



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



2022-0001

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2307 10th Street SW, Canton, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Activity Date: March 14, 2022
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On March 14, 2022, at 1314 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong completed a recorded phone interview with Wayne Beach (Beach). Beach was identified as a subject who engaged in a video call with James Williams (Williams) during the January 1, 2022, officer-involved shooting incident.

The following is a summary of the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Beach was contacted at phone number 317-728-6219. Throughout the interview, he provided the following information:

On January 1, 2022, just after midnight, he called Williams to wish him a Happy New Year. The call was a video call through Facebook Messenger. It was not recorded. The messenger call log on his device indicated the call ended at 12:09 AM, and its duration was 2 minutes and 57 seconds.

Beach met Williams in the late 1990's, when Williams dated his cousin. Later, they were cellmates in prison.

Beach lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. When it became midnight, there was a lot of shooting taking place around his home. He told Williams to listen to it. Williams then told him to listen and, while in the fenced-in patio area, Williams began to shoot up into the air. Beach said Williams was shooting an AK-47. He said he knew for a fact that it was not an AR.

While Williams was shooting, he was asking if Beach was looking and if he could see it. Then Williams stumbled into the house. Beach saw the glass on the screen door shatter, and then he heard Marquetta and the kids screaming. He could not tell what they were saying but he could

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hear them screaming. He did not know what happened. He tried calling Williams back at 12:31 AM, but he did not answer.

Beach did not hear the police say anything and he did not hear the officer's gunshots. He saw the body-camera footage on the news and explained his view, during the video call, was from a position between the officer and Williams.

The audio-recorded interview has been attached to this report.

Attachments:

2022-03-14 Witness Interview - Wayne Beach