

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



2023-1792 Officer Involved Critical Incident - I-70 at Mound Street, Columbus, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Officer Todd Rhodeback (W)

Date of Activity: 07/06/2023

Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On Thursday, July 06, 2023 at approximately 2047 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer Todd Rhodeback (Officer Rhodeback), badge #1501. BCI was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving CPD which had occurred earlier that day. BCI was informed that CPD officers were involved in a shooting that occurred on I–70 East near the Mound Street exit. The purpose of this interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Officer Rhodeback.

The interview took place near the scene of the incident on I-70. The interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Officer Rhodeback's current assignment is second shift from 1330 hours to 2130 hours with Saturdays and Sundays off. At the time of the incident, Officer Rhodeback was in CPD marked police vehicle #641 conducting freeway patrol. Officer Rhodeback heard over the radio a Whitehall Police Department (WPD) cruiser had been rammed intentionally by another vehicle as part of a pursuit on Hilliard Rome Road. Officer Rhodeback believed the pursuit was related to a bank robbery. The suspected vehicle was traveling eastbound on I–70.

Officer Rhodeback was positioned at I-70 and OH-315 at the time. Officer Rhodeback prepared spike strips for a potential deployment if the pursued vehicle got to his location. Officer Rhodeback described the vehicle as a black SUV. Before the pursued vehicle got to his location, Officer Rhodeback observed the vehicle come to a stop on I-70 eastbound. Officer Rhodeback saw two people exit the black SUV and flee on foot. Officer Rhodeback recalled also hearing gunfire.

Officer Rhodeback turned his vehicle around and drove towards the location of the black SUV. As he was driving, Officer Rhodeback heard a firearm projectile strike the roof of his vehicle. Officer Rhodeback exited his vehicle and was looking in the direction of the two individuals

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who had fled over the hill towards Mound Street. Officer Rhodeback did not initially see the third individual on the ground. Officer Rhodeback later learned a CPD officer had sustained a gunshot wound. The injured officer was loaded into a CPD cruiser to be transported to the hospital.

Other CPD officers searched the area where he had seen the first two subjects who had exited the black SUV. After the area search was completed, Officer Rhodeback began securing the scene. Officer Rhodeback observed other CPD officers providing CPR and first aid to the third subject who had been in the black SUV until paramedics arrived. Officer Rhodeback remained on scene for security and traffic management.

Interview concluded at approximately 2057 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: CPD Officer Todd Rhodeback Interview Audio 07.06.2023

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