun.
54. At approximately 2:53 pm, Mr. Bluford raised his left hand to display the middle finger towards Patrol Officers #1 and #2.

55. Seconds later, Mr. Bluford looked towards the patrol officers, and with his right hand, removed the handgun from his waistband and held it at his side.
56. Mr. Bluford then immediately raised his right arm into an extended position and pointed the handgun towards the patrol officers.
57. An officer involved shooting occurred, with Patrol Officer #1 firing his department issued patrol rifle and Patrol Officer #2 firing his department issued handgun.
58. The officer involved shooting took place 1 minute and 39 seconds after the CVRT officers first saw Mr. Bluford's handgun at the waistband, and approximately 1 minute and 4 seconds after Patrol Officers #1 and #2 arrived on scene.
59. The CVRT officers advised over the radio, "Shots fired by police."
60. Within 10 seconds, Dispatch called for the San Francisco Fire Department to respond to the scene.
61. Patrol officers also advised Dispatch of shots fired, and "Catalina and Fairfax, one down."
62. CVRT Officer #1 called a second 10-25 before his transmission was cut short.
63. Patrol Officers #1, #2, and #3 advanced towards Mr. Bluford to render aid and secure Mr. Bluford's handgun.
64. Patrol Officer #4 observed bystanders shouting and approaching Mr. Bluford.
65. Multiple officers gave commands for the bystanders to back away from Mr. Bluford.

66. An unidentified person was heard yelling, "Take the gun!"
67. Patrol Officer #3 moved towards Mr. Bluford and continued ordering the bystanders to back away from Mr. Bluford.
68. Patrol Officer #4 moved towards Mr. Bluford. Patrol Officer #4 used his foot to slide the unsecured handgun away from Mr. Bluford. Patrol Officer #4 picked up Mr. Bluford's handgun and later secured it in a marked patrol vehicle.
69. Within 49 seconds of the OIS, officers approached Mr. Bluford, assessed him for injuries and initiated CPR.
70. The CVRT officers advised over the radio they still had a person in custody that needed to be transported from the scene immediately. The suspect in custody appeared to be agitated, yelled profanities, and at one point told one of the CVRT officers, "My fuckin' arm bitch!"
71. The group continued to increase in size, yelling profanities as other bystanders moved closer to Mr. Bluford and the officers rendering aid. The group also refused to leave as officers attempted to establish and secure the crime scene.
72. A third 10-25 call was requested over the radio by additional arriving units, stating that more officers were needed before the transmission was cut off.
73. Officers continued CPR until relieved by the San Francisco Fire Department.

74. The San Francisco Fire Department arrived on scene within five minutes and thirty-seven seconds of being dispatched to Fairfax Avenue and Catalina Street.
75. Mr. Bluford was transported by the San Francisco Fire Department to Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.
76. The person in custody from CVRT's initial enforcement action was later booked for their warrant at San Francisco County Jail.

## **Additional Information**

### **Suspect**

- Mr. Ryant Bluford
- Date of Birth: October 15, 1981

### **Evidence**

- Crime Scene Investigators from the San Francisco Police Department Forensic Services Division responded and collected physical evidence from the scene, including, but not limited to the following:
  - A loaded Para-Ordinance Hi-Cap .45 caliber handgun with 1 round in the chamber and one loaded 10-round magazine
  - Five .40 caliber fired cartridge casings
  - Four .223 caliber fired cartridge casings

## **Video Footage and Photographs**

- Officers on scene were wearing Department-issued Body Worn Cameras, which were activated and recorded the events as they unfolded.
- Any other relevant video footage or photographs can be provided to the San Francisco District Attorney's Independent Investigations Bureau using the following phone number: (628) 652-4411.

## **Witnesses**

- Any witnesses are encouraged to contact the San Francisco District Attorney's Independent Investigations Bureau at (628) 652-4411.

## **Involved Members**

The SFPD officers who discharged their firearms in this incident are:

Officer Marko Radin #1945, a Patrol Officer, assigned to Bayview Station.

Officer Peter Van Zandt #4142, a Patrol Officer, assigned to Bayview Station.

## **Training**

Officer #1 who discharged their department issued rifle completed Crisis Intervention Training in 2021.

Officer #2 who discharged their department issued handgun completed Crisis Intervention Training in 2018.

Officers who are CIT trained have completed a 40-hour California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certified course which prepares them to respond to persons in crisis incidents and, as a team, formulate a plan, establish rapport, and use de-escalation tactics (including tactical repositioning and creating time and distance), whenever possible, to safely resolve incidents.