



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



2023-1614

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 428 Foster Ave, Cambridge (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Ptl. Dusty Gerdau (W)
Date of Activity: 11/07/2023
Activity Location: Cambridge Police Department – Business – 814 Wheeling Ave,
Cambridge, OH 43725
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On November 7, 2023 at approximately 1650 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) conducted an interview with Cambridge Police Department (CPD) Patrolman Dustin Gerdau (Ptl. Gerdau), regarding an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred at 428 Foster Avenue in Cambridge, OH, on June 15, 2023. The interview took place at the CPD station located at 814 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, OH. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information known or observed by Ptl. Gerdau as a witness to the OICI.

Prior to conducting the interview, SA Douglass advised Ptl. Gerdau he was being interviewed as a witness to the OICI, and his statement was voluntary. Ptl. Gerdau acknowledged and agreed to answer questions regarding the OICI. Ptl. Gerdau's legal counsel from the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Jess Franken, was also present during the interview.

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.

Ptl. Gerdau was sworn in with CPD in December 2014 as a Patrolman. Ptl. Gerdau completed his peace officer certification in June 2015. Ptl. Gerdau has no previous law enforcement experience. Ptl. Gerdau confirmed he has military experience with the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Ptl. Gerdau's badge number is 78 and his immediate supervisor is Sergeant Chris Gebhart (Sgt. Gebhart). Ptl. Gerdau is currently assigned to second shift from 1700 hours to 0300 hours, from Saturday to Tuesday. Ptl. Gerdau has been on the CPD SWAT team since 2016.

Ptl. Gerdau explained on the night of June 15, 2023, he was preparing for vacation and had been made aware of CPD SWAT attempting to locate and apprehend Taurean Brown (Brown).

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
12/11/2023

Ptl. Gerdau received a text alerting him that shots had been fired at 428 Foster Avenue and he was requested to respond to the location of the incident. Ptl. Gerdau arrived on scene in his personally owned vehicle equipped with his SWAT tactical gear. Firearms equipped by Ptl. Gerdau were a Sig Sauer MPX rifle and a Glock 17 pistol.

Ptl. Gerdau was briefed when he arrived on scene, and was informed shots had already been fired. Ptl. Gerdau was told Brown had fired at CPD SWAT officers from an upstairs window inside the residence. Ptl. Gerdau reported the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Special Response Team (SRT) was on scene as well. Ptl. Gerdau explained OSP SRT and CPD SWAT deployed "tear gas" in an attempt to extract Brown from inside the house. Ptl. Gerdau said several hours had passed before OSP SRT deployed a camera drone inside the residence. Ptl. Gerdau did not recall what time OSP's drone entered the residence but said "it was dark" by the time OSP deployed the drone. Ptl. Gerdau reported OSP relayed to CPD that Brown was "down" on the upper level inside the residence per the drone's video footage.

Approximately thirty minutes later, Ptl. Gerdau and other CPD SWAT team members entered the house to locate Brown and secure the residence. After clearing the lower level, Ptl. Gerdau and other CPD SWAT members moved to the upper level. Ptl. Gerdau observed Brown laying down on the ground in the upstairs hallway. Ptl. Gerdau said Brown appeared to be deceased.

Ptl. Gerdau reported he did not see or hear any gunshots at any time while he was on scene during the incident. Ptl. Gerdau had been told that vehicles on the ground had been struck by gunfire from Brown but he did not directly observe any vehicle damage himself.

Ptl. Gerdau confirmed he knew who Brown was before the incident from previous law enforcement related encounters, and explained Brown had been involved in several incidents with CPD in the past. Ptl. Gerdau believed CPD was attempting to apprehend Brown on the night of the incident because Brown had allegedly assaulted a family member. Ptl. Gerdau said he also knew Brown's mother, Yvette Brown (Yvette), prior to the incident.

Interview concluded at approximately 1708 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-11-07 Cambridge PD Ptl. Dustin Gerdau Interview