



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



2024-1474
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 16100 Van Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Ashley L. Crenshaw (W)
Date of Activity: 05/12/2024
Activity Location: Carlton House Condominiums – 16100 Van Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120
Author: SA Stacey A. Fifer, #116

On May 12, 2024, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent–In–Charge, Roger Davis, advised BCI Special Agent Stacey Fifer (SA Fifer) to respond to Shaker Heights for assistance with an officer involved critical incident involving several police officers, swat teams and an individual later identified as De'Shawn Vaughn (Vaughn).

Upon arrival, SA Fifer was informed by officers in the area directing traffic that Vaughn was believed to be deceased; however, it had not yet been confirmed. SA Fifer went to the command post, located at the Shaker Heights City Hall and was later met by additional BCI personnel.

It was determined by police on scene at 16100 Van Aken Boulevard that Vaughn was deceased and BCI was requested to respond from the command post to the incident scene. SA Fifer went to the incident location with BCI Special Agent Charlie Snyder to obtain the initial information. SA Fifer assisted SA Snyder and received preliminary information from law enforcement officers on scene regarding which officers discharged their weapons during the incident. SA Snyder took photos of the officers who discharged their weapons and their information was collected. Assistant Superintendent Mark Kollar was also on scene to assist.

SA Fifer interviewed Ashley L. Crenshaw (Crenshaw), who was allegedly inside the apartment at the time of the officer involved critical incident (Apartment #301). Detective Matt Lewis of the Shaker Heights Police Department advised SA Fifer that Crenshaw was currently in a Shaker Heights Police cruiser that was parked on Van Aken Boulevard in front of the apartment building.

SA Fifer identified herself to Crenshaw, and she agreed to speak in SA Fifer's vehicle that was parked nearby. A digital audio recording was made of the interview with Crenshaw. Crenshaw told SA Fifer that she did not feel comfortable because people related to Vaughn were standing nearby. SA Fifer moved the vehicle away from the people gathered nearby. While

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moving the vehicle, the audio recording inadvertently turned off and SA Fifer started a new audio recording once the vehicle was moved.

Crenshaw agreed to describe the details of what happened. She relayed that she fell asleep around 0100 to 0110 hours, and she got a call from "him" (Vaughn). Crenshaw answered the phone and said everything was "normal." Crenshaw said she was referring to "Shawn", which is how she knew him, and told SA Fifer she did not know his actual name until after the incident occurred. Crenshaw indicated Vaughn was a friend, rather than a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. When asked how long she had known him, Crenshaw said, "since August of 2023."

Crenshaw said Vaughn told her he needed to come over, and she told him "OK." She told him to call her when he was outside her apartment. Crenshaw explained her relationship with Vaughn as a "friendship that had intimate moments." SA Fifer asked Crenshaw if Vaughn said why he needed to come over and Crenshaw said, "No, it was normal except for the fact...normally he'll come over...around 8 or 9...it just was later...but I didn't really look at it...was a big deal because it was a Saturday night."

SA Fifer asked Crenshaw how Vaughn's demeanor was on the phone. Crenshaw said they did not normally talk on the phone and nothing seemed out of the ordinary to her. Crenshaw explained that they normally texted or face-timed with each other and talked less than once a week. SA Fifer asked Crenshaw if Vaughn was upset on the phone and Crenshaw said she was not "laser focused" because she had just woken up when Vaughn called.

When Vaughn arrived, Crenshaw said he used the apartment "buzzer", which rang to her cell phone, and she let him inside the apartment building. Crenshaw did not know the exact time Vaughn arrived because she went back to sleep until he called from the buzzer outside the apartment. Crenshaw could only say for certain that it was sometime after 0100 hours. After Crenshaw buzzed Vaughn in using her phone, she said her apartment door was unlocked and Vaughn let himself inside. According to Crenshaw, Vaughn locked the door after he came into her apartment, which was normal.

Vaughn told Crenshaw he wanted to take a shower. While Vaughn was in the shower, Crenshaw went back to sleep. Vaughn went to sleep as well in bed with Crenshaw. Crenshaw told SA Fifer "for the record" she had not known what occurred the night before involving Vaughn. Crenshaw said she woke up early and friends were sending her articles, Instagram notifications and text messages about what happened to the Euclid Police Officer. Crenshaw said she was "scared" and "petrified" because the person being displayed online was not the person she knew regarding Vaughn. Crenshaw said she was lying next to Vaughn in bed when she was receiving these communications from various people.

Crenshaw said Vaughn was asleep, and she was "shocked" and trying to figure out if she was "dreaming". Crenshaw said she did not want to bring it up to Vaughn because she did not know what "mental state he was in." Crenshaw said she never saw a weapon or a cell phone but did notice that his clothes were wet. Crenshaw could not recall what time she woke up that morning and said she went back to sleep at some point after she put Vaughn's clothing in the dryer (across from her unit). Regarding Vaughn's clothing, Crenshaw later described them as a matching jogging suit. Crenshaw said Vaughn never left the apartment once he got there, nor did she. When asked where Vaughn was when the US Marshals arrived, Crenshaw said they

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were both in bed.

Crenshaw said she was asleep when she heard the police tell them to come out with their hands up. Crenshaw said she and Vaughn did not speak at that point. Crenshaw went to the door and opened the door. SA Fifer asked Crenshaw what Vaughn's reaction was when the Marshals were there and Crenshaw said she just jumped up and went to the door. When asked where the firearm was at that point, Crenshaw said she never saw a firearm. She described the layout of her apartment and explained she was in bed asleep, so she never saw anything except his clothing and a small "fanny pack." Crenshaw claimed the fanny pack was not big enough to "fit a gun."

When asked why Vaughn's clothing was wet, she said did not know, but assumed it was from rain or sweat. Crenshaw explained that she stepped on Vaughn's wet clothing that was on the floor near the bed. Crenshaw discussed that she had sexual relations with Vaughn that morning as well.

According to Crenshaw, Vaughn would normally have his cell phone, and he did not have it with him. The number Vaughn called her from earlier that day was from a number that she did not recognize. SA Fifer asked Crenshaw if she had a conversation with Vaughn about what had happened. Crenshaw said Vaughn told her he was "into stuff" and "had a lot going on", and he had a situation with his "baby mother brother". Crenshaw said Vaughn just told her he had "shit going on."

SA Fifer asked Crenshaw if she honestly did not know what happened that night. Crenshaw said she "knew something happened" but was adamant that she had no knowledge of a police officer being killed. Crenshaw described Vaughn as having a "poker face" and that she feels like she did not really know him.

SA Fifer asked Crenshaw if Vaughn used her cell phone while he was there. She did not recall if Vaughn used it to call or text anyone, but he did have her cell phone at some point. When asked to describe her cell phone, Crenshaw said it is a white iPhone 11 with a green case.

Crenshaw was worried about being identified and concerned with her safety. She reiterated that she did not really know Vaughn that well and did not know where he lived. Crenshaw said she would normally hang out with Vaughn at her place when they did see each other.

The audio recordings (part 1 and part 2) were submitted to the case file (refer to attached audio recordings for complete interview details).

References:

None

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Ashley Crenshaw 1

Attachment # 02: Ashley Crenshaw 2

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