



Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



12/20/2012 INTERVIEW OF LT. PAUL WILSON

Summary

On Thursday, December 20, 2012, Special Agent Verhiley and Special Agent Stranahan conducted an interview with Cleveland Police Lieutenant Paul Wilson regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Details

On Thursday, December 20, 2012, at approximately 1530 hours, Special Agent Verhiley and Special Agent Stranahan were assigned to conduct an interview with Cleveland Police Lieutenant Paul Wilson regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred on November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The interview with Lt. Wilson was conducted at the Richfield BCI offices and was audio/video recorded and added to this case file as Exhibit #81.

At approximately 1540 hours, Special Agent Verhiley and Special Agent Stranahan met with Lt. Wilson, his attorney Robert Phillips and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8 President Brian Betley and Vice President Jerry Zarlenga in the conference room at the Richfield BCI offices. After initial greetings, Special Agent Stranahan advised Lt. Wilson of his Miranda rights which he indicated he understood and was willing to provide a statement regarding this investigation. The following information was provided by Lt. Wilson during the interview.

Lt. Wilson indicated he has been a Cleveland Police Officer for approximately twenty-one (21) years. Prior to being hired by the Cleveland Police Department, he worked for the Yuma County Sheriff's Office in Yuma, Arizona as a Deputy Sheriff for approximately two and a half years. According to Lt. Wilson, he is currently assigned as the C platoon patrol commander within the Cleveland Police Department Third District. Lt. Wilson stated his normal work hours are 2000 hours – 0600 hours and his supervisor is Captain Bernath who is the Third District patrol commander.

File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493	File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)
Case Agent: Mark Kollar	Authoring Agent: Stranahan, S. #98 <i>SA Stranahan</i>
Date of Report: December 20, 2012	Exhibit #: 81
Investigative Activity: Interview of Lt. Paul Wilson	Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet

The next topic discussed with Lt. Wilson was the type of training he has received. Lt. Wilson indicated he holds a current Peace Officer Certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) and he is also a certified Defensive Driving Instructor. Lt. Wilson advised he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1982 through 1986. Lt. Wilson indicated he last attended in-service training with the Cleveland Police Department in February 2012 which included a firearms requalification as well as training in the use of force. Lt. Wilson stated in his career as a Cleveland Police Officer he has never been involved in an officer involved shooting incident and the only discipline he has received was a verbal reprimand approximately nine (9) years ago.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Lt. Wilson several questions related to his health and substance abuse. Lt. Wilson advised he is in good health and is not taking any prescription medications. Lt. Wilson stated he does not wear glasses and has no problems with drug or alcohol abuse.

Special Agent Stranahan next asked Lt. Wilson questions regarding the type of uniform he was wearing and type of equipment he was carrying on November 29, 2012. According to Lt. Wilson, he was wearing his Cleveland Police Department issued class B uniform during his shift on November 29, 2012. Lt. Wilson described this uniform as consisting of navy blue pants, a white shirt with Cleveland Police Department markings and a bullet resistant vest. Lt. Wilson advised he was also wearing his issued duty belt and carrying all of the department issued equipment which consisted of (2) pairs of handcuffs, Glock pistol and (2) extra magazines. Lt. Wilson stated all of his magazines were at full capacity and he was not carrying a back-up weapon. Lt. Wilson also indicated he does not employ the use of any personal audio/video recording devices on his person or in his assigned patrol vehicle while on duty.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Lt. Wilson questions concerning his assigned vehicle and zone assignment on November 29, 2012. Lt. Wilson indicated he was working with Sergeant Edens on November 29, 2012 and they were driving patrol unit number 357. Lt. Wilson was seated in the front passenger's seat and Sgt. Edens was driving the vehicle. According to Lt. Wilson, patrol unit 357 is equipped with working emergency lights, siren, spotlight, mobile radio and mobile data terminal (onboard computer system).

Special Agent Stranahan next spoke with Lt. Wilson regarding how he first became involved in the pursuit on November 29, 2012. According to Lt. Wilson he was sitting in his office at the Cleveland Police Department Third District Station with Sergeants Edens and Shepard. Lt. Wilson overheard a radio broadcast by Officer Almeida on radio channel 3 which reported officers had been fired upon and were currently engaged in a pursuit. Lt. Wilson advised that Officer Almeida is assigned to the Cleveland Police Mobile Services Unit which is located on West St. Clair near the Justice Center and that Officer Almeida is responsible for making repairs to police radios and mobile data terminals. Initially, Lt. Wilson thought that Officer Almeida was involved in the pursuit; however, follow-up radio traffic determined Officer Almeida was only reporting that officers from the Second District had been fired upon and were engaged in a vehicle pursuit. According to Lt. Wilson, dispatch was unable to make radio contact with the

officers engaged in the pursuit on channel 3 and as a result, Sgt. Shepard terminated the pursuit. Lt. Wilson was unaware that the officers who were actually engaged in the pursuit were Second District Officers who were broadcasting the pursuit on channel 2. Lt. Wilson stated he remained at the Third District police station and monitored radio traffic pertaining to the pursuit. At this time, Lt. Wilson recalled the pursuit traveled through the area of the Second District.

