



CASE NO. 22-01

COMPLAINT

OF

CHIEF F. D. BLACKMON

(OFFICER FIRST CLASS KENNETH RAMMAGE)

INVESTIGATED

BY

THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Submitted to the Chief of Police on 03/31/ 2022.

Returned to Professional Standards on 06/13/ 2022.

F. D. Blackmon
Chief of Police



F. D. Blackmon
Chief of Police

Columbus Police Department

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To: F.D. Blackman, Chief of Police

From: R.L. Graham, Deputy Chief, Office of Professional Standards

Date: Thursday, March 31, 2022

Subject: **OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS CASE 22-01**
(Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage)

Incident: Section 3-2 – “Deadly Force”
Section 3-5 – “Discharge of Firearms”

Accusation/Violation: Section 3-2 – “Authorized Use of Deadly Force”

Interviews Conducted With: Sergeant Damien Jones
Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage

Findings: Section 3-2.2 – **Exonerated**

Investigators: Deputy Chief R. L. Graham
Lieutenant J. G. Bridges
Sergeant W. A. Norris
Sergeant A. D. Hogan
Corporal D. T. Battle

DTB

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
CASE #: 22-01
OFFICER FIRST CLASS KENNETH RAMMAGE**

On Wednesday, January 5, 2022, Sergeant Damien Jones and Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage were dispatched to the dead-end of Fall Drive and Bowen Boulevard in Columbus, Georgia, regarding a suspicious vehicle and a person in the wood line shining a flashlight. Approximately thirty minutes prior, police recovered a stolen vehicle at that location and got into a foot pursuit where the unknown suspect fled into the wood line. Upon arrival, Officer Rammage arrived on the scene and located a vehicle facing him with the headlights on. Officer Rammage exited his vehicle and gave the driver of the vehicle verbal commands to exit the vehicle. Officer Rammage yelled to the driver "Dont do it" (referring to driving the vehicle at him) at which time the driver of the vehicle drove the vehicle directly towards at Officer Rammage at a high rate of speed. Officer Rammage drew his department-issued firearm, jumped against his vehicle, and fired five rounds at the dark-colored vehicle. The driver subsequently struck a parked vehicle, turned left onto Bowen Boulevard, turned right onto Steam Mill Road, and sped away in an unknown direction. The vehicle was never located, and the driver of the vehicle was never identified.

On Wednesday, January 5, 2022, members of the Office of Professional Standards responded to the scene, and at the direction of Chief F. D. Blackmon initiated an administrative investigation. Deputy Chief R. L. Graham, Sergeant A. D. Hogan, Sergeant W. A. Norris and I, Corporal D. T. Battle responded to the scene.

Members of the Bureau of Investigative Services' Crime Scene Identification Unit responded to the scene and documented the incident. Members of the Bureau of Investigative Services' Robbery/Assault Unit, also, responded to the scene to conduct a criminal investigation.

Weapon Check:

Corporal D. T. Battle inspected Officer Rammage's firearm.

- Officer Rammage's service weapon, Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm, CPD 200, Serial Number HXJ9835, (1) round in the chamber and (12) rounds in the magazine. Officer Rammage had two additional magazines that both contained (17) rounds. The rounds carried were Hornady 9mm Luger R+P. The total number of bullets was 52.

Occupational Medicine:

Officer Rammage was transported to Occupational Medicine by Sergeant Damien Jones to be screened for drugs and alcohol. The results were negative.

*Note: Sergeant Damien Jones will be referred to as Sergeant Jones throughout this case summary. Officer First Class Rammage will often be referred to as Officer Rammage throughout this case summary.

Incident Summary:

The investigation revealed that on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at approximately 2158 hours, Sergeant Damien Jones and Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage were dispatched back to the dead-end of Fall Drive and Bowen Boulevard regarding a person in the woods with a flashlight. Sergeant Damien Jones had gotten in a foot pursuit earlier with the driver of a stolen vehicle at approximately 2000 hours. The suspect fled from the stolen vehicle and preceded into the woods at the dead-end of Fall Drive. The suspect was never located once he entered the wood line. The suspect dropped a book bag during the foot pursuit, which was recovered by police. A large amount of drugs were in the book bag. Because of the previous incident, Officer Rammage and Sergeant Jones believed the suspect had returned to the area to locate the book bag of drugs that were dropped in the foot pursuit.

