



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



2023-2232
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5991 S Sunbury Rd, Westerville
OH 43081

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Rodney Ross (W)
Date of Activity: 08/24/2023
Activity Location: Kroger – 5991 South Sunbury Rd, Westerville, OH 43081, Franklin County
Author: SA Jonathan Scale, #169

Narrative:

On Thursday, August 24, 2023 at approximately 2140 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Jon Scale (SA Scale) interviewed Westerville Police Department (WPD) Officer Rodney Ross (Ross), badge #589. BCI was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI), which involved Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) officers and an individual later identified as Ta'Kiya Young (Young). BCI was informed that a BTPD officer was involved in a shooting that occurred in the Kroger parking lot located at 5991 South Sunbury Road, Westerville, OH. SA Scale interviewed Officer Ross in the Kroger parking lot.

The 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 for complete details. The following is a summation of Officer Ross's interview:

Officer Ross has been with WPD since January 2023. His typical shifts are from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He was driving marked WPD cruiser number 26 and his radio call # is 589. Officer Ross said that at the time of the incident he was wearing his body worn camera (BWC) and it was on and functional and said that his cruiser camera was also on and recording.

Officer Ross did not hear any gunshots and did not see anyone shooting a firearm. Officer Ross did not discharge a firearm during the incident and said he arrived to the scene after the incident had occurred.

Officer Ross said that a call came through their dispatch from BTPD, and their dispatch asked for a supervisor's permission for WPD to respond to a "shots fired" or maybe a "10-3" call at the Kroger's location. Officer Ross said that at the time he was WPD's southernmost unit so he

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responded to the call at the Kroger located 5991 S Sunbury Road, Westerville, OH.

Officer Ross pulled into the Kroger parking lot using the north entrance near the Arby's restaurant. He saw a BTPD cruiser initially and then as he got closer he saw a female lying "supine" on the ground by the car. He then pointed to the car that was involved in the incident.

He said the female appeared to have been suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper left chest.

Officer Ross believed that he was the third officer on the scene. He retrieved a medical aid kit from his cruiser and began helping with rendering medical aid to the female. He said that there were already officers working on her, and there was a doctor from Ohio Health that was holding her head in a stable position. He believed the doctor was just a "passerby" that offered assistance. Officer Ross said the female was unresponsive and unconscious but he heard some "agonal" breathing. Officer Ross said they continued working on her until a Westerville medic arrived and transported her to the hospital.

The interview with Officer Ross concluded at approximately 2151 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-08-24 Westerville PD Officer Ross interview audio