



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



2024-1015  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 100 Block 8th Street, N.E. New  
Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Sergeant Mitch Gobley (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 04/01/2024  
**Activity Location:** Gobley, Sergeant Mitch – Business – 122 2nd Street, New  
Philadelphia, OH 44663  
**Author:** SA Charles H. Snyder, #90

**Narrative:**

**Background:**

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 2221 hours, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was dispatched through Who's Responding notification system to an officer-involved critical incident at 834 East High Street and Tell Avenue SE, in New Philadelphia (Tuscarawas County) Ohio. Personnel from the Tuscarawas County Sheriff Office (TCSO) were indicated as involved. Initial reporting indicated at least one citizen and one law enforcement officer were injured and enroute to hospital(s) for treatment. BCI Special Agent Charlie Snyder was dispatched to assist the on-call team at 2224 hours.

**Action Taken:**

On April 1, 2024, at 1220 hours, Snyder conducted an audio-recorded interview of New Philadelphia Police Department (NPPD) Sergeant Mitchell Gobley (Gobley), at NPPD, located at 122 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663. Gobley provided the following information during this interview.

Gobley provided his identification information and advised having been employed by NPPD since April 2013 and indicated being on-duty when this incident occurred.

Gobley advised the original call was reported as a car versus house accident and that multiple in-coming calls had been received by NPPD. Gobley advised having taken one of those calls, learning from caller that the truck was traveling at a high rate of speed and had crashed into a house. Gobley indicated transmitting this information to other NPPD units and left NPPD and headed towards 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE and Fair Avenue.

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Gobley advised his in-car radio was on "scan" as he also monitored other radio traffic from local agencies, including Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO). Gobley learned from dispatch that a subject from the crash was running away from the vehicle, dressed in black clothing. Gobley then learned as he was turning onto Fair Avenue from Beaver Avenue, hearing a TCSO Deputy undiscernibly yelling over the radio, but it was apparent there was a situation and possible panic. Dispatcher then transmitted information TCSO personnel were on scene on 8<sup>th</sup> street and shots had been fired.

Gobley advised when he neared 8<sup>th</sup> Street, he observed a truck had crashed into a house and saw several people, who were pointing to him, south on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Gobley advised NPPD Chris Porter had already arrived at the scene and was at the location where the Deputy Sheriff was located. Gobley pulled his vehicle up to the rear of Porter's unit, exited his vehicle after grabbing his medical kit and ran to the deputy's location.

Gobley was unsure of the source, but learned as he ran towards the deputy, the TCSO cruiser had been taken by the subject.

Gobley advised checking on the deputy, who at that time had what Gobley believed was perceived as a yellow-colored towel over the left hand. The deputy was lying down on the street and Officer Porter was kneeling next to him. Porter advised Gobley that the deputy had been shot in the hand and everything else was okay.

After ascertaining that the deputy was being taken care of by Officer Porter, Gobley advised he and NPPD Police Officer Richard Kelley left the immediate scene to search for the subject and the missing TCSO cruiser. NPPD Officer Richard Kelley arrived and both he and Gobley began to leave the scene to search for the missing TCSO cruiser and subject. Gobley advised that he learned the missing TCSO cruiser was now believed to be located at East High Avenue and Tell Avenue. Kelley and Gobley then proceeded to that location.

Gobley indicated when they arrived at the East High Avenue and Tell Avenue location, they observed another black vehicle located in or near the porch area of a residence, and then they could see the TCSO vehicle's emergency lights and hear the siren on the TCSO vehicle that had also crashed nearby. Another TCSO deputy was already on this scene and advised believing the subject was still inside the TCSO vehicle at that time. The stolen and wrecked TCSO cruiser had all interior airbags deployed and obscured the interior of the cruiser.

Kelley and Gobley then cautiously approached the TCSO cruiser. According to Gobley, Officer Kelley used a knife to cut the airbags. Gobley indicated he maintained lethal cover protection for Kelley. At this point, an Ohio State Patrol (OSP) Trooper who had also arrived at the scene and was working on the opposite side of the cruiser. After Kelley was able to cut down the airbag, Gobley advised that they could see the subject, lying across and draped over the center console of the TCSO cruiser, towards the front passenger seat.

Gobley issued repeated verbal commands "show me your hands" and noted the subject was slightly moving, but the movement was possibly due to the OSP trooper's efforts to extricate the subject from the cruiser. Gobley related that there was no more movement or any type of response from the subject. Gobley then holstered his weapon and, with NPPD Officer Kelley,

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removed the subject from the wrecked TCSO cruiser, placing him on the ground. Gobley advised that as the subject was removed from the vehicle, the black sweat-type pants he wore slid down around his thighs. Gobley also advised he then removed the black color tee shirt the subject wore, looking for wounds. Gobley believes he observed blood and a single gunshot wound on the subject's upper right shoulder area. Direct pressure and first aid efforts were initiated. Gobley checked for a pulse and was unable to detect one at that time. After Emergency Medical Service personnel arrived, the first aid efforts were turned over to them. Gobley reported the subject as being limp at this time and offered no resistance. Gobley advised it appeared to him the subject was completely unconscious.

Gobley also indicated that he checked the subject for weapons and found none. Gobley deactivated the TCSO cruiser's emergency lights and siren and removed the cruiser's keys that he then turned over to the on-scene TCSO Deputy.

Gobley agreed to continue future cooperation in this matter.

At approximately 1240 hours, the Gobley interview was concluded.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-04-01 – Sgt. Mitch Gobley – Interview 240401\_0321