



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Mr. Matthew R. Levally (W)
Date of Activity: 02/07/2023
Author: SA Jason A. Snyder, #176

Narrative:

On 02/07/23, Special Agent (SA) Jason Snyder (Snyder), with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), conducted a recorded interview of Matthew Levally (Levally). The interview was conducted at McDonalds, located at 1600 Marion-Mt. Gilead Rd, Marion, Oh. 43302.

Both SA Snyder and Levally agreed to meet on this date and location. Levally voluntarily agreed to speak to SA Snyder.

SA Snyder asked Levally about an incident that occurred on the morning of 12/20/22. Levally advised he was asleep at his home located at 238 Section St., LaRue, Oh. 43332. He was up earlier in the morning, but had went back to bed. His girlfriend, Chelsy Ralph (Chelsy), had left between 0500-0530 that morning. After Chelsy left, Levally heard several people outside near the railroad tracks. Levally did not hear much of what the people were saying, but could hear at one point someone say something about a dog being released.

Soon after, Levally heard over ten gunshots outside. He believed they were of the same caliber. At this point, Levally got up and looked outside. He saw a few vehicles near the railroad tracks and sheriff's deputy cruisers blocking off road access. He did not see the incident. He found out later that Travis Hellinger (Hellinger) was involved.

Levally had known Hellinger since kindergarten. Hellinger also graduated high school with Levally. SA Snyder asked Levally how much contact he had with Hellinger in the last few years. Levally explained he did not have a lot of contact with Hellinger, but if he saw him on the road, he would stop and talk to him. The last time Levally had contact with Hellinger was about two months ago at a gas station.

SA Snyder asked Levally if Hellinger ever talked about his criminal past and his thoughts on law enforcement. Levally said Hellinger told him in the past that he was not going back to prison. Levally did not have direct knowledge of Hellinger's criminal past. Levally did talk to Hellinger in the past about what other people were talking about him and his drug activity.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Levally attempted to advise Hellinger about changing his life choices and getting out of the drug world.

This report only summarizes 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. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.