



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



2022-2121
Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6463 Tara Brooke Court,
Hamilton, OH 45011 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Stephaun Sylas Jones (S)
Date of Activity: 10/14/2022
Activity Location: Fairfield Township Administration Building – 6032 Morris Rd,
Hamilton, OH 45011, Butler County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On October 14, 2022, at 1232 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) and Special Agent Richard Ward (SA Ward) conducted an interview with former Fairfield Township Police Officer Austin Reed (Reed) regarding his involvement in an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place on October 8, 2022, in Fairfield Township. The interview took place at the Fairfield Township Administration Building. Reed confirmed that he was speaking with BCI agents voluntarily. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The information provided below summarizes key points from the recorded interview and is not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

While the terms "suspect" or "subject" may have been used by Reed during the interview to identify Jones, knowing that Jones had been identified earlier in the investigation, his name will be utilized in this report.

Reed advised BCI agents that he was working for the Fairfield Township Police Department (FTPD) on October 8, 2022. He was working the evening shift. He had been employed by FTPD since February 2022. He did not have any prior police experience. He attended the Butler Tech Police Academy in 2021. He further advised the BCI agents that he had resigned from FTPD on October 10, 2022.

Regarding his involvement in the OICI, Reed advised the following information:

Reed responded to a dispatch of a reckless vehicle operator entering Fairfield Township. He

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then learned that the subject, Jones, was suspected of having just committed a homicide in the city of Hamilton. The vehicle was described as a light blue sedan with heavy damage.

Reed spotted the vehicle in the driveway of 6322 Morris Road. Former FTPD Officer Mark Bartlett, Jr. (Bartlett) arrived at the same time. Reed observed Jones, whom he described as a Black male with shoulder-length dreadlocks, wearing a green camouflage hooded sweatshirt.

Reed said that Jones produced a firearm and "waved it around." He remembered Jones holding the firearm in his right hand. He said that Jones, "never really pointed it at our general direction." He recalled that Jones paced back and forth while keeping eye contact with them. Jones did not say anything during the encounter. Bartlett and he gave numerous commands for Jones to drop the gun but Jones did not comply. Bartlett also transmitted Jones' description over the police radio and advised that Jones possessed a firearm. Reed estimated this went on for approximately twenty or twenty-five seconds.

Reed said that Jones eventually ran to a tree north of the driveway. He estimated Jones was approximately forty or forty-five feet away from him at this point. He holstered his duty weapon and drew his TASER. Around this time, FTPD Officer-in-Charge Scott Singleton (Officer Singleton) and Officer Adam Green arrived. Reed discharged his TASER in Jones' direction, which failed. Jones then ran into the woods.

Reed stated that officers attempted to locate Jones in the woods. Around this time, officers were instructed by Butler County Regional Dispatch to switch to the LAW5 channel. Prior to that, FTPD officers were on their normal radio channel, which he said consists of FTPD, the Trenton Police Department, the Butler County Sheriff's Office Liberty Township Post, and a portion of the Hamilton Police Department. He saw Jones running between the trees and watched him jump a white fence that bordered the property. He spoke with the homeowner of 6322 Morris Road, who reported that Jones ran toward a pole barn in the backyard. He said the homeowner reported to him that Jones appeared to have either loaded his gun or attempted to fix a malfunction. He advised the homeowner to take cover inside his residence.

Reed advised that mutual aid was requested from the West Chester Township Police Department and the Butler County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). He said he did not talk to any of the Hamilton police officers, who he believed responded to the neighborhood behind 6322 Morris Road.

Reed stated that he cleared the pole barn with the help of the FTPD officers and BCSO deputies. He remained on the property at 6322 Morris Road for the remainder of the incident. He was aware that drones and a BCSO helicopter were requested. Shortly after the helicopter was requested, he recalled hearing three to four rounds "pop off." He said the shots were a "good distance away." However, he was able to discern that they were likely rifle rounds. He then heard over the police radio that the suspect was down and secured.

Reed advised he did not have any conversations with the Hamilton police officers after the OICI.

The interview was concluded at 1241 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

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Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-10-14/ Interview with Former Fairfield Township Police Officer
Austin Reed

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.