



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



2024-3996
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 780 Taylor Road, Gahanna,
Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Information Provided/Obtained
Involves: Julie Ann Russell (O)
Date of Activity: 12/20/2024
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On December 20, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) made contact with McMinnville Police Department (MPD) in McMinnville, OR, to attempt to coordinate a next-of-kin death notification for decedent Alex Taylor Russell (Russell). Russell was pronounced deceased on December 19, 2024 after an encounter with Gahanna Police Department (GPD) officers during an officer involved critical incident (OICI) on the same date.

On December 20, 2024 at approximately 2200 hours, SA Douglass received a phone call from MPD Officer Mike Maierhofer (Ofc. Maierhofer). SA Douglass requested MPD to conduct Russell's next-of-kin death notification with his mother, Julie Ann Russell (Julie). At 2258 hours, Ofc. Maierhofer advised that Julie had been located and notified of Russell's death.

On December 21, 2024, SA Douglass attempted to make contact with Julie but was unsuccessful. On December 22, 2024 at approximately 1224 hours, SA Douglass received a phone call from Julie, who identified herself as Russell's mother.

Julie explained she had not spoken to Russell for approximately one year. Julie denied being aware Russell was in Ohio. Julie believed Russell had previously been in Portland (Oregon) and then Texas. Julie stated she knew Russell had active arrest warrants and was "on the run" from law enforcement.

Julie explained Russell's father (name not given) was in prison for multiple murder convictions. Julie said Russell never met his father, but eventually found out his father was in prison for murder. Julie said Russell "turned into a monster" after he learned about his father. "He thought the thug life was cool," Julie stated in regards to Russell.

Julie was aware Russell had been involved in various scams involving money, including what she described as "bank scams" and making counterfeit credit cards and currency, for which Russell had spent time in jail for. Julie said Russell had been committed to a "teen assistance house"

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from which he fled. Julie recalled Russell had moved himself into her apartment without Julie's approval. Julie said Russell refused to leave so she eventually relocated to a new apartment and didn't tell Russell where she was moving to, because that was the only way she was able to get away from him. Julie believed Russell became homeless after she moved.

Julie added Russell's brother, Anthony Russell (Anthony), to the call. Anthony explained a friend had told him Russell had posted on Instagram that he was in Ohio. Anthony did not see the post himself because he blocked Russell on social media. Anthony reported Russell was putting his life and his mother's life in danger, and they were forced to distance themselves from Russell. Anthony recalled an instance when Russell owed money to someone, who threatened to kill Anthony if Russell did not pay his debts. Anthony said Russell eventually paid what he owed and the threats ended. Anthony told Russell, "All you do is bring problems." Anthony said to his mother Julie, "We don't even know him anymore."

Julie explained Russell had an arrest warrant for charges involving sexual offenses with a 13-year-old or 14-year-old minor. Julie believed Russell was avoiding apprehension because he was afraid of getting assaulted or killed in prison because of his charges. Anthony added Russell had made statements such as, "I'm not gonna be a pedophile in jail."

Anthony estimated his last contact with Russell was approximately three months ago. When Anthony asked Russell where he was planning to go, Russell did not mention going to Ohio. Anthony said Russell had "connections" in Florida, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada. Anthony believed Russell may have been driving a Jeep with Texas license plates, which Anthony believed Russell had purchased using a fake driver's license. Anthony was unsure of the color or exact model of the vehicle.

SA Douglass explained the investigative process and BCI's role in OICI investigations to Julie and Anthony. SA Douglass provided his contact information as well as contact information for the Franklin County Coroner's Office, where Russell had been identified and his autopsy had been performed.

The phone call concluded at approximately 1334 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

No attachments.