



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



2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Jakob Yakubik

Activity Date: August 2, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Tuesday, August 02, 2022, at 1032 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Joseph Goudy interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Jakob Yakubik (Yakubik), who was accompanied by his attorney, Michael Callahan, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Malarcik, Pierce, Munyer, & Will. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio and video recorded. Officer Yakubik was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Yakubik did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Yakubik stated his radio call sign on June 27, 2022, was AKE17 (Car 17). Officer Yakubik has been a police officer for approximately three years, all with the APD. Officer Yakubik wore his standard police uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. Officer Yakubik was the driver of Car 17, a Ford Explorer marked with APD emblems and emergency lights; his partner, Officer Pelfrey, was the passenger. Officer Yakubik considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Yakubik if he could explain his involvement in the June 27, 2022, incident. Officer Yakubik explained that he and Officer Pelfrey were on their way to back up Car 7 on a different call, when they heard Car [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] call out that they were conducting a traffic stop. Shortly after, Car [REDACTED] radioed signal 5 (Emergency Radio Traffic Only) and they were now chasing the vehicle they attempted to pull over.

Officer Yakubik explained that Car [REDACTED] was on the opposite end of the city; and because of this, they decided to continue to Car 7's location to back them up. As Officer Yakubik and Officer Pelfrey approached Car 7's location, Car [REDACTED] broadcasted over the radio, "shots fired, shots fired."

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Officer Yakubik stated they “disengaged” from what they were doing and started to head towards Car [REDACTED] s location.

Officer Yakubik advised that as they were approaching Main Street, the pursuit was on Route 8 south. Officer Yakubik further advised that at some point, the pursuit exited Route 8 south and began to travel on city streets. Officer Yakubik stated they were trying to parallel to the side of the pursuit and eventually end up behind the pursuit.

Officer Yakubik advised that “something” was called out over the radio, as the pursuit was going down Wilbeth Road, but Officer Yakubik could not recall what was said. Officer Yakubik stated, “We pulled behind them probably 10, 20 seconds after everyone is out of the cars and then they’re all running off in the distance, like, myself and Officer Pelfrey get out and I can see their silhouettes out in the distance and the shots started ringing out.”



Based upon Officer Yakubik’s body-worn camera footage, approximately 29 seconds into the video, audio begins recording. When the audio begins recording, the sound of gunfire is heard.

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Based upon Officer Yakubik's body-worn camera footage, the above image is the approximate time when gunfire stops. This corroborates Officer Yakubik's statement that he was a distance away during the shooting.

SA Momchilov then asked what action Officer Yakubik took after the shooting. Officer Yakubik stated he approached officers to make sure they were okay and provided light to the officers who were rendering aid to the individual. Officer Yakubik then set up crime scene tape.

SA Momchilov stated to Officer Yakubik that he had previously mentioned that he was going to Car 7's location to provide backup, until he heard "shots fired" over the radio. SA Momchilov then asked if that would deem an immediate response from many police officers.

Officer Yakubik responded, "Yes," and stated, "If someone calls out shots fired on the radio, it's the equivalent of a signal 21, which is an officer needs help." SA Momchilov then asked Officer Yakubik if he would need to seek permission before responded. Officer Yakubik advised that permission is not needed to respond to the call but permission is needed to join a pursuit. Officer Yakubik stated that they did not join or attempt to join the pursuit.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Yakubik how far the silhouettes of the officers were when he arrived on scene. Officer Yakubik stated that he is not good at judging distance but if he "had to guess," he would approximate 70 yards. SA Momchilov asked Officer Yakubik if he could hear anything being said. Officer Yakubik responded, "I could not hear anything, almost as soon as I got out of the car within probably me getting from the car to the sidewalk is when the shots started coming out, so you can't hear anything."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Yakubik if he had any conversations with the officers who had fired. Officer Yakubik responded, "No" and was unaware of which officers had fired.

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SA Momchilov asked Officer Yakubik if he observed the individual moving after the shooting. Officer Yakubik stated that when he came up, he was not looking at the individual, he was looking at the other officers to “make sure no one was hit, no one was down on the ground.” Officer Yakubik advised that he did not “get on line” with the other officers.

Officer Yakubik also advised that after the shooting, he did not have any contact with the individual's vehicle and stated, “I didn't even know where it was.”

Officer Yakubik had watched his body-worn camera footage twice prior to this interview, and his body-worn camera footage was part of the initial press release. SA Momchilov asked Officer Yakubik if his statement provided was based off of the body-worn camera footage that he watched or off of his memory. Officer Yakubik responded, “Based off my memory.”

After the interview, Officer Yakubik was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage again. Afterward, no further statements were obtained.

Reference Items:

The video recordings of the interview were placed onto a DVD and were labeled as Reference Item L.

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this report.

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