At 2203 hours and twenty-four seconds, Officer Rammage and Sergeant Jones arrived on the scene. Officer Rammage encountered an unknown individual in a dark-colored Chevy (unknown model vehicle). The vehicle was backed into the dead-end of Fall Drive facing Bowen Boulevard. At 2203 hours and thirty-one seconds, Officer Rammage exited his vehicle and made contact with the driver of the vehicle. Officer Rammage gave commands for the suspect to exit the vehicle. At 2203 hours and thirty-three seconds, the vehicle backs up into some bushes and Officer Rammage drew his issued service weapon (Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm, CPD 200, Serial Number HXJ9835) and pointed it at the vehicle. Officer Rammage then gave the driver of the vehicle commands to not do it (referring to driving the vehicle towards him). Next, at 2203 hours and thirty-seven seconds, the suspect drove the vehicle directly towards Officer Rammage. At 2203 hours and thirty-nine seconds, Officer Rammage fired five rounds towards the driver while jumping against his vehicle, so the suspect's vehicle would not strike him. The vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed and struck a parked unoccupied vehicle (Black 2011 Chevrolet Cruze Ga Tag TBL6820). After striking the vehicle, the suspect turned left onto Bowen Boulevard and went towards St. Mary's Road at a high rate of speed. The suspect or suspect vehicle had not been located as of Thursday, March 24, 2022.

*Note: The times noted in the incident summary are based on Officer Rammage's body camera footage.

Area Canvass:

On Wednesday, January 5, 2022, members of the Office of Professional Standards, including Sergeant W. A. Norris and Sergeant A.D. Hogan attempted to locate potential witnesses and any video footage of the incident.

- Ms. Shuronica Davis of 513 Fall Drive stated she went to a birthday party around 1900 hours. At 2045 hours, she received a phone call from her neighbor asking what was going on in front of her house. She, Shuronica Davis told her neighbor she was not at home at

the time. She arrived home around 2130 hours and there was a white Honda at the dead-end of Fall Drive. She said a female she recognized from the area was out with the white Honda told her the vehicle had been stolen and that she was retrieving the vehicle. Shuronica Davis told Office of Professional Standards' investigators that the female asked if she lived at the house across the street and she replied, no, I live here pointing at her house (513 Fall Drive). Ms. Davis said this was odd because there were no police around when she left with the car. She said the female was inquiring about the mailbox at the house across the street. Ms. Davis stated her neighbor called her again saying someone was in the woods at the dead end with a flashlight. Ms. Davis said a little while later she heard several gunshots and told her daughter to get away from the window. She stated she did not look out and does not know what happened. Ms. Davis said her daughter's car was parked on the side of the road and during the night, another vehicle struck her daughter's car. She did not see what happened and did not have any cameras at her residence.

- Ms. Darla Spencer of 5243 Vincent Drive stated she heard 4-5 gunshots and saw a white car drive down Fall Drive. Ms. Spencer stated she did not know anything else, and she had no cameras.
- Ms. Virginia Walden of 508 Fall Drive stated earlier around 2145 hours she heard gunshots. Ms. Walden stated she did not witness who fired the shots.
- Ms. Bessie Smith of 514 Fall Drive stated earlier around 1930-2000 hours she heard gunshots. Ms. Smith stated she did not witness who fired the shots. Ms. Smith stated that she spoke with police earlier who stated that a stolen vehicle crashed into her mailbox and the suspect ran into the woods at the dead-end of the street.
- Ms. Jo Myers of 502 Fall Drive stated she did not see or hear anything.

An area canvass narrative documenting the efforts by Sergeant Norris, Sergeant Hogan and I are included in "Letters To File" later in this case book.

Interview: Sergeant Damien Jones

On Thursday, February 8, 2022, Sergeant Damien Jones was interviewed by members of the Office of Professional Standards. The interview was conducted in the conference room of the Office of Professional Standards. Present during the interview were Lieutenant J.G. Bridges and myself, Corporal D. T. Battle.

Note: Sergeant Jones was the immediate supervisor for Officer Rammage on the evening of the incident.

