



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



2024-1837

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 223 Durling Dr.,
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED] (W)
Activity Date: 07/10/2024
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher #187

Narrative:

On July 10, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong), SA Allison Fletcher (Fletcher), and SA Justin Rotili (Rotili) interviewed Wadsworth Police Department (WPD) [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was accompanied by George Gerken, attorney with the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association. The interview took place in a conference room at BCI Richfield, located at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The interview was audio and video recorded and the audio recording has been attached to this report. The video has been stored on a DVD in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item O.

[REDACTED] was identified as a WPD officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 18, 2024, officer-involved shooting which occurred at 223 Durling Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281. [REDACTED] did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by [REDACTED].

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 of the 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. It may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information obtained during the interview.

Throughout the interview, [REDACTED] provided the following information:

[REDACTED] has been a police officer for approximately seven years and has worked for the WPD for the past year. On June 18, 2024, he was wearing the uniform of the day, which included dark navy-blue uniform pants and a dark navy-blue uniform shirt with WPD patches on each shoulder. Over his shirt, he wore an external vest. 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.



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carrier which had his name and badge displayed on it, and a duty belt which contained his duty equipment. He was equipped with a body-worn camera and he did not have any other recording devices on his person. [REDACTED]'s badge number and radio call sign was [REDACTED]. During the incident, he drove WPD marked police cruiser [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] believed he was well represented as a police officer during the incident.

[REDACTED] had no prior knowledge of the subject involved in the shooting and did not recall any prior encounters with the subject. The identity of the subject was learned after the conclusion of the incident.

Prior to the incident, [REDACTED] explained there was a parade in the city that took place between the hours of 1700 and 2100. Due to the circumstances, most officers from the WPD were working on that date as a special duty assignment. The WPD officers were in the basement of the police department after the parade had ended.

All WPD units were then dispatched via "all tones" over the radio for an incident at 223 Durling Drive. Dispatch advised that there was a suicidal male with a gun in the back yard of the residence. [REDACTED] stated the "all tones" from dispatch required any available unit to respond to the incident.

After arriving at his patrol vehicle in the rear parking lot of the WPD, he retrieved the patrol rifle from the trunk area of car [REDACTED]. He placed the patrol rifle on the front passenger seat. [REDACTED] then got into the driver's seat and [REDACTED] got into the passenger seat of the vehicle. They began responding to the location with their emergency overhead lights and siren activated.

While en route, units were advised by Sergeant Feke to park their vehicles on Broad Street, just north of Durling Drive. [REDACTED] responded to that location and observed [REDACTED] and Officer Cody Seiler (Seiler) also at Broad Street. [REDACTED], and Seiler then began making their way on foot towards 223 Durling Drive. Officers ran on foot on the east side of the roadway. [REDACTED] had their patrol rifles with them. He also noted it was still light outside.

As they began approaching the north side of the residence, [REDACTED] noticed two females standing in front of 213 Durling Drive. He believed one of the women was the subject's wife, and the other woman was the homeowner of 213 Durling Drive. One of the females was pointing around the side of the house towards what he believed was the location of the subject.

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██████████ then approached the left side of 223 Durling Drive. ██████████ walked across the front yard of 223 Durling Drive towards the right side of the residence. ██████████ followed behind ██████████

Once on the left side of the residence, ██████████ observed a white van in the driveway, an attached garage, and a ladder leaning against the garage. He then saw ██████████ begin to climb the ladder and finally walk onto the roof of the garage. ██████████ could no longer see ██████████ ██████████ remained in the driveway attempting to find cover.

Moments later, ██████████ heard ██████████ yell "no, no, no,...don't, don't, don't, and then... shots were fired" [15:04]. ██████████ recalled hearing multiple gunshots in rapid succession. Based on his training and experience, he said two rifles had been fired. ██████████ was unable to observe the officers or the subject during the incident. He was also not aware of who had fired their weapon during the incident.

██████████ then went to the backyard of the residence and observed the subject on the ground. ██████████ assisted other officers on scene with rendering first-aid. Emergency medical services (EMS) arrived shortly after.

██████████ stated his view was obstructed during the entirety of the incident. Therefore, he did not observe the subject or the exact locations of other officers on scene. He also was unable to hear if any statements were made by the subject.

██████████ said while responding to that call, he feared for his safety, but also for the safety of others. He was more concerned about the residents in the area due to the nature of the call.

██████████ advised that he had reviewed his body-worn camera prior to his interview. He also watched a video on YouTube one time. The YouTube video consisted of a "short clip" of his body-camera footage. He believed all footage reviewed by him was consistent with his memory of the incident.

References:

Reference Item O - WPD Officer Interviews

Attachments:

1. 2024-07-10 Interview Witness ██████████

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