

SHOOTOUT

FROM PAGE A1

gating other drivers, even driving on the median as he went onto Rt. 33, I-70 and then north onto I-71.

As he passed other drivers, he hunched his shoulders and arms defensively.

"You could tell that he was, like, yelling in his car," Elliott said. "He was already upset; but as it kept continuing on, he got more and more aggressive."

3:21 p.m.

Elliott, a security officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, called 911 and went out of her way to follow Farnsworth. As she did, she talked to a police dispatcher, methodically detailing his narrow misses with other motorists.

"He almost just hit another car," she said. "A black car just went into the median to not get hit by this car."

Elliott followed Farnsworth for about 15 minutes, until police pulled him over on northbound I-71 between Weber Road and E. North Broadway. She pulled over as well and talked with police before leaving.

She didn't see him bolt after a minute or two, when he used the E. North Broadway exit to get back on I-71, this time southbound.

Police officers, who had taken his license during the traffic stop, followed him as he got back off I-71 at Hudson Street, radioing that he was "losing his tires" because of his reckless driving.

3:36 p.m.

Police called for a helicopter, which picked up Farnsworth as he drove south on Summit Street, trailing smoke from tires that went flat as he fled.

He eventually took E. 19th Avenue to reach the alley behind his apartment at 1919 N. 4th St. Cruisers converged as he jumped from his car.

Officer Wesley Hurley was in one of those cruisers, the first to arrive in the alley after Farnsworth. As Hurley stepped from his car, Farnsworth ran toward his apartment, opening fire with a 9 mm handgun.

A bullet hit Hurley in the chest.

3:38 p.m.

"41B has been hit," the dispatcher yelled. "Down in the weeds someplace."

Hurley, knocked to the ground by the impact, was saved by his bullet-resistant vest.

Farnsworth ran to the front of his apartment but had left his house key in the car.

Next door, Cody Aberman, his roommate and a friend were having drinks to celebrate Labor Day when they heard glass break in the building they shared with Farnsworth.

They looked to see him smash his front window with a pistol and crawl inside.

3:40 p.m.

Farnsworth began firing an AK-47 from his apartment. Officers Bryan Mason, Donald Worthington and Bryan Brumfield returned fire as they and other officers reported to dispatchers:

"Male shooting out far south window, near the front ... (suspect) is shooting out the front window ... He is shooting out the front door ... Firing front and back ... He is firing out the front and the back window."

Radio dispatchers described a scene with officers pinned down by flying bullets and motorists and pedestrians hunkered behind cars. Officers got people trapped in vehicles out of the line of fire. They yelled for residents and passers-by to take cover.

As the bullets flew, the Police Division issued a rare citywide 10-3 distress call, meaning every available officer in the city was expected to head to the scene.

About one minute into the shootout, one of the shots fired by the AK-47 traveled about 150 yards along 18th Avenue, as Officer Joshua Wagner drove to the scene.

The bullet went through his cruiser windshield, tearing into the officer's face and lodging near his left ear, according to his supervisor, Sgt. Isaac Bridges.

"He drove directly into the line of fire to protect Officer Hurley," Bridges said. "It's definitely in his character to respond the way he did."