Sergeant Jones stated, ". . . I was doing routine patrol on Buena Vista Road, and we'd just gotten a M.D.T. message about a stolen car. . . . I just can't remember right now. It's a white car; believe a white Honda, and I got behind it on Buena Vista Road near the spider web and notified dispatch. I knew it was stolen from Bowen Boulevard; from the M.D.T message, and the complainant said that it was her cousin or her nephew, who took the car, and he was a Zohannon member. So, I got behind it and started to follow it, and it turned up.....Steam Mill Road. I was following it, letting my guys know, Officer Rammage and Officer Westbrook, that I was behind it, and as well, dispatching Sector C units; I believe I was on Sector C, yeah. So, it goes up towards Bowen Boulevard, and it takes a left onto Bowen Boulevard; and at that point, I figured it was going back to the house, so it did turn back into that driveway. And--you know--the driver kept looking back at me; he knew the car was reported stolen, I would have to guess. So, I let it, go into the driveway, and I pulled in behind it and activated my blue lights. When I did that, it made a left turn out of the driveway, into the yard, and back onto Bowen Boulevard. I reversed. I shut off my equipment because I decided I wasn't gonna pursue him; 'cause I won't be able to keep up in a Tahoe, but I decided to follow him 'cause I knew that there's only one way out of Bowen Boulevard 'cause it's a u-shaped street. So, he turns onto Bowen Boulevard, and then, takes a right on Fall Drive; and I'm experienced in that area, I know Fall Drive's a dead end, so once he turned down Fall Drive, I followed him down there. He jumped out of the car while it was still moving, and ran into the woods; and I chased him into the woods. Chased him for a good distance, but I lost him because it was so dark back there. But I noticed that he dropped a bookbag when he was running; so, . . . I took a mental note of where the bookbag was and tried to follow him. I couldn't, I lost him. We did a search for about 30 minutes, me and some patrol units; Officer Rammage and Officer Westbrook. And I told Officer Westbrook whereabouts the bookbag was, and he located it. So, we took that, and we left the woods, came back, and we searched the bookbag and noticed that it had quite a bit of marijuana in it; maybe, 20 grams, and then it had some pills in it; I believe, they're Oxycodone or Oxycontin. So, I took possession of the drugs and put them in my truck. We get out of there, and I tell them...to... go work the spiderweb; this is when we're having all those stolen cars. So, we're gone work the spiderweb, see if we couldn't get another stolen car that night. And then, about ten minutes down there... we get . . . I believe it was Marcie . . . it was definitely--Marcie got on the radio and asked for Rammage to go to TAC 2, so I went to TAC 2, as well. And she said that there was a vehicle at the dead end of Fall Drive, backed in. She said, it was a black Charger, and she said that there was someone with flashlights in the woods. So, she asked if he was gone go back out there; and then, we said, yeah, we're gone go back...over...out there. And so, Rammage and Westbrook use their phones to talk while we're

while we're....working. They keep 'em on ... blue tooth so they can talk to each other; and let each other know where they're at and stuff, so they're not doing all that radio traffic. . . so. . . Westbrook knew that we went to TAC 2 and that we were on our way back up there, but me and Rammage were first. So, I followed him up there, turn on Bowen Boulevard, and take that right; and as soon as we take that right, we both noticed the cars down there. So, Rammage pulls down . . . almost directly in front of the car, and I pull in behind him. Rammage turns on his blue lights, so I turn on my blue lights. Rammage gets out of the vehicle and starts ordering the driver to get out of the car. I was getting out of my vehicle, and at the same time, I was getting out of my vehicle, I realized; well, let me go back. When I was sitting in the spiderweb, I put my bodycam on the dock to download, so I could watch the video, so I could try and identify the driver, who ran. When I was getting out of my truck, I realized that my body camera was still on the docking station. I was just about to go back and that's when Rammage started screaming. He backs up . . . the guy backs up, and I yell to Rammage. I said, Rammage, move, and the guy floors it. Rammage starts firing at the car; and I think, as the car's passing was that I told Rammage to stop, and he stopped shooting 'cause I didn't want him to continue shooting after the threat was gone. And--the car goes . . . and... I immediately got on the radio, say shots fired, start E.M.S.; 'cause I thought the guy was hit the way he was driving. He was fishtailing a little bit. Well, he takes a left back onto Bowen Boulevard and I get in my truck, and I try and follow him, to catch up. But I never catch up. I think . . . I turned right and got back to Dogwood and realized, I wasn't gonna catch him, so I turned around and went back to Rammage. And on my way out there, I told 'em, notify the lieutenant and the captain, and Dispatch did; that was the gist of it."

