



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



December 18, 2012 Interview of Matthew J. Balli

Summary

On December 18, 2012 East Cleveland Police Officer Matthew J. Balli, who was involved in the shooting on November 29, 2012, was interviewed at the BCI Richfield offices. The interview was conducted by Ohio BCI Special Agent John Saraya and Special Agent Thomas Verhiley.

The interview was audio recorded and submitted to the case file as Exhibit #30.

Details

Matthew J. Balli is currently assigned as a Patrol Lieutenant and is a twenty-two year veteran of the East Cleveland Police Department. Balli was not working on Thursday, November 29, 2012 the night of the Cleveland Police officer involved shooting, he was on Military leave.

Balli and James Hummel have been acquaintances for approximately three years. Balli only speaks with Hummel about their passion for cigars and airplanes/flying with very little in common.

Balli stated he received a voicemail from Hummel either on Saturday or Sunday following the officer involved shooting in East Cleveland, indicating he needed to speak with Balli about a few issues. Balli stated he called Hummel to determine if there was something wrong. Balli said Hummel explained that while they were in the vehicle pursuit, the suspect's vehicle backfired fourteen to fifteen different times. Hummel advised Balli he was involved in the pursuit; however, he did not fire his duty weapon. Hummel told Balli there were some other issues he questioned about the shooting.

Balli determined Hummel was not comfortable with the outcome of the officer involved shooting, so Balli advised Hummel to speak with Lieutenant Billy Traine of the Cleveland Police Department 5th District (Formerly the 6th District). Balli stated Lieutenant Traine handles "sensitive" issues dealing with the Cleveland Police Department. Balli indicated Lieutenant Traine is reliable and trustworthy. Hummel previously informed Balli that he could not go to his immediate supervisor in the 2nd District due to the supervisor's unprofessionalism.

File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493	File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)
Case Agent: Kollar, M. #142	Authoring Agent: Verhiley, T. #76 <i>AV</i>
Date of Report: December 18, 2012	Exhibit #: 30
Investigative Activity: Balli Interview	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet <i>DS</i>

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Balli and Hummel had a second conversation about some of the issues Hummel was concerned about. Balli asked Hummel if he had spoken with his supervisor and Hummel told Balli, his supervisor told Hummel not to say anything until he spoke with BCI for an interview. Balli has had no other contact with Hummel.

Balli said he did not receive any text messages, photographs or emails from Hummel. Balli could not provide any further information as it relates to this investigation.

Subject Information

Name: Matthew J. Balli
Address: [REDACTED] Litchfield, Ohio 44253
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Employment: East Cleveland Police Department
DOB: 03/03/1970
SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 5'-08"
Weight: 200 lbs
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue
S/V/W: W
CCH: No
