



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



2022-2813
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 673 Slate Hollow Ct, Powell,
OH 43065 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Dep. Nick Ambrozich (W)
Date of Activity: 12/12/2022
Activity Location: Delaware County Sheriff's Office Substation – 151 East Orange Road, Lewis Center, OH 43035, Delaware County
Author: SA James H Gore, #168

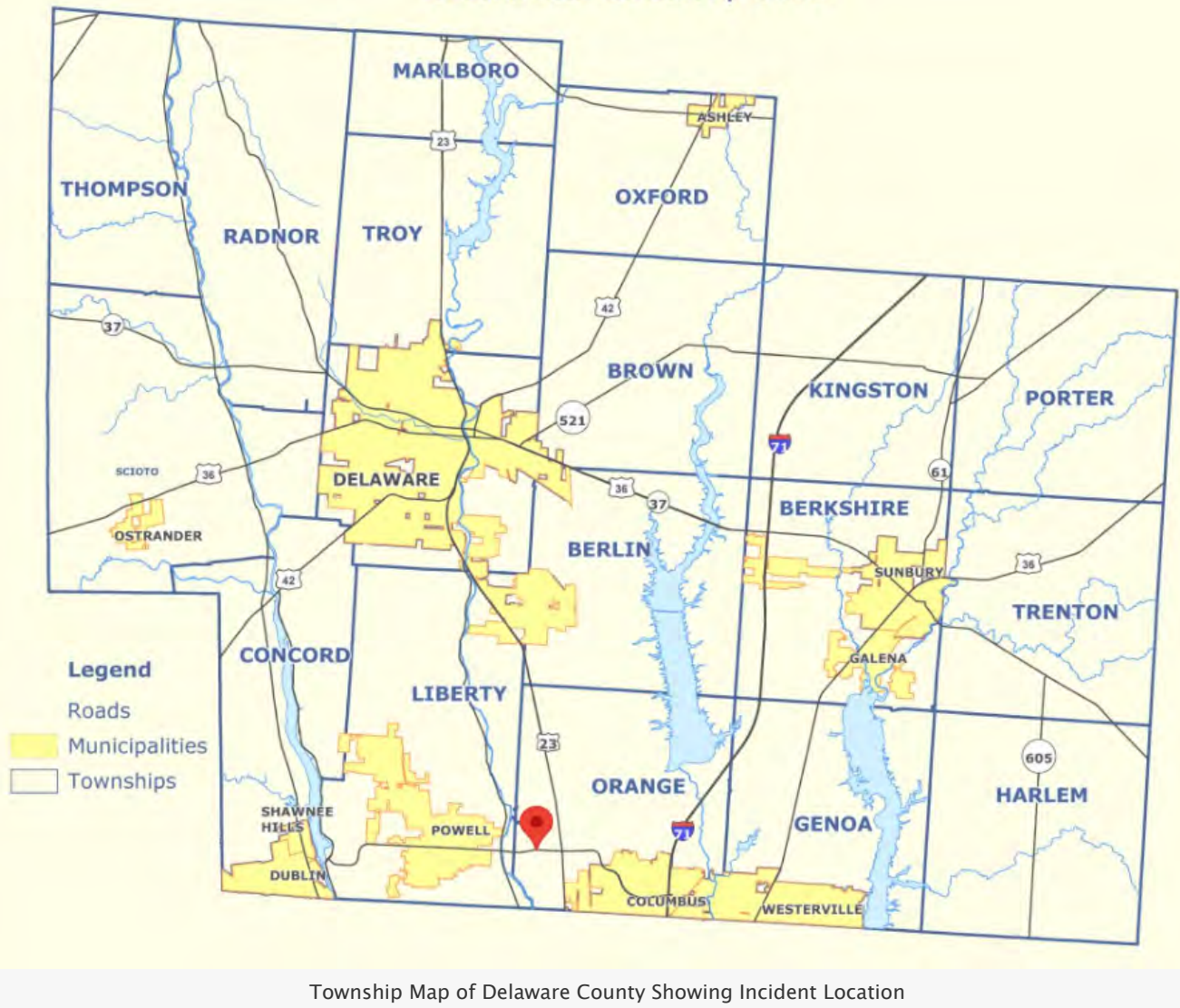
Narrative:

On the evening of December 12, 2022 at approximately 2335 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) James Gore interviewed Deputy Nick Ambrozich (badge #113) at the Delaware County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) substation in Lewis Center. Dep. Ambrozich was identified as a witness to a Officer-Involved Critical Incident which took place at 673 Slate Hollow Court in Powell earlier on the same evening.

Dep. Ambrozich advised that he has been employed by DCSO for more than five years, and he is assigned to Patrol. His normal shift is 2 PM to 10 PM with Saturdays and Sundays off. Dep. Ambrozich advised that on the evening in question, he was assigned to District 6, which covered Liberty and Concord Townships.

