



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



01/07/13

REPORT RECEIVED SGT. JAMES RUTH - SANDERSON

Summary

On January 2, 2013 Sgt. Scott Gardner and Sgt. Don Cleland met officers of the Cleveland Police Department. This interview took place at 4055 Highlander Parkway Richfield, Ohio 44286.

Details

On January 2, 2013, Sgt. Cleland and Sgt. Ruth met with Ofc. John Sanderson at the BCI Richfield Office. Sanderson was interviewed in regard to his participation in the officer involved shooting that occurred on November 29, 2012.

Sgt. Ruth reduced the interview to writing for submission to the case file.

The interview was video recorded. The recording and any associated documentation were submitted to the case file Exhibit #131.

File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493	File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)
Case Agent: Mark Kollar	Authoring Agent: John Saraya <i>JS</i>
Date of Report: 01/07/13	Exhibit #: 131
Investigative Activity: Report received from Sgt. Ruth - Sanderson	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet <i>Dennis Sweet</i>

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EAST CLEVELAND POLICE DEPT
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

OFFENSE/INCIDENT: HOMICIDE/OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

LOCATION: 14410 TERRACE ROAD, EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO 44112

Additional details of offense or accident program of investigation, etc.

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1/2/2013 CLEVELAND POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING DOO: 11/29/12

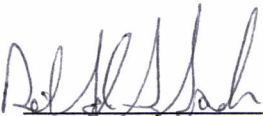
On January 2, 2013 Detective Sgt. James Ruth (ECPD) and Sgt. Don Cleland (CCSO) met with Officer John Sanderson (CPD) badge #733 along with his Union Representative (Jeff Follmer). Sanderson was advised we were conducting a criminal investigation regarding the officer involved shooting which took place on November 29, 2012 in the area of 14410 Terrace Rd. East Cleveland, Ohio 44112. Investigators asked Sanderson if he would speak to Investigators relative to this incident and Sanderson stated yes.

Investigators asked Sanderson to give us some general information about himself. Sanderson stated he lives at [REDACTED] N. Royalton, Ohio and his date of birth is 4/14/81. Sanderson gave us his cell phone number as [REDACTED]. Sanderson stated he has been with the Cleveland Police Department for 5 years, assigned to D.S.U. (Downtown Service Unit) and his Supervisor was Sgt. Peters. Sanderson stated he is not on any medication and does not wear any type of corrective lenses. Sanderson states he was wearing the class B uniform and was carrying departmental issued equipment and was well rested. Sanderson stated his partner was Justen Davis. Sanderson stated Davis was driving on this night. Sanderson stated they did have an in car video system in their unit on this night. Sanderson stated on the night of this incident their call sign was 9627 but could not remember the car number. Sanderson stated they had their car radio on channel #3. Investigators asked Sanderson if he had been involved in any other officer involved shootings. Sanderson stated yes in June 2010. Investigators ask Sanderson if he has any type of specialized training. Sanderson stated no but was in the Navy for 2 years. Investigators asked Sanderson if he qualified with his city issued weapon. Sanderson stated he qualified with his weapon this year in the summer along with his in service training for use of force. Investigators asked Sanderson if he had any prior discipline. Sanderson stated no. Investigators asked Sanderson to tell us how they first became involved in this incident and describe in detail their involvement in the pursuit.

Sanderson stated they were on W.6th assisting another car when they heard 3rd district dispatch broadcast other offices needed assistance with a pursuit downtown heading toward the Superior Bridge. Sanderson stated they advised the officers they were assisting that they were leaving. Sanderson stated they caught up to the pursuit after crossing over the Superior Bridge. Sanderson stated when they got into the pursuit they were about four cars back but never saw the suspect car.