Lieutenant Bridges asked Sergeant Jones when Marcie (Dispatcher) got on the radio and was asking Rammage about a suspicious vehicle parked at the dead-end of Fall Drive, facing Bowen Boulevard, was she aware that he and Officer Rammage had just been out there on a stolen vehicle. Sergeant Jones replied, "She actually asked a specific question. She said, is there anything that they left in the woods worth going to get; we were like, yeah, the bookbag full of drugs--yeah."

Lieutenant Bridges asked Sergeant Jones if he and Rammage assumed the person may be back out there to pick up their bookbag. Sergeant Jones replied, "Yes".

Lieutenant Bridges asked Sergeant Jones how long in his estimation was it after Officer Rammage got out of his vehicle did the incident occur. Sergeant Jones replied, "So, he went straight backward to give separation because he was, obviously, gonna come around; 'cause he . . . couldn't come around the left side or the right side of our cars because of the way we were parked. 'Cause ... Rammage was here, so, we're kind of off centered a little bit. So, if he would have came around this way, he'd of had to hit my car. So, he had to . . . back up to give himself some space, and then, try and go around Rammage. And when I was looking, Rammage then obviously, didn't have any room to his right because his patrol car, and he was fully out of his car, and he wouldn't have had time to make it to the left. You know, and just instinct, I yelled Rammage, move; and because the angle I was looking at, initially, I thought Rammage had more room; like, he could have got ... out of the way. But then, after I saw the camera, obviously . . . he didn't have the ... room to ... move."

Lieutenant Bridges asked Sergeant Jones if he believed there was a way for the suspect to avoid hitting Officer Rammage. Sergeant Jones replied, *"Rammage, yeah . . . I really got scared for a minute that Rammage was gone get ran ... over and killed."*

Lieutenant Bridges asked Sergeant Jones as best as he can recall was there another option for Rammage to try to go left or anything. Sergeant Jones replied, *"No, the . . . only thing he did . . . was . . . when . . . he got pinned up against his car . . . you know--he damaged his car with his body trying to get out of the way, 'cause . . . once that car came backwards, and then came forward, it was just . . . like that."*

Lieutenant Bridges asked Sergeant Jones if it sounded like the driver floored the vehicle. Sergeant Jones replied, *"yes"*.

Corporal Battle asked Sergeant Jones if he knew the value of the items in the bag? Sergeant Jones replied, *"I . . . can't remember the exact amount of marijuana in there. I . . . want to say it's more than 20 grams. I want to say it's like 40 grams, so I'd say about a hundred and 60 bucks in marijuana, and then, the Oxycodone. I think there was eight pills, or Oxycontin, whatever they were . . . I think there were eight of them . . . so that'd be about \$25.00 a pill, so about \$200.00."*

Interview: Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage

On Thursday, February 10, 2022, Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage was interviewed by members of the Office of Professional Standards. The interview was conducted in the conference room of the Office of Professional Standards. Present during the interview were Deputy Chief R. L. Graham, Lieutenant J.G. Bridges, Attorney Ken Davis, Attorney Julie Johnson, and myself, Corporal D. T. Battle. Prior to the interview, Officer Rammage read and signed a Garrity Warning and a Confidentiality Statement form, which are included in this case book.

Officer Rammage stated, *"Yes. . . . So, on January 5 . . . I'm assigned with the Tag Reader Unit under the supervision of Sergeant Damien Jones; and under, also, the traffic unit, more or less . . . as a crime suppression-type style unit. We had been recently investigating a bunch of automobile thefts, entering autos. On that day, unsure exactly what time, Sergeant Jones got behind a stolen vehicle. Not officially or remember exactly where he originally observed the vehicle, he started to giving out radio traffic; at that time, I was conducting a traffic stop. I ended that traffic stop and headed towards his direction. Sergeant Jones was giving out his directions over the radio of where they were going. He was not pursuing the vehicle, but he was just following behind it at this point. Myself and other officers started going that direction. We started losing communication with Sergeant Jones, his radio was very broken. We couldn't understand a lot of the roads he was saying on the radio. We were trying to get Dispatch to give us a more clear understanding of exactly where he was at. At one point, we got it misconstrued as; when he was saying Fall Drive, it sounded like he was saying Farr Road or Farr Drive or something on the radio. At one point, I did hear Sergeant Jones come over the radio and say that . . . the vehicle had pulled into a driveway. We were still trying to get exact location, and then, he came back over and*