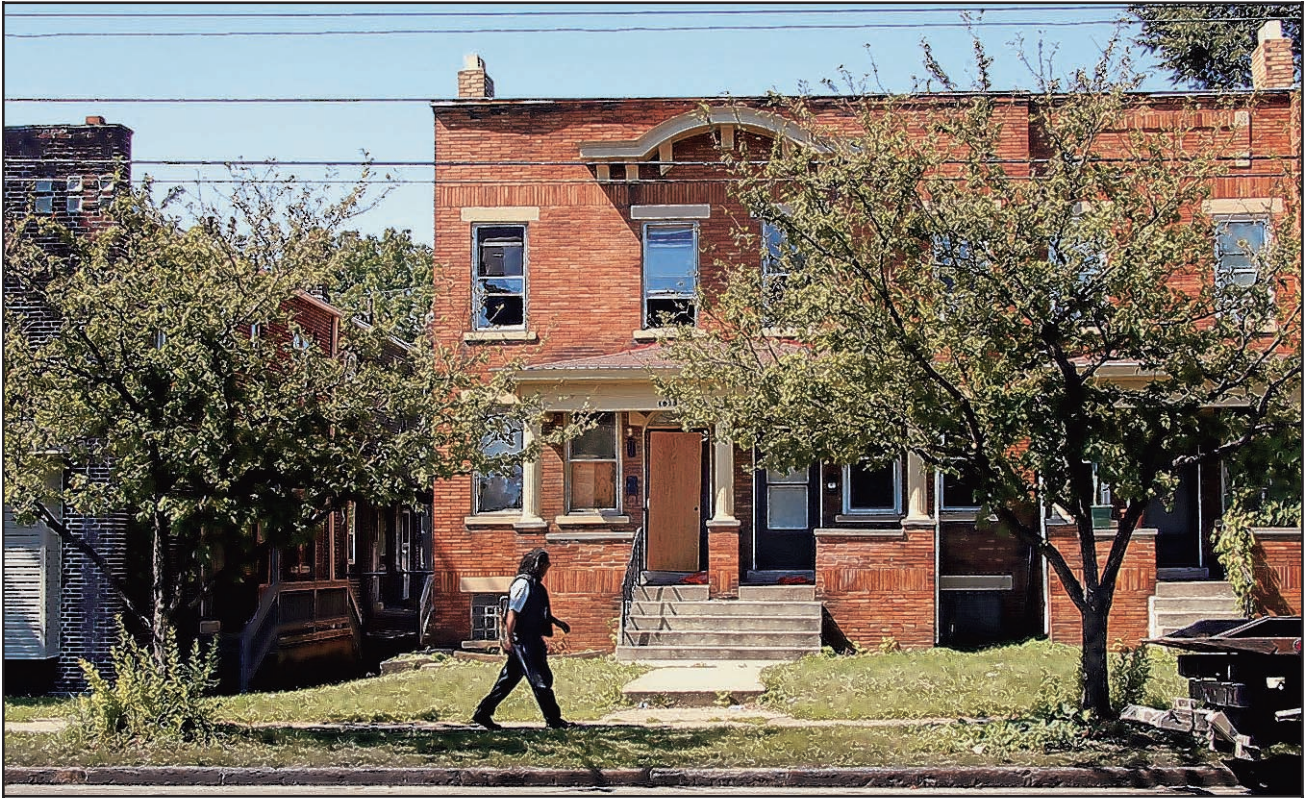
DORAL CHENOWETH III | DISPATCH

Arrica Elliott says she was shocked to learn that the 911 call she placed about Farnsworth's erratic driving led to his shootout with police.



CHRIS RUSSELL | DISPATCH

Matthew McMullan and his roommate hit the floor of his bedroom to take cover when a bullet slammed through the wall above their heads.



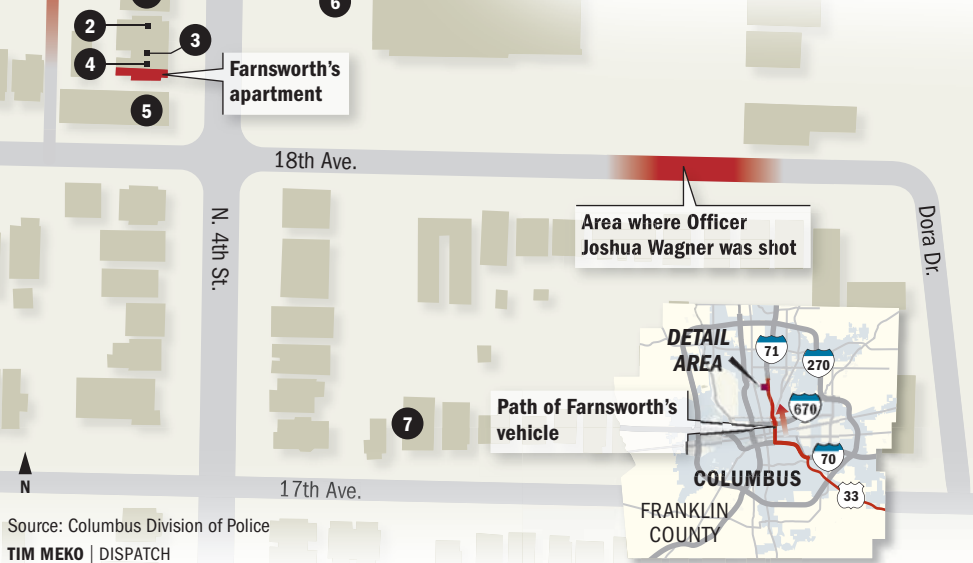
TOM DODGE | DISPATCH

Wayne K. Self passes Farnsworth's boarded-up apartment at 1919 N. 4th St. Self said he could hear the gunshots from his home three blocks away. During the gunfight, police warned neighborhood residents to stay indoors for their safety.

