



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



2023-0556
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 23897 US Rt 23, Circleville
43113 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Tate Van Fossen (W)
Date of Activity: 03/14/2023
Activity Location: Circleville Police Department – Business – 151 East Franklin Street,
Circleville, OH 43113
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On March 14, 2023 at approximately 1119 hours, BCI Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Circleville Police Department (Circleville PD) Officer Tate Van Fossen (Officer Van Fossen). The interview took place at the Circleville PD station located at 151 East Franklin Street in Circleville, OH. Officer Van Fossen was identified as being a police officer who responded to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving Pamela Croston (Croston), who is now deceased. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer. This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Officer Van Fossen reported his badge number is 6120. Officer Hopkins currently works third shift – 2300 hours to 0700 hours, with Sundays and Mondays off. On the date of the OICI, Officer Van Fossen was carrying his department issued Glock 17 9mm pistol. Officer Van Fossen reported his body worn camera (BWC) was powered on and functional during the incident.

On February 25, 2023 Officer Van Fossen received a radio call from dispatch of a potential suicidal female, identified as Pamela (last name unknown at the time), possibly located at the Holiday Inn or Rodeway Inn. Officer Van Fossen first checked the Holiday Inn, along with Circleville PD Officer Tyler Hopkins (Officer Hopkins). Officer Van Fossen described the Holiday Inn as being located across the street from Rodeway Inn.

Officer Van Fossen stated he received information from dispatch that Croston might have booked a room under a Hispanic name instead. Officer Van Fossen went to the front desk of the Rodeway Inn and asked if there was a Pamela that checked in with a Hispanic last name. The front desk employee stated yes there was a Pamela Garcia that just checked in room 114

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Officer Van Fossen remembered.

As the officers approached her room, Officer Van Fossen stated he saw Croston in the front window tapping a gun to the glass and then placing the gun to her head. Officer Van Fossen said everyone retreated to cover behind the police vehicles and started giving commands to drop the weapon. Officer Van Fossen stated he remembers making commands of "Drop it" and "We can help." After not responding Croston then came out of the hotel with the gun still in her hand. Officer Van Fossen explained other officers were trying to negotiate and giving her commands to drop the weapon. Croston continued to place the gun from her side to her head during the situation.

Officer Van Fossen remembers one of the other officers made a statement about 'lets think about your kids.' Croston then replied with 'don't bring them up' and started to lift the gun up. Officer Croston stated that was when he heard multiple gun shots come from the other officers.

SA Poole asked if Officer Van Fossen saw who shot. Officer Van Fossen said, "No."

SA Poole asked why he did not shoot. Officer Van Fossen stated he was not sure where Croston was pointing the gun at the time.

SA Poole asked if he thought his life was in danger. Officer Van Fossen stated, "Yes."

SA Poole asked if he believes his actions and the actions of the officers around him were within their policies and procedures. Officer Van Fossen said, "yes."

The interview concluded at 1134.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Officer Tate vanfossen 2023-03-13