said that the vehicle was taking off. Where, a short time later, he came back over the radio, and it sounded like he was in a foot pursuit. He said, the . . . driver left the vehicle and they were in the woods. We were able to locate exactly where he was at. Arrived on scene, located his vehicle, and the . . . and the . . . stolen vehicle, and we assisted Sergeant Jones in trying to locate the driver of the vehicle that fled through the woods. We were in the woods; I don't remember a specific amount of time. I . . . believe we were there possibly . . . around . . . between about 20 or 30 minutes in the woods looking for this suspect. During this time, Sergeant Jones located a bookbag that had contained; I believe, it was marijuana, scales, and a rifle magazine--inside the bookbag--that had ammunition inside of it. We were unable to locate the suspect or the driver of that vehicle at that time. We took the bookbag to log it in and returned the stolen vehicle back to the owner . . . of the vehicle. Once the scene was clear; after all that, we left the area to . . . go . . . continue on doing . . . what our assignment was for that day. . . so, we were back in the area of the spider web; Buena Vista Road and St. Mary's Road area. Dispatch asked me . . . one of the dispatchers came over the radio, asked me to meet her on a TAC channel; at which time, I went over to the TAC channel, and she advised me that one of the residents at the end of the dead end street, where Sergeant Jones had chased after the vehicle and the driver fled, that there was a dark-style vehicle, possibly a Dodge Charger that was backed up against the wood line and there was . . . somebody in the woods with a flashlight. And this was approximately, maybe, 20 minutes after we had left the area. At this time, based off of the information . . . from previously being out there with . . . the . . . Sergeant Jones locating the bookbag, the suspect that fled from the vehicle being in that area and we were unable to locate him, I was believed that this vehicle . . . was possibly related to that and they were looking . . . the individual's possibly looking for that bookbag; and it's possibly, may have been the same individual that fled from Sergeant Jones from the stolen vehicle. At this point, myself, I start traveling back down Steam Mill Road from the spider web. Sergeant Jones was right there, so he was right behind me all the way to the scene, or . . . to the . . . back to Fall Drive. Once . . . right before we arrived, I activated my body camera. I, also, asked Dispatch if there was any . . . was any reported stolen Dodge Chargers that she was aware of. She did come back over the radio and advised, there was a dark-colored Charger that was stolen with . . . some kind of tag. I can't remember, now, exactly what the tag; there was something on it, a wildlife tag. So, as I turned onto Fall Drive; I can't think of the . . . street that . . . main street it comes off right now . . . but as I turned on Fall Drive . . . I observed a vehicle that was backed into the wood line with his headlights on facing my direction, and it was a dark-colored vehicle. At this point, I'm still a . . . good . . . little bit away from it, so I can't exactly tell what kind of vehicle it is. So . . . we start going down . . . to the dead end of that street, where I . . . stopped directly in front of the vehicle . . . as . . . I don't know exactly how close, but it was within, possibly . . . between inches and a couple feet from the vehicle, so the vehicle couldn't just pull off. At that time, I noticed there was an individual in the driver's seat. I activated my emergency lights and my takedown light, 'cause it was dark outside. At the same time, when I stopped in front of the vehicle, I was directly in front of it; like, their nose was in front of my nose, so the only clear way I had to go was to the passenger side of the vehicle. I had noticed that Sergeant Jones had went to my right side, too. At this point, I had assumed that he would just go to the driver's side of the vehicle so I wouldn't have to cross in front of the vehicle. As I'm getting out of my vehicle, I noticed that the . . . vehicle or the . . .

