



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



2022-0535

Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-71 N. Mile Marker 123, Lewis Center, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Telephone Interview
Involves: Sara E DeTemple (W)
Date of Activity: 03/15/2022
Author: SA Todd Fortner, #93

Narrative:

On March 15, 2022, BCI Special Agent Todd Fortner (SA Fortner) followed up on tips of possible witnesses to the Officer Involved Critical incident that occurred on I-71 northbound at mile marker 123. One of the possible witnesses identified was Sara DeTemple (DeTemple). SA Fortner contacted DeTemple by phone at 1435 hours. This interview was audio recorded and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

DeTemple advised she was southbound on I-71 in her black Lexus at around 1000 hours on March 11, 2022. She said her GPS indicated traffic was slowed ahead. She saw there was no traffic northbound and then saw a black male subject walking north in the northbound lanes with police officers and police vehicles following him. She said she heard yelling between them. DeTemple said the subject then started running and turned around and started shooting toward the police. She believed the subject fired three or four shots. She said the police then immediately started shooting. SA Fortner asked if she knew how many shots the officers may have fired, she said, "It wasn't a crazy amount, I didn't think it was excessive." She said she then turned away.

DeTemple advised she then looked again and saw the male subject on the right shoulder of the northbound side. She said she believed there were more shots fired but she could not tell if the subject was shooting still. She then saw the subject fall to the ground. She advised she stopped watching when she saw him hit the ground.

SA Fortner questioned DeTemple about a description of the subject. She said she didn't see his face but described him as an African-American male, skinny, wearing a black hoodie with colorful print on the front and black pants. She said the police officers were in uniform with marked police vehicles.

DeTemple advised there was nothing else she could say about the incident. She advised she did not take any video of the incident. The interview was concluded at 1441 hours.

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Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Sara DeTemple 3-15-22

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