



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



2021-0957
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3171 Legion Lane, Columbus,
OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Kennedy Watkins (W)
Date of Activity: 04/20/2021
Activity Location: Bryant, Ma'Khia – Home – 3171 Legion Lane, Columbus, OH
43232, Franklin County
Author: SA James A. Mulford, #39

Narrative:

On April 20, 2021 at approximately 1932 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Jim Mulford interviewed Kennedy Watkins (Watkins) at the scene of a fatal shooting incident between the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) and Ma'Khia Bryant (Bryant). The interview with Watkins took place in SA Mulford's state issued vehicle near the incident location.

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.

Watkins explained she is the girlfriend of Shai-onta Craig (Craig) and lives a few blocks away from the incident location. Craig is a former foster child who lived at the incident location with foster parent Angela Moore (Moore). According to Watkins, Craig still has a close relationship with Angela Moore.

Tionna Bonner (Bonner) called Craig prior to the incident stating the three foster children in the home, later identified as Ma'Khia Bryant, Ja'niah Bryant, and Beautiful Stranton, were threatening to harm her because of an altercation about performing household chores. Moore was at work during the incident. Bonner is an adult and was left in charge of the juveniles while Moore was at work.

In response to the call, Watkins drives her gray/blue Hyundai Elantra to the incident location with Craig in the passenger seat and Mia (LNU) (friend of Watkins from her apartment complex) sitting in the backseat. Watkins parked her vehicle partially in the driveway where they see Bonner standing in the yard with her dog.

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Immediately upon arrival, several individuals exited the residence and headed towards Bonner. Watkins recalled hearing a brief argument between everyone in the front yard before she noticed that Ma'Khia Bryant's biological father arrived on scene (gold car) and joined the altercation.

Watkins was still in the driver's seat of her vehicle when she witnessed Ma'Khia Bryant pushing Craig to the ground while holding a large black kitchen knife. Watkins then hears four gunshots. She exits her vehicle to see multiple CPD officers near her vehicle. Watkins said the incident happened so fast that she did not realize initially who had fired the gun.

CPD officers immediately started performing CPR and other CPD officers arrived and separated all individuals including Watkins and placed them in CPD cruisers to be interviewed at a later time.

Watkins stated she believed Ma'Khia Bryant was attempting to stab others during the altercation. Watkins thought Craig had been stabbed when she was pushed to the ground.

Watkins reported she did not call 911 nor did she have any of the incident recorded on her cell phone. She gave verbal consent to search her vehicle. However, BCI crime scene agents excluded it from evidentiary processing and later released it to her after the scene was cleared.

The interview concluded at approximately 1954 hours. Watkins had no further information.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01:04-20-21 Kennedy Watkins Interview