



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Other Person
Involves: Mason Baumbach (O), BCI (O)
Activity Date: 3/24/2023
Activity Location: Phone Call
Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On Friday, March 24, 2023, at about 1540 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran contacted Mason Baumbach (Baumbach) by phone. Baumbach was the son of the subject, Fred Wild III (Wild). SA Moran explained BCI's involvement with the investigation and asked if there were any questions. Baumbach said he did not have any questions.

SA Moran asked Baumbach about Wild and if this type of activity was "normal" for him and if he had been involved with the police and with police pursuits before. Baumbach responded, "Yes, he has." SA Moran asked Baumbach if Wild was under the influence of any substances during his encounters with the police. Baumbach said Wild was a "paranoid schizophrenic" and an "alcoholic." Baumbach indicated that Wild was not taking any medications for paranoid schizophrenia and Wild was never diagnosed by a doctor. Baumbach said he has been told by doctors that Wild's "writings" are similar to those of a paranoid schizophrenic and Wild has signs of being a paranoid schizophrenic. Baumbach said in the past Wild had all of his family members' phones "tapped" and thought the government placed microphones in the power outlets. SA Moran asked Baumbach about Wild's alcoholism. Baumbach said Wild has struggled with alcoholism his entire life and Wild was an alcoholic.

SA Moran asked Baumbach when he last spoke with or communicated with Wild. Baumbach said he last spoke with Wild on Friday, March 17, 2023. Baumbach said Wild was at his house and was drinking. Wild tried to convince Baumbach to get in his truck with him so they could ride around a lake. Baumbach said he had to contact the Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD) and when they arrived Wild led the officers on a vehicle pursuit. Baumbach said he contacted the LTPD for a "welfare check" on Wild.

Baumbach said he had contacted the police three times in the last two weeks requesting a welfare check on Wild. On two occasions, the police told Baumbach that they would not or could not provide a welfare check because there was nothing that could be done. Baumbach said he did not know how to explain it. SA Moran asked if the police meant that Wild did not meet the legal

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criteria for them to intervene. Baumbach replied, "Yes." even though Wild was "very under the influence" while driving. Baumbach believed that Wild was still "a danger" to himself.

SA Moran asked about the pursuit involving Wild and the LTPD. Baumbach said Wild drove to the Pleasant Valley Church and when the LTPD arrived, Wild led them on a pursuit and was driving recklessly and the pursuit was discontinued. Baumbach said he called the police from his residence on Keefer Road.

SA Moran asked Baumbach if he talked to Wild on Saturday or Sunday. Baumbach said he did not talk to Wild on those days. Baumbach said he talked to "Ian" (Ian) and he knew what Wild was doing. ("Ian" is likely Richard Ian Proverbs, the owner of the business in Lordstown where the pursuit started on Monday, March 20, 2023.)

The phone call with Baumbach ended abruptly (it was likely the call failed).

At 1548 hours, SA Moran tried to call Baumbach, but the call did not connect.

At 1549 hours, SA Moran spoke with Baumbach by phone again. Baumbach said he was close with Ian and so was Wild. Baumbach said he had visited with Ian during the past week. Baumbach said Wild went to Ian's business during the evening on March 19, 2023, without Ian's knowledge.

The next day, one of Ian's employees texted Ian about Wild's truck being at the business. Ian was also upset because he did not know Wild had arrest warrants. Baumbach said Wild worked for Ian to obtain some gas money. Baumbach said he knew that Wild had arrest warrants. At about 1100 hours, Baumbach called the Lordstown Police Department (LPD) to check on Wild because he believed Wild was "a danger to his own life." Baumbach said there was no welfare check performed by the police. Later that day, Wild and Ian were involved in a dispute and Ian called the police. When the police arrived, Wild drove away and was pursued by the police.

SA Moran asked if Wild was fearful or paranoid of the police. Baumbach said Wild had never been involved in vehicle pursuits with the police in the past. Wild knew that he was going to be arrested and was going to jail for a "while" and he was possibly paranoid or worried about that.

Baumbach said Brian Adkins (Adkins) was a friend and was one of Wild's friends. (Adkins owned the property located at 1433 State Route 7). Baumbach said Wild was not trespassing on Adkins' property. Baumbach said he went to Adkins property and looked at the area and there

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were a few things that did not make sense to him. SA Moran explained that the scene was photographed and processed by BCI agents.

Baumbach said he had "writings" from Wild and he believed that Wild was not trying to harm anyone but he was trying to get away and "run forever." Baumbach said Wild only owns "black powder" weapons. Baumbach also said there were crossbows in the cabin and if Wild had wanted to harm the police, he would have shot them.

SA Moran asked Baumbach about Wild's "writings" and if they were old or were recent. Baumbach said the writings were recent and were from March 12, 2023. Baumbach said there were more writings in Wild's Dodge truck that were more recent. Baumbach said he was trying to figure out how to get access to the truck and that Wild would have hidden the writings in there. SA Moran asked if there was a date and time over the next week that SA Moran could meet with Baumbach to make copies of the writings. Baumbach did not respond.

SA Moran asked Baumbach if it was true that Wild believed his life was similar to the movie, "The Truman Show" and if people were video recording his life. Baumbach responded, "Yes." Baumbach said Wild was "trying to flee the country" and he had to "find a different way" because he could not get a passport.

SA Moran asked Baumbach how long Wild had been displaying signs and symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. Baumbach replied, "About two months." SA Moran asked if there was any other mental health issues that Wild dealt with. Baumbach said Wild had "mood swings" and believed that Wild had "schizoaffective disorder." SA Moran asked Baumbach about Wild's mood swings. Baumbach said Wild's mood swings were sometimes "manic" and "depressive." Baumbach said Wild would be happy, then angry, and then sad, and would not want to do anything for "a week." Wild would then be mad that he was not doing anything "and then go off and do something really crazy and then regret it later." SA Moran asked, "So a wide array of emotions over a short period of time?" Baumbach replied, "Yes."

SA Moran mentioned meeting with Baumbach next week. Baumbach said he was not certain of his availability because he had to go back to work.

The phone call with Baumbach ended abruptly (it was likely the call failed).

At 1600 hours, SA Moran tried to call Baumbach, but the call did not connect.

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At 1610 hours, SA Moran tried to call Baumbach, but the call did not connect.

At 1611 hours, SA Moran sent Baumbach a text message indicating that he could call SA Moran when his cell service had better connectivity.

All of the recorded phone calls and attempts were attached to this report.

Attachments:

1. 2023-03-24 - Audio - Telephone Interview of Mason Baumbach 1 - 803_0752
2. 2023-03-24 - Audio - Attempted Telephone Interview of Mason Baumbach 2 - 803_0753
3. 2023-03-24 - Audio - Telephone Interview of Mason Baumbach 3 - 803_0754
4. 2023-03-24 - Audio - Attempted Telephone Interview of Mason Baumbach 4 - 803_0755
5. 2023-03-24 - Audio - Attempted Telephone Interview of Mason Baumbach 5 - 803_0756