



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2023-2234

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Corey Andrew (S)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Date of Activity: 08/25/2023
Author: SAS Scott A. Stranahan, #98

Narrative:

On Friday, August 25, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to conduct an investigation regarding an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at Eastview Park in Celina, Mercer County, Ohio. During the investigation, it was learned that Sergeant (Sgt.) Darrell Etgen of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was present at the scene but did not discharge any firearms. Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Stranahan conducted an interview with Sgt. Etgen to determine his involvement. During the interview, Sgt. Etgen provided the following details.

Sgt. Etgen confirmed he is a Sgt. assigned to the Road Patrol Division of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Etgen stated he has 33 years of Law Enforcement experience and the last 29 years have been with the MCSO.

According to Sgt. Etgen, he was on patrol in the north end of Mercer County, when he heard radio traffic over the Celina Police Department (PD) band. Sgt. Etgen heard Celina officers on the radio broadcasting that a subject was "taking off." A short time later, Sgt. Etgen heard one of the officers broadcast that "shots" had been fired. Sgt. Etgen stated he could tell by the voice of the Celina officers making the radio broadcasts that "something was not right." Sgt. Etgen also recalled hearing one of the Celina officers broadcast something about "he tried to strike me" or words to that effect. At that point, Sgt. Etgen told his dispatcher that he would be enroute to Celina to assist.

Sgt. Etgen stated when he arrived on the scene (Eastview Park), he observed three Celina PD officers were already on scene. Sgt. Etgen identified those officers as: Officer Powell, Officer Rice and Officer Poppy. Sgt. Etgen also recalled seeing three officers from the Saint Mary's PD. Sgt. Etgen recognized one of the officers as Officer Little. Sgt. Etgen did not know the names of the other two officers (1 Sergeant and 1 Patrolman). According to Sgt. Etgen, there were two Coldwater officers on scene, Sgt. Wynk and Officer Speckman. Deputy Cupp from the MCSO was also on scene along with EMS.

When he arrived on scene, Sgt. Etgen observed an unidentified male subject being placed on a stretcher by EMS. EMS staff then loaded the male into the rear of an ambulance. Sgt. Etgen stated he secured the rear of the scene and "stayed to the back." Sgt. Etgen indicated he was

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attempting to restrict access to the scene. Sgt. Etgen recalled he moved his cruiser to allow room for the ambulance to depart the area. Sgt. Etgen said he remained on scene until Celina PD Assistant Chief Hartings and Chief Wale arrived.

At the request of Celina PD, Sgt. Etgen made arrangements for a female and infant child who were inside the subject's vehicle at the time of the incident, to be transported to the MCSO.

Chief Wale reportedly asked Sgt. Etgen to remain on scene as a neutral party, to ensure the integrity of the scene. Sgt. Etgen also provided 6 orange traffic cones which were used to mark cartridge casings on the ground.

Sgt. Etgen stated he was wearing a Body Worn Camera (BWC), but turned his camera off when he made contact with his command staff at the MCSO. According to Sgt. Etgen, his cruiser is equipped with a dashcam which was recording. Sgt. Etgen stated his cruiser was facing the ambulance and that would be the view on his dashcam.

Sgt. Etgen said at some point, Celina PD received an unrelated Domestic Disturbance call.

Celina PD requested that the MCSO handle that call. Deputy Cupp and Sgt. Wynn (Coldwater PD) departed the OICI, handled that call and later returned to the scene of the OICI. Sgt. Etgen stated he did not speak with the officers involved in this incident. Sgt. Etgen had no further information to add.

At approximately 6:36 a.m., the interview with Sgt. Etgen was concluded. The interview was digitally recorded. A copy of that recording has been placed in this case file and attached to this Investigative Report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Darrell Etgen Interview 8.25.23