In the line of fire

A look at the neighborhood surrounding Jason Farnsworth's apartment during the shootout:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Matthew McMullan and Eric Kovach
1933 N. 4th St.
AGES 20 | Told a 911 operator, "There are gunshots coming through my walls." |
| 2 | Scott Moore
1927 N. 4th St. | Longtime friend and neighbor of Farnsworth's |
| 3 | John Bauman
1923 N. 4th St.
AGE 25 | Hid in an upstairs bathroom of his apartment |
| 4 | Cody Aberman
1921 N. 4th St.
AGE 22 | Saw Farnsworth break into his own apartment next door; later hid in the basement |
| 5 | David Rogers
354 E. 18th Ave.
AGE 27 | Hid in his basement after watching officers fire at Farnsworth's apartment |
| 6 | Mike Cass and Eric Davis
Parking lot
AGES 22 and 21 | Rescued from a sport-utility vehicle where they sat to watch the shootout |
| 7 | Tanisha Alexander
384 E. 17th Ave.
AGE 19 | Huddled in her bathroom with her roommates Amberly McGee, 19, and Sara Kittle, 19, sophomores at Ohio State |



The shooting would continue for nearly a half-hour.

Police haven't seen such a prolonged shootout in which officers and citizens were the targets of someone with a high-powered rifle since July 11, 2004. That's when Al Awwal Knowles, wanted in a double shooting, began firing an AK-47 from his Jeep while officers pursued him through North Side neighborhoods off Morse Road.

"I'd be lying if I said it wasn't scary" to face off against someone with a high-powered rifle, said Officer Chris Billman, 34, who was among those fired at during the 2004 shooting.

"Handguns are dangerous, but you have a different perspective when someone is firing rounds from an AK-47. Potentially, your vest won't stop it and your car won't stop it."

Officer Holly Kanode was in the cruiser closest to the shooter during the 2004 chase. She and Officer Daniel Jones, driving the cruiser, exchanged gunfire with Knowles throughout the pursuit. Five rounds struck their cruiser, one shattering the windshield and spraying Jones with glass.

"I wasn't afraid until I thought about it later," said Kanode, who was fresh from

the training academy and on her first run with Jones, assigned to be her coach.

"I never for a split second wondered what I had to do. You go into training mode. The training is so instilled that you have a bit of tunnel vision."

Knowles, who eventually crashed the Jeep, survived three bullet wounds and was sent to prison for 39 years.

The gunfire damaged nine houses, five cruisers and six civilian vehicles. But it didn't affect Kanode's dedication to the job or leave her fearful.

"We know that's a potential outcome when we take the job," said Kanode, 35. "I've been through it, I did what I had to do, I didn't freeze up and I went home. I hope it never happens again, but if someone shoots at me, I know the training is going to kick in."

4 p.m.

During a lull in the shooting on N. 4th Street, Matthew McMullan and Eric Kovach, 20-year-old juniors at Ohio State University, dared a peek out the second-floor bedroom window in the wood-frame duplex next door.

Then came another round of gunfire. As they hit the floor, a bullet tore through the bedroom wall.

"There are gunshots coming through my walls," McMullan told a 911 operator as they took cover in a hall.

"He's got a high-powered rifle," the operator replied.

"Oh, my God. OK," McMullan responded, laughing nervously. "All righty."

Asked later if they'd contemplated how close they came to being struck, Kovach shook his head.

"I've tried not to think about it."

Neighbors had been calling 911 since the shooting started and taking cover in basements, halls and bathrooms.

David Rogers, 27, who lives in an apartment building on E. 18th Avenue at N. 4th St., was about to leave for a Labor Day cookout when he saw officers with guns drawn on the lawn next door. Within seconds, they were exchanging gunfire with someone.

"It was one of those surreal moments, where you're like, 'No way,'" he said.

He sought refuge in his basement, where one of his cats kept him company while he waited four hours to make sure it was safe to come out.