driver started reaching to the passenger side of the vehicle, as in, like, console area. I, also, noticed, he put his lefthand in front of his face. As he's putting his lefthand in front of his face, he starts to lean back in his seat . . . almost like . . . laydown position. At this point, I had already made it up to; well, my door's completely shut on my patrol vehicle . . . I believe, it's . . . the A-pillar . . . right near the A-pillar area of my vehicle. I saw the vehicle start backing up. At that time, I . . . drew my firearm out of my holster, and I started giving verbal commands to the driver of the vehicle; and I don't remember exactly, I just know I was telling the driver "don't do it;" don't do it, get out the vehicle. At that point, I noticed the vehicle started coming back at me. As the vehicle started to come towards me, I did hear Sergeant Jones yell, get out of the way. At that point, the vehicle started accelerating towards my direction. At this point, I had nowhere to go; because when the vehicle started to go, it started going to the right, and the only place I could have went was to go in front of the vehicle to the other side; so, that would have put me in a more . . . vulnerable position of being ran over by the vehicle. I couldn't go back in front of my car based off of where I was at on my car. Besides, the vehicle started coming at me; based off the perception I . . . perceived from the driver of the vehicle as he laid back with his hand up is; like I said, like a defensive position is what I'm perceiving this as, I discharged my firearm at the driver to divert the . . . vehicle from striking me, and also, to keep from pinning me against my vehicle. At that point . . . after I discharged my firearm to keep the vehicle from striking me and diverted, . . . I, also, discharged my firearm to affect an arrest of aggravated assault for the vehicle trying to strike me. At that point, I heard a loud bang, and . . . at this point, I may have discharged--at the time, I thought I discharged my firearm, possibly, three to five times. Once I heard the loud bang from the vehicle, I thought . . . the . . . vehicle had struck my vehicle. And then, as I turned around, I saw Sergeant Jones get into his vehicle asking for E.M.S. He started to go after the vehicle. And at that point, I started to get back in my vehicle to assist Sergeant Jones; and as I was getting in my vehicle, I noticed my door would not open. It was all smashed in--from where my body . . . it was my body that actually went into the vehicle, 'cause I had nowhere to go to get away from the vehicle. The vehicle took off. Well, I know that unable to locate that vehicle . . . to--my knowledge, it has still not been located. And at that point, Sergeant Jones notified the shift lieutenant and captain on duty that night, and we sat at the scene . . . until further.

Lieutenant Bridges asked Officer Rammage if he believed that the vehicle on the second response to that area was involved in criminal activity. Officer Rammage replied, "That's correct."

Lieutenant Bridges asked Officer Rammage to state what kind of criminal activity. Officer Rammage replied, "So, based off of Sergeant Jones following that vehicle . . . as a stolen vehicle; and the . . . driver of that vehicle bailing from the car into that wood line right there at the end of that dead end with the bookbag that Sergeant Jones had located, with the marijuana baggies, and the scales, and the magazine in it; and then, not long after all police had left the area another vehicle . . . pulls up . . . backs up to it, and there's someone out there with a flashlight . . . I assumed that . . . person was involved, either with that stolen vehicle or trying to locate that bookbag that we located."

Lieutenant Bridges asked Officer Rammage about his perception of the suspect leaning towards the glove box with his right hand. Officer Rammage replied, "I'm not sure where he would have

been reaching to in that car. Based off of everything . . . the magazine was located in the vehicle; and if this was the same individual, I didn't know if he . . . still had that weapon in the car . . . if he--would have had that weapon or anything, but I just know that when his hand went up, and I see this arm over . . . the may have been putting it in gear or reaching for something. But as he started going back, he laid back completely in the vehicle, and then, started accelerating towards me. And . . . my perception to that was, he was intentionally trying to run me over. Once I saw him start going back . . ., he was bracing, so I'm knowing that he's about to try to run me over to get away."

Lieutenant Bridges asked Officer Rammage to explain why he drew his weapon. Officer Rammage replied, *"So, I drew my weapon once I saw his hand . . . when I seen him reaching with his right hand and his hand going up and start going back, and I noticed . . . he had already started putting his . . . I . . . drew my weapon just because I didn't know exactly what he was gone do, if he was gone try to offer any violence or anything towards me."*

Lieutenant Bridges asked Officer Rammage why he discharged his service weapon? Officer Rammage replied, *"So I . . . fired my weapon once I perceived a threat that the vehicle was coming towards me . . . once I realized I had nowhere to go and the vehicle was coming at me, I felt that the vehicle was trying to or the--driver was trying to run me over, so I discharged my firearm to try to divert that vehicle away from me . . . either . . . get him away from me and stop from pinning me to my car."*

