



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



2024-1376

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 77 Southbound at  
Exit 85 , New Philadelphia, OH 44663

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Joel Twitty (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 05/06/2024  
**Activity Location:** Joel Twitty – 3012 Nancy Avenue Apt. C, Dayton, OH 45417  
**Author:** SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

**Narrative:**

On Friday, May 3, 2024, at approximately 0630 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Ohio State Highway Patrol (OHSP) for assistance to conduct an independent investigation surrounding an officer-involved shooting which occurred on Interstate 77 Southbound at Exit ramp 85 in the City of New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and BCI Crime Scene Units responded to assist with the investigations. The shooting incident involved a subject, Kendell Floyd Woodard (Kendell), three OHSP troopers, and one Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) deputy. The incident resulted in the death of Woodard.

On Monday, May 6, 2024, at approximately 1037 hours, Special Agent Douglas Eveslage (SA Eveslage) interviewed Joel Twitty (Joel), cousin of Kendell Woodard, at 3012 Nancy Avenue Apartment C, Dayton, Ohio 45417. It should be noted that Joel considers Kendell his brother and they were raised together as such.

SA Eveslage asked if Joel was with Bettina Twitty when the Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers came to her residence, and he said no but he came over later that day. SA Eveslage asked Joel to explain the last time he talked to Kendell, and he said it was Tuesday, April 30th, and he "could see it in his eyes, he wasn't home" (3:18). Joel said that Kendell had a darkness in his eyes and the way he looked stand offish or distant. Joel said that he and his brother Rodney Twitty talked to Kendell for a long time to try and help; eventually, Joel gave him the number to a mental health hotline. Joel was also working with members of the family to try and find a treatment center to help Kendell.

SA Eveslage asked Joel if Kendell ever told him specifically what was bothering him, but Joel answered "no" (4:38). Joel said that Kendell went to Saint Elizabeth Hospital around April 23rd, but Kendell was only in the hospital for two days. Kendell told Joel that he started hearing voices that day and it was the first time Kendell admitted that he needed help. Anytime Joel

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would talk to Kendell about his mental health, Kendell would always say "I'm good I'm good I'm good" (5:35). Joel went to see Kendell on Wednesday but Kendell already took Rodney Twitty's truck and was not home. SA Eveslage asked if Joel knew where Kendell was working; Joel said he knew Kendell had a job but was not sure where it was at because Kendell was "secretive" (6:26).

Joel said that Kendell advised them that he wanted to "go to the water" (6:37), because it helps him to relax. Joel did not know if Kendell went fishing or what he did by the water but he knew that it helped him relax and work through his thoughts. Kendell told Joel that he wanted to leave the area, so Joel recommended Kendell go to Las Vegas, Nevada to visit their sister. Joel explained that he went to Kendell's house on Wednesday and Thursday but the truck was gone and Kendell was not home. SA Eveslage asked what does "going by the water" mean or if there was a specific body of water in Cleveland Kendell would visit, but Joel said Kendell would visit any pond, lake, or river close to the Dayton area.

SA Eveslage asked Joel how well he knew "Nah Nah," Kendell's roommate, and Joel advised that he did not know him very well and have had issues, within the last two years, when Joel has been to the Germantown residence. SA Eveslage said he would like to talk to "Nah Nah" because he wants to know how Kendell had a firearm. Joel explained that SA Eveslage would figure that out through his brother Rodney Twitty and said that his brother kept a gun in the garage. Rodney moved the gun to a different location when Kendell started having mental health issues, so he would not find it. On Tuesday, April 30th, Joel said that all the cars were open and Kendell appeared to be looking for something in or around the garage, but Joel did not give it much thought. SA Eveslage asked if Joel knew what type of Rodney had but he said he did not know.

SA Eveslage asked if Joel knew of any social media accounts Kendell had and Joel said he thought Kendell had a Facebook account under his name Kendell Woodard, but did not know of any other accounts. SA Eveslage asked if Kendell ever mentioned committing suicide to Joel, but he said that if Kendell ever mentioned suicide to anyone, it would be to Rodney Twitty because that is who Kendell talked to the most. SA Eveslage asked if there was anything else that Joel thought would be important for investigators to know, and Joel said that Kendell changed when he started "messing with the Africans" (13:07). He said that Kendell grew out his hair, beard, started dressing in different style of clothing, and changed his diet once he became friends with the Africans. SA Eveslage asked if these changes had anything to do with Kendell's religion, but Joel said he was not sure and that Kendell would not talk to him about it. SA Eveslage asked if Joel knew Kendell to use any drugs, and he said Kendell would drink alcohol and might have used marijuana, but that was all he knew.

Joel explained that he has seen this type of behavior before in his cousin, after he had something "spiked" (15:30) in her drink. She had the same look in her eyes that Kendell had but she was receiving medical attention and taking medicine for her condition. Joel said that this cousin was now dead because she "stepped out in front of a car" (15:42), or was ran over by a car. SA Eveslage clarified if this cousin had the same look in her eyes that Kendell had, which Joel described as "no one being home," and he verified yes.

This interview was concluded at approximately 1054 hours. This report is a summary of the interview with Joel Twitty which was audio recorded. See audio recording for further details

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(Attachment # 01).

**References:**

No references.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-05-06 Joel Twitty Interview