



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



2024-1814  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8401 South Dixie Highway,  
Rudolph, Ohio 43462

**Investigative Activity:** Information Provided/Obtained  
**Involves:** Robert Van Norman (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 06/16/2024  
**Author:** SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

**Narrative:**

On June 16, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) spoke with Robert Van Norman (Robert) by cell phone regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving the Wood County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and deceased individual George Eric Taylor (Taylor) which occurred on June 16, 2024.

SA Rammel was provided Robert's cell phone number [REDACTED] by Lieutenant Rod Smith (Smith) of the WCSO and informed that Robert was Taylor's [REDACTED] Coach and the person who initially called 911 for a safety check on Taylor.

SA Rammel made contact with Robert, identified himself, and inquired as to what information Robert was requesting that SA Rammel may be able to provide.

Robert advised that he called 911 for Taylor because Taylor "was not doing well" and during a conversation Robert and Taylor had earlier on June 16, 2024, Taylor appeared to be going downhill quickly. Robert stated that he eventually was able to get Taylor to agree to go to a Veterans Association (VA) Hospital with WCSO in order to obtain treatment. Robert mentioned that the WCSO Dispatch told him they would call him back once everything was resolved with Taylor and provide him an update, but Robert told SA Rammel that no one had made the return call yet, so he did not have an update. Robert described his relationship with Taylor as "brothers who served". Robert said that Taylor, him, and other friends use each other to talk with when episodes of [REDACTED] arise in order to calm each other down.

Robert stated that he eventually had to call 911 because Taylor was not responding well and due to Robert's distance from Taylor, Robert decided that Taylor needed additional help.

SA Rammel informed Robert that Taylor had "an altercation" with the WCSO and that due to that altercation Taylor was "now deceased". SA Rammel expressed his sympathy towards Robert and explained that SA Rammel and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) were currently in the process of investigating the altercation.

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on  
07/03/2024

SA Rammel informed Robert that he was unable to provide any additional details at this time, but expressed to Robert that SA Rammel is interested in speaking with him in the near future to gather some additional details regarding the conversation Robert had with Taylor leading up to the WCSO responding to Taylor's address. Robert was very emotional regarding the information provided but agreed to speak with SA Rammel at a later date.

SA Rammel provided his contact information, and the conversation was concluded.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: robert van norman intial contact 2024-06-16