Lieutenant Bridges asked Officer Rammage if he felt that he had no other option other than to discharge his service weapon? Officer Rammage replied, *"Because at that point, I felt that, like I said, from seeing that the driver had . . . laid back in his seat with his hand up like that, I felt he was trying to intentionally hit me, and . . . the vehicle, it was so close. We're in a matter of; I would say, I don't know exact . . . how far, but it was really close. I knew if I had tried to run left that I was definitely gone get ran over by the car 'cause of the way he was starting to accelerate off. So, at that point, I couldn't go backwards or forward. If I had went backwards . . . the car was coming at me, and I was not far enough to go in front of my car to try to get out of the way; so . . . at that point, I had no other way to but try to get the . . . driver in that car away from me".*

Investigative Findings:

- On Wednesday, January 5, 2022 (earlier before the incident), Sergeant Jones got into a foot pursuit earlier with the driver of a stolen vehicle at the dead-end of Fall Drive. The suspect fled from the stolen vehicle and preceded into the wood line at the dead-end of Fall Drive. The suspect was never located. While in pursuit the suspect dropped a book bag during the foot pursuit. The book bag was recovered by police and contained a large quantity of drugs.
- On Wednesday, January 5, 2022(Later in the day), Sergeant Damien Jones and Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage were dispatched to the dead-end of Fall Drive and Bowen Boulevard in Columbus, Georgia, in regard to a suspicious vehicle and a person in the wood line shining a flashlight.
- Officer Rammage arrived on the scene and located an unknown male in a dark-colored vehicle.
- Officer Rammage exited his vehicle and informed the unknown male to exit the vehicle and not to do it (referring to driving the vehicle at him).
- The unknown male backed the vehicle up and drove the vehicle directly towards Officer Rammage.
- Officer Rammage jumped into the side of his vehicle, so he would not be struck by the vehicle and discharged five rounds toward the driver inside the dark-colored Chevy (unknown model vehicle).
- The vehicle next struck a parked vehicle, turned left onto Bowen Boulevard, turned right onto Steam Mill Road, and sped away in an unknown direction.
- On Thursday, January 6, 2022, I inspected Officer's Rammage service weapon (Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm, semi-automatic pistol Serial number HXJ9835, CPD 200), (1) round in the chamber, and (12) twelve rounds in the magazine after the shooting. He carried 2 extra magazines fully loaded with (17) seventeen rounds each. The rounds carried were Hornady 9mm Luger R+P, the total number of bullets was (52) fifty-two.
- The suspect was not identified, and the vehicle had not been located as of Thursday, March 24, 2022.

Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Certification Status:

- On Friday, March 18, 2016, Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage completed the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Regional Academy in Columbus, Georgia.
- At the time of the incident, Officer Rammage was actively employed with the Columbus, Georgia Police Department and his arrest powers were current.
- Officer Rammage has completed the required training each calendar year since completing the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course. He is not required to submit any waivers for training.
- Officer Rammage does not have any prior, pending, or active P.O.S.T. investigations or complaints.

Conclusion:

The Office of Professional Standards has completed the administrative investigation into the use of deadly force by Officer First Class Kenneth Rammage on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. The investigation revealed that Officer Rammage acted in accordance with the Columbus Police Department's deadly force policy (3-2).

The investigation revealed that Officer Rammage responded to the dead-end of Fall Drive and Bowen Boulevard regarding a person in the woods with a flashlight. During the incident, the unknown suspect drove a dark-colored Chevy (unknown model) directly towards Officer Rammage. Officer Rammage was in fear of his life and discharged his service weapon (Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm, semi-automatic pistol Serial number HXJ9835, CPD 200). Officer Rammage discharged five rounds toward the driver to stop the threat. Investigation revealed, one round struck the front windshield of the vehicle. The vehicle and the suspect were never identified.

Section 3-2.2

Deadly Force

Exonerated

Respectfully Submitted,



Roderick L. Graham, Deputy Chief



Jeffery G. Bridges, Lieutenant



Thomas B. Dorrough, Sergeant



William A. Norris, Sergeant



Amanda D. Hogan, Sergeant



Demetrius T. Battle, Corporal

/dtb