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DELAWARE COUNTY, OHIO



Township Map of Delaware County Showing Incident Location

Dep. Ambrozich stated that when the call was broadcast for Slate Hollow Court, Dispatch requested that any available unit respond. Dep. Ambrozich said he was the closest unit, and he responded from the area of State Route 315 and Home Road.

From what Dep. Ambrozich recalled of the initial dispatch call, a subject reportedly requested police, and he or she was yelling at the call taker(s) to 'protect and serve.' Dispatchers relayed that the caller was potentially intoxicated and uncooperative. Dep. Ambrozich could not recall what time the run was dispatched, but he said it was dark outside.

Dep. Ambrozich said he was the first on scene, and when he approached the door to the residence, he could hear several voices from inside. He said he looked through a window next to the front door, and he observed a woman (Kelly Hinton) talking on a phone. Dep. Ambrozich commented that the woman appeared to be in a highly emotional state.

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Dep. Ambrozich said he tapped on the window to get the woman's attention. He mentioned, when she noticed him, she yelled, 'The cops are here!' He said he motioned for her to come to the door, but the woman appeared reluctant to open the door. Dep. Ambrozich said it was clear to him that his presence made the woman nervous. Dep. Ambrozich said he could also see a young boy playing on a cell phone in the residence.

Dep. Ambrozich said he tried the door handle and he found that it was unlocked. The woman, according to Dep. Ambrozich, then stepped outside of the residence and closed the door behind her. Dep. Ambrozich said it was apparent that the woman did not want him to enter the dwelling. Dep. Ambrozich described the woman's comments as being dismissive when he asked her what was going on inside. She reportedly told him that everything was fine, yet she appeared to be frantic. The woman reportedly told Dep. Ambrozich that her husband (Sean Hinton) was in the basement speaking with his father (Michael Hinton), and that the father was trying to get her husband to calm down. The father was also reportedly trying to get him (Sean Hinton) to give up a firearm.

Dep. Ambrozich said he told the woman he would have to check on the wellbeing of all of the occupants of the residence, given the circumstances. Dep. Ambrozich said he observed a loose dog, and the woman agreed to go in with him so she could secure the dog in a bathroom.

Dep. Ambrozich said he positioned himself at the top of the stairwell which led down to the basement. From there, he said he could see the father (Michael Hinton), but not the male subject (Sean Hinton). He said shortly after he took that position, the father came up the stairs frantically, and he stated that the son had an "AR" (AR-15 type rifle).

Dep. Ambrozich said he maintained his position at the top of the stairwell, and he attempted to engage the subject with verbal dialogue, using crisis intervention techniques. He said it became obvious that the subject grew more agitated, and he was not receptive to the communication. Dep. Ambrozich stated that he told the wife and the subject's father to gather the children and get out of the house.

Dep. Ambrozich explained that after the other occupants were out of the residence, he backed out and requested that another deputy retrieve a ballistic shield. He observed Dep. Cline trying to physically escort the wife away from the front of the residence, so he went to assist him. According to Dep. Ambrozich, Dep. Gaunt maintained a position at the front door with his AR-15 while he went to assist Dep. Cline. The father and Dep. Cline urged the woman to get into a vehicle in front of the residence, but she refused.

Dep. Ambrozich stated that as he grabbed ahold of the woman's arm to assist her toward the vehicle, he heard gunfire. He said he could not initially discern whether the gunfire was outside or inside the residence, but it was loud. Dep. Ambrozich explained that as he looked over and observed gun smoke around Dep. Gaunt, he realized that Dep. Gaunt had fired his rifle. Dep. Ambrozich was uncertain how many shots were fired.

Dep. Ambrozich said after he was able to get the woman into the car, he drew his own weapon and joined Dep. Gaunt at the front door of the residence. Dep. Ambrozich said he and Dep.

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Gaunt entered the residence, and he observed the subject on the floor, unresponsive, with a wound to his head. He said the subject was wearing body armor and he had been armed with an AR-15. Dep. Ambrozich said he grabbed the rifle from the subject, removed its magazine, and ejected a round from its chamber. Ambrozich described the subject's body armor as a plate carrier-type vest with 5 or 6 AR-15 magazines strapped to its front. The subject was secured with handcuffs.

After removing the subject's body armor, Dep. Ambrozich explained, he removed a handgun from the subject's waist. Dep. Ambrozich said he attempted to render aid by assessing the subject's body for additional injuries. He stated that medics arrived on scene and pronounced the subject deceased.

To Dep. Ambrozich's knowledge, no deputies, or any parties other than the male subject (Sean Hinton) sustained any injuries. Dep. Ambrozich recalled the subject's wife mentioned that he had been drinking.

An audio copy of Dep. Ambrozich's interview was attached to this report for reference.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-1212-23-35-27 Dep. Nick Ambrozich Interview – SA Gore

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