

Summary of Issues in the Thurman Blevins Case

- Police were called to a location about 4 blocks away from where Mr. Blevins was sitting. Officers Blake and Anderson were dispatched in squad 460. They drove past Mr. Blevins to the location of the call as Mr. Blevins did not match the description in the 911 call. As they drove around, they stopped a man at 46th and Lyndale who closely matched the description given in the call. Interestingly, no shot spotters in the area recorded any gunfire in that timeframe.
- Officers Schmidt and Kelly in squad 420 were on their way to back up Blake and Anderson when they spotted Mr. Blevins sitting on the curb talking to a woman pushing a baby carriage. They suddenly stopped, exited their squad car and began screaming, swearing and pointing their guns at Mr. Blevins. The handle of a gun was visible in the pocket of Mr. Blevins' shorts. Despite this, they never took cover and Mr. Blevins made no effort to remove the gun from his pocket. Mr. Blevins had purchased the gun just 3 hours prior. Officers had no reason to believe he did not legally possess the gun, in a state with over 300,000 permits to carry.
- Mr. Blevins, the woman with the baby carriage and others scattered. Schmidt and Kelly began chasing Mr. Blevins, screaming "Drop it." Mr. Blevins appeared confused and said, "Why? My liquor, come on man. Come on man." He then dropped the liquor bottle, saying "It's back there." Eventually, Schmidt said, "You've got a gun, mother*cker." Mr. Blevins said, "No. I don't." Schmidt called back, "Yes, you do." Because Mr. Blevins was very intoxicated and had only purchased the gun three hours prior, it is likely he forgot he had it.
- When Mr. Blevins finally realized it was his gun the officers were after, he began to remove it from his pocket. He was facing AWAY from the officers and the gun was not out of his pocket when the officers began shooting. They opened fire, shooting 14 times. Bullets were scattered around the neighborhood, in garage walls, garbage bins and in the headrest of a car that had just pulled into the end of the alley. Fortunately for that driver, he had just gotten out of the car. His girlfriend was also sitting in the passenger seat of the car when they opened fire. That driver, Mr. Case, and his girlfriend were the only civilian witnesses to the actual shooting. Mr. Case stated that he, Mr. Blevins was facing him directly.
- After the shooting, Mr. Blevins was still moving. Despite being an EMT trainer and having a paramedic kit in his car, Ofc. Kelly refused to provide aid to Mr. Blevins. No other officers provided aid.
- During their investigation, the BCA hired National Center for Audio and Video Forensics out of Los Angeles, CA to enhance the video. Instead of just enhancing it, they manufactured from whole cloth a gun pointing around Thurman's left side. We reviewed the raw body camera footage frame by frame and proved that what they claimed was a gun was actually the chrome hubcap and bumper of a plumbing company truck in the distance. The NCAVF later bragged on their website about their work, publishing an alarmist statement and depicting the officers in an "angelic" manner.
- In their report, MPD included a picture of Thurman Blevins that cut off his right elbow. However, in the body camera footage, it's clear that his right elbow was so far out to the right side that it would have been impossible for him to be pointing a gun at the officers. We posed a model of the same height and weight as Mr. Blevins into the same position as he was in at the point at which police claim he was pointing a gun. We gave the model a replica gun of the same model and weight as Mr. Blevins' gun and photographed him from several angles around a 360-degree plane. It is clear that no officer could possibly have seen him pointing a gun at them.
- We also captured and examined the sound wave pattern of the gunshots from the body camera footage. It is already known that officers shot 14 times. There were exactly 14 soundwaves related to gunfire.
- Despite claims from Mr. Freeman and the BCA that Mr. Blevins had fired his gun, there were no DNA or fingerprints on the trigger of his gun. Further, although the medical examiner's office covered Mr. Blevins hands with paper bags at the scene, his hands were never tested for gunshot residue.