



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



2025-0596

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 236 McKinley Ave, Piqua, OH
(Miami County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Tammy West (W)
Date of Activity: 02/21/2025
Activity Location: Piqua Police Department – Business – 100 N. Wayne Street, Piqua, OH 45356
Author: SA David Hornyak, #112

Narrative:

On February 21, 2025, at approximately 2114 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Dave Hornyak and Steve Seitzman interviewed Tammy West relative to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred earlier that evening at 236 McKinley Avenue, Piqua, Ohio. The interview took place at the Piqua Police Department. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Prior to the interview, the agents learned from the Piqua Police Department (PPD) that Tammy West was the mother of David West who was shot and killed during the officer-involved critical incident. PPD also advised that Tammy West, who was present for the incident, was not criminally involved and had been brought to the station to be questioned by BCI.

Tammy West informed the agents that he was speaking with them voluntarily and then provided the following information:

Earlier in the evening, Tammy and her husband, Duane West informed their live-in adult son David West (44 years of age) that they were no longer willing to financially support him. David became "outraged" when Tammy would not share financial information related to her upcoming retirement and in response, forcibly shoved Tammy to the ground. Tammy was seated in a chair at the table and David used both hands to violently push her backwards resulting in Tammy's head hitting the floor causing her to black out for at least a few seconds. It was apparent to Tammy that David had been drinking due to both "the smell" and his behavior. Tammy said that when drinking, "...he is a monster." Tammy informed the agents that she was 5'4" tall and weighed only 92 lbs. while David stood approximately 5'11" and was more than double her weight at over 200 lbs.

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After David pushed her down, he stood over her with clenched fists and "...rage in his eyes." Fearing for her safety, in an attempt to calm David and keep him from harming her further, Tammy exclaimed to David, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry." David left the room stating that he was calling the police. Tammy, believing this was only a ploy to prevent her from calling the police herself, went to the garage and called 911 to report the assault. During the call she told the dispatcher to "...send a lot of officers..." further specifying that David was drunk "...and he will fight you when he's drunk."

Tammy said that up to seven police officers arrived shortly after. Tammy and Duane spoke with the officers and told them that David was downstairs in the basement. Duane told the officers that David had a pepperball gun. Tammy acknowledged to the agents during the BCI interview that she did not know for certain what type of gun David may have had. Tammy also stated she understood that the officers could not be certain how David was armed, specifically saying in that regard, "...cops probably don't know." Tammy said she only was aware that it was a pepperball gun because that's what David told her. Tammy described seeing a picture of the pepperball gun previously, said it had the appearance of a real firearm, and stated that "...it looked like a gun." Tammy further specified that she would be scared if it had been pointed at her. Tammy added that she knew David also had a switchblade in the basement.

Regarding the officers encountering David, Tammy said "the cop" yelled to David, "Drop it! Drop it!" Tammy said she learned during the incident that the involved police officer was named Rodriguez and described that Rodriguez shot 3-4 times at David followed by Rodriguez yelling down the stairs, "David! David! David!" Tammy stated that Rodriguez then went downstairs and came up shortly after looking, "distraught."

Tammy said that David had been suicidal in the past, and talked about "...ending it." He also had previously stated to Tammy that he "...wanted the cops to take him out." Regarding his physical health, Tammy said that David had recently been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and his esophagus had ruptured.

Tammy stated that David had a long-term problem with drinking, had been sober at points, but had started drinking again several days ago. Tammy said that David drank beer, Four Loko, and energy drinks. Tammy further stated that David had been in and out of jail, has threatened police officers on Facebook, and was currently on probation. Tammy added that David believed in Bigfoot and UFO's and would get mad at her and block her on Facebook because she did not believe in such things.

Tammy sustained lumps on her head and leg from being pushed over by David. Tammy stated that David was on multiple prescription drugs that were not supposed to be taken while drinking alcohol. Tammy said that before the shooting she heard Lt. Rodriguez tell David multiple times, "Drop it! Drop it!" Tammy surmised that David must have been pointing the weapon at officers in order for Lt. Rodriguez to have given those commands. Tammy acknowledged that the police had no way of knowing whether or not David had an actual firearm and said she does not blame the officers for what happened to David. Tammy added that the Piqua Police Department had previously confiscated the pepperball gun from David after a different encounter and later returned it, which she described as "...a mistake." The agents explained to Tammy that those decisions are normally made by the courts and not the police. Tammy further stated in general that "...David's prone to be violent with squad

workers, security, and police."

The agents attempted to fully answer all questions presented by Mrs. West and the interview then terminated at approximately 2143 hours.

The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. This report is a summary only. The entire interview can be reviewed on the recording.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-02-21 / Tammy West interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.