Detective Sgt. J. Ruth ECPD/Sgt. D. Cleland CCSO

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

 #0173
APPROVED BY


INVESTIGATING OFFICER

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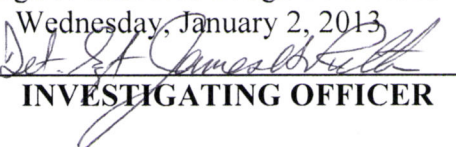
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1/2/2013 CLEVELAND POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING DOO: 11/29/12

Sanderson stated during this time a 3rd district boss called over the radio requesting an update on the pursuit. Investigators asked Sanderson if he had spoken to anyone about the incident. Sanderson stated he believes it was Sgt. Shepard asking about the pursuit. Sanderson stated Shepard was inquiring why there was a pursuit. Sanderson stated no one was answering the radio so Sgt. Shepard wanted the pursuit to end. Sanderson stated Officer Almeida then broadcasted it was a 2nd district car in the pursuit and they were on channel #2. Sanderson stated Almeida further broadcasted there was a shot fired near the Justice Center and that was the reason for the pursuit. Sanderson stated that is when he realized there was a gun involved. Investigators asked Sanderson if he ever transmitted over the radio. Sanderson stated yes he transmitted that they were behind a 2nd district car and heading west on Detroit and they were about 3-4 cars back. Sanderson stated when they turned onto Lorain, dispatch broadcasted all 3rd district and DSU units terminate per the 3rd district and DSU boss. Sanderson stated after hearing the broadcast they turned off their lights/siren and turned down the next side street. Sanderson stated they went to Clark to head back downtown when they met up with the pursuit again. Sanderson stated as the pursuit began to pass them they blocked off the intersection. Investigators asked Sanderson if they had already terminated the pursuit when they got to Clark. Sanderson stated yes and it just so happened that they met up with the pursuit again. Investigators asked Sanderson if while in this area did you hear or see and gun fire. Sanderson stated no but he did hear over the radio multiple times that the suspects were pointing a gun out the back window at officers. Sanderson stated he heard over the radio that they were reaching under the seat or leaning over the seat and that the passenger was reloading. Investigators asked Sanderson if he ever saw anything discarded from the suspect vehicle. Sanderson stated no. Investigators asked Sanderson if he knew that one of the suspects was a female. Sanderson stated after the incident he found out. Investigators showed Sanderson the pictures of the suspects and asked if had ever seen them before or had any type of interaction with them. Sanderson stated he has seen Malissa Williams before. Investigators asked Sanderson how he knows Williams. Sanderson stated he has seen her in the area of 2100 Lakeside and may have arrested her before but was unsure. Investigators asked Sanderson if he ever made it to the shooting scene. Sanderson stated no. Sanderson stated after blocking off an intersection at W.14th he radioed that the suspect was heading back into downtown and asked if they were to continue in the pursuit.

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Sanderson stated they were advised to terminate the pursuit and let 2nd district handle it. Investigators asked Sanderson if he had spoken to anyone about the incident. Sanderson stated he spoke to his partner and a Sergeant. Sanderson stated they asked the Sergeant what his thinking was to terminate the pursuit. Sanderson stated it was more of a learning experience type of conversation. Sanderson stated he also spoke to Officer Sisteck (per text) because he had just left DSU and was concerned about him and the other officers. Sanderson stated he also texted Diaz about his welfare. Sanderson stated none of the officers sent any pictures to him. Sanderson stated the officers did text him back thanking him for his concern. Investigators asked Sanderson if anyone has asked him to lie or otherwise influence his statement to investigators. Sanderson stated no. Investigators asked Sanderson if he knew where the dash cam video would be from his unit. Sanderson stated he saved it under the CAD number they were given and turned it over to mobile support unit who should have information on it in their computer. Sanderson stated he thought we had it because it had something on it. Investigators asked Sanderson if he could recall hearing any type of loud noises while in the area of W.6th. Sanderson stated no. Investigators asked Sanderson at what point did they break off of the tail end of the pursuit. Sanderson stated it was at the interstate bridge near Lakeside. Investigators asked Sanderson if he received an assignment after breaking off from the pursuit. Sanderson stated they were told to go back to the Justice Center and look for evidence. Sanderson stated an officer located what appeared to be a bullet in the center of the road between W. St. Clair and the Justice Center. Investigators asked Sanderson what they did after finding this. Sanderson stated they waited for their SIU to come and check it. Investigators asked Sanderson what SIU told him. Sanderson stated he was told it was nothing by SIU. Sanderson stated it looked to him like the size of a wad cutter. Investigators asked Sanderson what happened to this object. Sanderson stated SIU just left it. Investigators asked Sanderson if he knew what supervisor told them not to rejoin the pursuit. Sanderson stated Sergeant Peters. Investigators asked Sanderson if there were any other questions that we did not ask that he felt were important. Sanderson stated no and the interview ended.

Investigation Continues...


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