



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



2021-0888
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 500 South Cleveland Ave.,
Westerville, Ohio 43081 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Officer Luke Smith (W)
Date of Activity: 04/12/2021
Activity Location: Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital – Business – 500 S. Cleveland Ave., Westerville, OH 43081, Franklin County
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On April 12, 2021, the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Perry Roeser was contacted by BCI Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Kevin Barbeau and asked if he could assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI). The location was Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, 500 S. Cleveland St., Columbus, Ohio. SAS Barbeau explained that several non-involved officers were on the scene and needed to be interviewed. SA Roeser told SAS Barbeau he would assist with the OICI.

SA Roeser arrived on the scene at approximately 1730 hours, and learned the Columbus Police Department (CPD) and hospital security officers discharged their firearms at a suspect in the emergency room (ER) area. The suspect did not survive the injuries after the encounter with law enforcement.

SA Roeser and SAS Barbeau traveled to a hospital conference room where several non-involved hospital safety security officers were located which needed to be interviewed. Before the interviews, SA Roeser learned the hospital employs uniformed Safety & Security Officers armed with Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm pistols. The armed security officers' job requirement was to complete a twenty-hour private security course at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). The armed security officers are not peace officers and do not have the authority to make an arrest.

At approximately 1849 hours, SA Roeser contacted Security Officer Luke Smith. After SA Roeser correctly identified himself, he explained to Smith his interview was voluntary and if he wanted an attorney present, the interview would be rescheduled. Smith agreed to speak with SA Roeser.

The investigator recorded the interview with Smith. The details listed below summarized the

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portions of the recorded interview with Smith and were not taken verbatim unless noted by quotations.

Smith explained he has been employed with Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital as a safety and security officer for five years and has completed the OPOTA training. Smith said he was assigned to the second shift (1400 hours to 2230 hours) with Thursday and Friday off.

SA Roeser asked Smith how he became involved with the OICI. Smith said he was on an exterior patrol when he heard over the in-hospital radio channel "assistance needed in ER 9." Then Smith listened to a "shots fired" and "someone has a gun" call over the radio. Smith said when he arrived at the emergency room, the bay doors were locked. Smith said when he opened the bay doors, he and a female CPD officer entered the ER. Smith noted he heard officers shouting commands to "drop the weapon" and "show your hands." Smith said he removed his weapon from the holster at a low ready position and noticed CPD officers near ER room #9. Smith said he assisted with pushing patients and employees out of the area for safety. Smith said as he was helping with the evacuation of individuals from the site, he heard and saw the female CPD officer deploy a taser. Soon after, Smith heard one "pop," which he believed was a gunshot, and then noted a lot of gunfire was deployed into ER #9. Smith said he did not know where the "pop" came from. Smith said he saw the CPD officers fire their weapons and thought at least five other officers fired their guns.

Smith said after the shooting, he was told to head to the security office and make sure everyone was ok. Smith said he never walked into ER #9 and did not witness who the police were shooting at in ER #9.

SA Roeser asked Smith if he witnessed any other witnesses, non-law enforcement in the area who saw the incident. He said no. Smith noted from the time he arrived at the ER to the gunfire time was approximately three and a half minutes. SA Roeser asked Smith if there was anything else he could offer to the investigation, and he answered no. The interview between SA Roeser and Smith concluded at approximately 1915 hours. See attachment #1 for a copy of the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01:803_0103 Luke Smith