



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Date of Activity: 12/20/2022
Activity Location: Marion County Sheriff's Office – Business – 100 Executive Drive, Marion, OH 43302, Marion County
Author: SA Tiffany Vollmer, #49

Narrative:

On 12/20/2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Vollmer (Vollmer) interviewed Marion County Sheriff Captain Ken Rittenour (Captain Rittenour) at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio. The interview was digitally recorded and a copy of the audio recording is attached to this Investigative Report. A copy of the audio recording has also been placed in this case file. The following is a summary of the interview.

Captain Rittenour was identified as being a deputy who had some level of involvement in the 12/20/2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of the railroad tracks near the intersection of School Street and Section Street in LaRue, Ohio. Reportedly, Captain Rittenour did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident.

The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this deputy. Captain Rittenour advised he has been employed by the sheriff's office since 2010 and is currently the captain over investigations. On the day the critical incident took place involving Travis Hellinger (Hellinger), Captain Rittenour was assigned in a support roll since he is a supervisor. He and Chris Adkins (Adkins) from the Marion Police Department were in plain clothes in an unmarked Ford Edge.

After arriving to the area of the search warrant, Captain Rittenour said they were given information over the radio that Hellinger was walking towards the tracks northbound. Captain Rittenour and Adkins went to Section Street in a "little turn off," approximately three telephone poles from the railroad tracks, to set up perimeter there. Captain Rittenour saw the Special Response Team (SRT) heading down the railroad tracks, along with Hellinger.

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The drones were operational and spotlighting the scene, and Captain Rittenour saw flashlights and heard SRT giving Hellinger commands to show them his hands. Captain Rittenour went on to explain SRT looked like they were trying to close the distance on Hellinger. Captain Rittenour heard SRT telling Hellinger they were going to release the K9, and Hellinger told them they better not and they were just mad because he does not pay taxes. SRT released the K9, and Captain Rittenour heard a gunshot and then heard return fire. Shortly after, an ambulance was called to the scene, and Captain Rittenour went to the area of the scene to make sure the team members were ok.

Captain Rittenour was not directly involved in the officer-involved shooting. At the time of the interview, he had no further information but provided his phone number should questions arise.

Upon audio review by SA Vollmer, it was realized the date given for the interview should have been 12/20/2022, and not 12/22/22.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the audio recording. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview. This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule or any rule of procedure and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions or responses. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Ken Rittenour