



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Dr.,  
Columbus, OH 43228 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Gerald Beane (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 08/02/2024  
**Activity Location:** Beane, Gerald – Home – 818 Cherryberry Dr, Columbus, OH 43228  
**Author:** SA Jonathan Scale, #169

**Narrative:**

On Friday, August 2, 2024 at approximately 0121 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Jon Scale (SA Scale) and Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Officer Derrick Corbin (Officer Corbin) interviewed Gerald Beane (Beane). BCI was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI), which involved CPD and Benjamin Wheeler (Wheeler) that had occurred a few hours prior. Beane lives at the incident location of 818 Cherryberry Dr, Columbus, OH. Wheeler was shot and killed inside the residence during the encounter with officers. The purpose of this interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Beane.

This interview was audio recorded. A copy of the recording is attached to this report and a copy was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the attached audio file for complete details. The following is a summation of Beane's interview:

Beane resides at 818 Cherryberry Drive along with the following people:

- Christine Beane, Gerald's wife and Benjamin Wheeler's mother (Christine)
- William Beane, Gerald's son (William)
- Leah Sedor, William's girlfriend (Leah)
- Derrick Beane, William's son (Derrick)
- Benjamin Wheeler, Christine's son. (Wheeler)

Beane explained that last year Wheeler was diagnosed with an anxiety complex and bi-polar disorder. Wheeler was then sent to Ohio State University Hospital (OSUH) to seek mental health treatment. OSUH claimed that Wheeler was showing signs of psychotic behavior, so he was then admitted into Twin Valley Behavioral Hospital (TVBH) on Broad Street in Columbus. Wheeler spent two (2) weeks at TVBH.

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Beane explained that everyday Wheeler says some pretty "off the wall" stuff. Wheeler has been into watching shows and learning about the military and believed in his mind that he was in the military. Beane said that Wheeler never served in the military.

Beane explained they called CPD initially because Wheeler became irate and had verbally threatened him by saying something like, "I will kick your ass old man". This happened after his mother, Christine, told Wheeler that they would like for him to go back to a facility and get treatment. He stated that Wheeler has had similar outbursts and behavior in the past.

When CPD showed up, he [Beane], Christine, and Wheeler went outside to speak with the officers. Wheeler had one foot inside and one foot outside the doorway at that point. Leah and Derrick were still down in the basement when officers arrived. Wheeler told the officers that snipers had shot up the house and pointed to some holes on the house. Beane said the holes were there because he removed an old flagpole.

Wheeler told the officers that it was declared as "martial law" and the officers did not have jurisdiction to be there and over a hundred (100) troops were going to be arriving to secure the area. Wheeler said he was not going to come outside, and they were not allowed to come inside the house. Wheeler told the officers that he owned the house, and he has lived there for the past thirty (30) years. Beane said Wheeler has only lived there with them for the past seventeen (17) months.

Wheeler was then triggered by the officer's badge or a flashing light on their body worn cameras thinking someone was sending him a Morse code signal. Wheeler then went back inside the house and shut the door behind him. Beane and Christine told the officers that Wheeler must be in a psychotic state.

Officers said that they were going to make a call to get assistance there to try and get Wheeler out of the house in order to take him somewhere to get some treatment. Beane said the officers then found out that Wheeler had a warrant for his arrest regarding back child support and that is when things escalated. Beane explained to the officers that he [Beane] had an old shotgun and an old rifle in the house.

Christine then went into the house and told everybody they needed to come outside. Leah, Derrick, and Christine came outside, but Wheeler did not exit the house. Wheeler was located inside his bedroom and was communicating with the officers through the window. Beane said that they then walked about three houses down and were standing behind a cruiser when the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team arrived.

Beane explained that when SWAT arrived, they could no longer see their house or what was happening inside their house. Beane said they heard "smoke bombs" going off inside their house and Christine thought that it was shots being fired. Christine started to become hysterical and believed Wheeler had been shot at that time. Officers explained to Christine that what she heard at that moment were "smoke bombs".

Beane said he then heard over SWAT's loudspeaker, "Ben Wheeler you need to come out with your hands up. We have a warrant for your arrest, and we are not going away." Beane said they heard through the officer's intercom that Wheeler was throwing objects out of the house

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at the officers. Beane said he did not see or hear anything further.

The interview with Beane concluded at approximately 0138 hours.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-08-02 Gerald Beane interview audio recording

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