



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



2022-0826

Officer Involved Critical Incident - W. 46th Street, between Collins Blvd.
and Valley View Blvd.

Investigative Activity: Information Obtained

Activity Date: April 13, 2022

Activity Location: Ashtabula County Medical Center (Ashtabula, Ohio)

Authoring Agent: BCI Special Agent Stacey Fifer

On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at approximately 0230 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Stacey Fifer (SA Fifer) was contacted by BCI Special Agent Jon Lieber (SA Lieber) for assistance with an officer-involved shooting which occurred in Ashtabula, Ohio. The shooting incident involved subject, David Ward Jr. (Ward), and members of the Ashtabula Police Department.

SA Fifer learned that Ward was transported by Ashtabula Fire Department rescue squad to the Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC) in Ashtabula, Ohio. ACMC is affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic Hospital system.

SA Fifer responded to ACMC and arrived at approximately 0422 hours. Upon arrival, SA Fifer was informed by staff at ACMC that Ward died as a result of his injuries. SA Fifer was met by Ashtabula County Coroner Investigator Keith Stewart (Inv. Stewart) in the Emergency Department at ACMC. Ward was located in room 5 of the Emergency Department and Inv. Stewart relayed that Ward died from a single gunshot wound to the chest. The majority of Ward's clothing items were bagged by Inv. Stewart prior to SA Fifer's arrival and were located on the hospital bed adjacent to Ward's body. According to Inv. Stewart, there was no exit wound and he could feel the projectile under the skin on Ward's back.

Inv. Stewart said he gave Ward's wallet to Ward's father, David Ward Senior, prior to SA Fifer's arrival. When asked if any cell phones, firearms, or ammunition were located, Inv. Stewart indicated nothing of that nature was found on his person. The bagged items of clothing were later transported with Ward's body to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy. SA Fifer did not open the bagged items of evidence and photographs were taken by SA Fifer of Ward as he appeared upon SA Fifer's arrival (photographs attached).

Inv. Stewart advised SA Fifer that Ward's father said he had a 20-gauge shotgun missing from his home. He further relayed that the father said Ward lost his job recently, lost a close family member recently, and had suffered from depression. Additionally, Inv. Stewart said the father told him Ward made "suicide threats" in the past.

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A copy of the prehospital care report summary generated by the Ashtabula Fire Department was obtained by SA Fifer at APMC (attached). It was documented that the ambulance arrived at APMC at approximately 0142 hours. The following excerpt obtained from the prehospital summary (page 3) documented the activities of the Ashtabula Fire Department prior to arrival at APMC:

Narrative History Text:

Dispatched for staging at apd parking lot for a male with a gun. We sat there until apd cleared us to enter scene. We heard 1 gunshot prior to our arrival. Pt was laying on sidewalk with several officers assisting in medical care. Monitor was immediately applied. Pt was in a agonal rhythm. Pt was not breathing. We immediately began CPR. Pt moved to cot and into squad. Lucas applied and compressions started. Pt was in asystole. We called med control and advised of them our pt. Airway placed and cpr continued to hospital. Pt transported with no changes. Arrived at ed and care was given over staff.

SA Fifer left the hospital at approximately 0457 hours and responded to the scene on W. 46th Street in Ashtabula, Ohio.