"It was a combination of being scared and excited," he said of the ordeal. Roommates Tanisha Alex-



David Rogers of 354 E. 18th St. took refuge in his basement with his cat, K.J., for four hours.

ander, Amberly McGee and Sara Kittle, all 19-year-old OSU sophomores, decided the safest spot in their E. 17th Avenue apartment was a windowless bathroom on the second floor. They huddled there for nearly three hours.

"It was traumatizing," Alexander said. "I'm still kind of scared. We're all scared to be here alone."

4:22 p.m.

Dispatchers learned that Officer Wagner was in critical but stable condition at Ohio State University Medical Center. He was released less than seven hours after he arrived and continues to recover. Neither he nor Hurley has returned to work.

At the scene, some off-duty officers had come in civilian clothes, their guns and badges on their belts. Off-duty SWAT officers, some in jeans or shorts, arrived with helmets and body armor and carrying rifles.

The armored Franklin County and Columbus police SWAT vehicles drove up and down 4th Street and 18th Avenue, picking up officers and others in the line of fire. Even a block away, officers had guns drawn.

4:48 p.m.

Police realized that Mike Cass and Eric Davis were in a sport-utility vehicle, watching it all from a parking lot across from Farnsworth's apartment. The officers sent an armored vehicle to rescue the pair. The roommates had been driving by and decided to stop after seeing Farnsworth break into his apartment and start shooting.

"We hunkered down in the car and watched the whole thing happen," said Cass, 22. "We didn't get shot at, which is why we didn't leave right away. It wasn't that scary, 'cause he was just shooting at cops."

Meanwhile, in the basement next door to Farnsworth's apartment, Aberman heard what he described as a sound like a sack of potatoes hitting the ground.

"At the very end we heard screaming and cries of pain. 'Oh, no. God help me. No, no.' Within a minute of that, we hear one final gunshot and then it's silent."

5:30 p.m.

Elliott, the woman whose

call to police alerted them to Farnsworth's erratic driving, learned of the shootout from an officer calling to ask whether she knew Farnsworth.

"I was just in a state of shock," Elliott said. She had called to prevent a car accident, nothing more.

"It's just shocking that one person's call ... ended up evolving into something much more outlandish."

But, she said, "I know what I did was right."

6:28 p.m.

Video from a bomb-squad robot equipped with a camera and sent into Farnsworth's apartment showed a person down in the front room with no movement. Officers moved in, checking first for booby traps.

At 6:30 p.m., they discovered Farnsworth's body on the floor inside the front door. Medics pronounced him dead at 6:57 p.m.

In the apartment, police found the AK-47 that Farnsworth used to shoot himself and Wagner and the handgun he used to shoot Hurley. There also was a shotgun and banana and drum clips, both designed to hold many bullets. Officers found more than 1,000 rounds for the AK-47 and 500 rounds for the 9 mm handgun.

Police said Farnsworth had sprayed the inside of the apartment with bullets. Neighbor Aberman wandered through the apartment Wednesday when Farnsworth's brother, Jonathan, stopped to help clean it out.

"It looks like a war zone," Aberman said. "There are bullet holes in the ceiling, the walls, everywhere. It scared the ---- out of us."

A search of police records showed that Farnsworth had no serious run-ins with the law. He had only traffic tickets in Franklin and Fairfield counties, and police had not been called to his apartment.

Columbus police records show that he was a victim of a gun crime five years ago. In 2004, Farnsworth, then 32, told police that he'd been delivering pizza and looking for an address after dark when he was jumped by three people. One had a gun and demanded his money and another punched him in the face, records show. They stole \$20 from him.

The case was never solved, a robbery sergeant said.

Farnsworth's family has declined to comment since Monday's shootings.

Neighbors said he had several odd jobs, including mowing grass at the building for his landlord.

"He was a good neighbor, as far as I was concerned, until this," said Bauman, 25, who recalled making friendly small talk with Farnsworth on the front porch. "This was very unexpected."

A former girlfriend, who asked not to be identified, was among the stunned.

"Obviously, something flipped in his head," she said. "I've seen him get angry before, but he never showed any aggression."

Scott Moore, a friend who lived four doors away, blamed a drug addiction for Farnsworth's behavior.

"He got hooked on heroin," Moore said. "It changed him. He became a recluse." Farnsworth had his share of problems but had never been violent, Moore said.

"It was the drugs that did it. It wasn't him. That's what the world needs to know."

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