



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



2024-2614

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1309 Yellowstone Road,
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview – Elizabeth Perez
Involves: Officer Elizabeth Perez (W)
Activity Date: 08/30/2024
Activity Location: 1300 Block of Yellowstone Road
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher #187

Narrative:

On August 30, 2024, at approximately 0116 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) conducted an interview with Cleveland Heights Police Department (CHPD) Officer Elizabeth Perez (Perez). The interview took place in the roadway of the 1300 block of Yellowstone Road in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded and the recording has been attached to this report.

Officer Perez was identified as a CHPD officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the August 29, 2024, officer-involved shooting which occurred at or near 1309 Yellowstone Road in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Officer Perez 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 Officer Perez.

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 of the questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview. It may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information obtained during the interview.

Throughout the interview, Officer Perez provided the following information:

Officer Perez has worked for the Cleveland Heights Police Department for approximately two years. Her radio call sign was 8552. During the interview, SA Fletcher observed Officer Perez wearing the same uniform she wore on August 29, 2024, during the officer-involved incident. Officer Perez had not left the scene since the incident occurred. She was wearing a dark navy blue uniform shirt with patches on each shoulder, dark navy-blue pants and black boots. Over her shirt, she wore an exterior vest carrier that had her badge, name plate, and "police" on the back. She also

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had a duty belt that contained her duty equipment. She was equipped with a body-worn camera. Officer Perez was well represented as a police officer during the time of the incident.

Prior to the incident, Officer Perez was on station at the CHPD. Dispatch advised all available units of an "argument" between two family members at 1309 Yellowstone Road. One of the family members had a gun and his finger was on the trigger.

Officer Perez left the station and got into a marked police cruiser with another CHPD officer, who was later identified as Officer Anna Franklin (Franklin).

Officer Perez and Officer Franklin arrived in the area of 1309 Yellowstone Road. Officer Perez observed two CHPD officers speaking with two females at the front door of 1309 Yellowstone Road. Officers Perez and Officer Franklin were instructed to go to the rear of the residence to make sure no one exited.

Once at the rear of the residence, Officer Perez took "cover" near the north wall of the garage. Officer Perez was able to see the screened in rear porch of the residence that was to the north of the garage. Another CHPD officer (unknown name) also responded to the rear of the residence and took cover near the garage.

Subjects could be heard yelling during the entirety of the incident. Officer Perez heard statements such as "put it down...get your finger off the trigger... I can't do this... get down here... get down from there" [02:34].

Officer Perez and other officers on scene continued to update with radio traffic regarding the subject's location. The subject continued moving from the front of the house to the rear of the house. The subject opened the man door to the garage approximately two times and immediately shut the door. During that time, an unknown CHPD officer advised that the father had been removed from the house through the front door.

Radio traffic from other officers advised that the subject had moved to the front door and was standing in the open doorway with a gun in his hand.

Moments later, the subject returned to the rear of the residence and exited onto the screened rear porch. When Officer Perez noticed the male on the porch, she turned on her flashlight and pointed it at him. She also gave him commands to show his hands. The male became agitated and began "smashing" items on the porch. Officer Perez returned behind cover and heard gunshots being fired. Officer Perez was uncertain of the subject's location at that time.

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Officer Perez described the gunfire as "a couple of shots" then a pause then a few more. She described this pattern continuing a few times. Officer Perez remained at her location near the garage during the gunfire.

After the gunfire ended, officers began providing aid to the subject.

Officer Perez's only description of the subject was that he was a black male. She could not recall any clothing he was wearing or other descriptive factors. She also did not observe a firearm in his hand. Officer Perez believed the subject had a gun based on the information provided by dispatch and other officers on scene.

Officer Perez experienced time distortion during the incident and felt time had slowed down. She estimated the incident lasted approximately ten minutes.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. 2024-08-30 Witness Officer Interview Elizabeth Perez

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