A short time later, Lt. Wilson overheard radio traffic which reported the pursuit had returned to the area of the Third District. At this time Lt. Wilson and Sgt. Edens departed the Third District Station and entered patrol unit 357. Lt. Wilson confirmed he was seated in the front passenger's seat and Sgt. Edens was driving the vehicle. Lt. Wilson and Sgt. Edens continued to monitor radio traffic pertaining to the pursuit on radio channel 3 and heard that the pursuit had entered Interstate 90 and was traveling eastbound. Lt. Wilson and Sgt. Edens then drove to the area of Wade Park near West 79 Street and Addison Road due to the pursuit being headed in the that general direction.

Lt. Wilson stated he and Sgt. Edens used their patrol vehicle to block the intersection of West 79 Street and Addison Road to allow the pursuit to pass through the area without interruption from uninvolved pedestrian traffic. While blocking the aforementioned intersection, Lt. Wilson observed the suspect vehicle pass through the area at a high rate of speed followed by numerous Cleveland Police vehicles. According to Lt. Wilson, the line of Cleveland Police vehicles involved in the pursuit was long enough that he and Sgt. Edens had to wait approximately one (1) minute before they were able to follow in behind the last police vehicle and engage in the pursuit.

Lt. Wilson was unsure of the exact route of the pursuit but recalled entering the City of East Cleveland and turning south on Wymore Road. At this time Lt. Wilson heard a radio broadcast by an unknown officer which reported "shots fired." Lt. Wilson indicated Sgt. Edens then parked their patrol vehicle on Wymore Road behind other Cleveland Police vehicles. Lt. Wilson and Sgt. Edens were forced to park in this area due to the large number of Cleveland Police vehicles blocking the roadway. Upon exiting the patrol vehicle, Lt. Wilson heard the sound of gun fire. Lt. Wilson indicated he and Sgt. Edens then ran up the hill on Wymore toward the Heritage Middle School which is located at 14410 Terrace Road, East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Upon entering the school parking lot, Lt. Wilson observed numerous Cleveland Police Officers in the area and observed that several police vehicles were "shot up." By the time Lt. Wilson arrived on scene, the gun fire had ended. Lt. Wilson indicated he then walked up to and looked inside of the suspect vehicle. According to Lt. Wilson, he was then approached by an East Cleveland Police Department Sergeant and requested to assist with the processing of the scene. Lt. Wilson is unable to recall the name of the East Cleveland Police Department Sergeant but recalled his unit number is ECPD3131. After receiving the request to assist, Lt. Wilson instructed all Cleveland Police Officers on scene to back up away from the scene and enter the playground area. Lt. Wilson further instructed the officers not to touch or pick up any objects from the ground. At this time Lt. Wilson then assisted by securing the scene with crime scene tape. Once the scene had been taped off, Lt. Wilson remained on the outside of the tape. A short

time later, Sergeant Gallagher arrived on scene and Lt. Wilson instructed him to send all uninvolved Third District Officers who were on scene, back to their district.

Lt. Wilson recalled Lieutenant Timm from the Cleveland Police Department Homicide Unit arrived on scene as well as Deputy Chief Williams. Lt. Wilson was asked by Deputy Chief Williams to designate an area for the media which he stated was delegated to Sgt. Edens. Lt. Wilson estimated he was on scene for approximately two (2) hours and that he did not take any photographs with his cellular telephone. Lt. Wilson stated he and Sgt. Edens departed the scene and returned to basic patrol within the Third District.

Lt. Wilson advised that the information he provided was truthful and he is unable to provide any additional details regarding this investigation. At this time the interview with Lt. Wilson was concluded and Lt. Wilson, his attorney and Union representative departed the area. The interview with Lt. Wilson was audio/video recorded and a copy of the interview was downloaded to a DVD which was added to this case file as Exhibit #81.

Subject Information

Name: Paul J. Wilson
Address: ██████████ Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44109
Telephone: ██████████ (personal cellular telephone)
Employment: Lieutenant - Cleveland Police Department
DOB: 1-19-1964
SSN: ██████████
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 225 lbs.
Hair: Grey
Eyes: Green
S/V/W: W
CCH: No
