



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Ryan Weaver (W)
Date of Activity: 08/09/2022
Activity Location: Clark County Sheriff's Office – 3130 East Main Street, Springfield,
OH 45502, Clark County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1052 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ryan Weaver at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Weaver's representative/union Attorney, John Sauter. On July 24, 2022, Weaver and other Clark County Sheriff's personnel responded to an "Officer Down" call at 1132 Ashwood Drive where Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by Cole White. Weaver participated in an unsuccessful attempt to recover Yates from inside the trailer.

Agent Ward read Deputy Weaver the *Notice of Criminal Investigation Notification* provided by the standard BCI form, which Weaver acknowledged and signed. Weaver has been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office since 2012 and was a member of the Clark County-Special Operations Team (SOT). Weaver was a K-9 officer assigned to the investigations section.

Deputy Weaver stated he was contacted via the paging system, reference the call-out of an officer down. Prior to arriving on scene, Weaver stated he did not have information relative to the case, but heard information of a truck that attempted to break through the barricade. Weaver stated he observed a blue truck that matched the description and was informed later the operator of the truck was Matthew Yates's father. Once on scene, Weaver stated he retrieved his equipment from the BearCat and was informed Deputy Yates was inside the doorway and needed to be recovered.

Deputy Weaver stated SOT team members stacked to make entry; Sergeant Jones was first with the shield, Deputy Spencer was second and he was third. Weaver recalled the team ascended the stairs, Jones was being pushed from behind and he informed Spencer to go on "her [Jones] speed" and not to push. At the doorway's threshold, Weaver stated he observed the lower

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portion of Deputy Yates on the floor and thought he was deeper inside than just the doorway. Initially, Weaver stated everything was fine then, "all hell broke loose" and, from what he can remember, he was side by side with Jones as both had returned fired to the right with their handguns. Weaver did not know how many rounds he fired. Agent Ward asked Weaver the statement, "all hell broke loose," was he referring to receiving gunfire and he stated, "yes".

When they exited, Deputy Weaver stated he recalled Sergeant Jones was on the ground and he was dragging her back to cover. While on the ground, Jones informed Weaver he was tripping her. Weaver stated they maintained cover and switched out as needed and recalled seeing Deputy Crump at their location with a rifle.

Deputy Weaver deployed his personal Drone to obtain Yates's location, but the Drone could not make it through the front door, collided with the car port and was out of play. Weaver stated he received additional information that other people may be in the trailer. Weaver recalled he observed a ladder near an open screen of a window and wondered if someone had entered through the trailer a window.

Agent Ward asked Weaver if he maintained that position when Springfield Police SWAT attempted to recover Deputy Yates and stated, "yes". Weaver observed the SPD MRAP ram the car port and believed CS gas was deployed. Weaver observed the SPD SWAT with Deputy Justin Nawman deployed and moved up the stairway. Weaver stated he heard gunfire, but did not observe the SPD members discharge their firearms. Weaver observed Nawman go to the ground and he was dragged back to the MRAP.

Deputy Weaver stated eventually, Clark County personnel was relieved.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Deputy Weaver at 1126 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Weaver.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-09 / Dep. Ryan Weaver interview

Attachment # 02: Notice of Crim. Investigation form / J. Weaver

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2



MIKE DEWINE

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Ryan Moore
Printed Name of Interviewee

8922 @ 1052
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

R. Wilson
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)