



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



2024-0431

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 6042 Huntley Rd,
Columbus

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: FCSO; Dep Severance
Activity Date: 3/13/2024
Activity Location: Law Office of Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton and Lipperman
Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 1304 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Deputy (Dep.) Michael Severance (Dep Severance), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jackie Tipton, consulted by the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at Tipton's law office. The interview was audio recorded. Prior to and in the onset of the interview, SA Collins established that Dep Severance understood he was there voluntarily and was not compelled to answer questions.

Dep. Severance was identified as being a deputy who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the February 7, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 6042 Huntley Rd, Columbus, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep Severance 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 officer.

Dep. Severance stated his radio call sign on February 7, 2024, was K-9 6. He has been employed by the FCSO for over fifty (50) years. He has been a police officer for a total of fifty (50) years. During the incident, Dep. Severance did not exit his marked FCSO patrol car. He drove FCSO unit #RK-1, a Ford Explorer, marked with FCSO emblems and emergency lights. Dep. Severance stated his vehicle was equipped with an in-car camera. However, he did not believe he'd operated his lights, which would have activated the camera.

Dep. Severance stated he had been monitoring his radio, which was in "scan" mode. He learned the City of Columbus-Division of Police (CPD) was in the area of St. Rt. 161 and Huntley attempting to stop a stolen vehicle, which was not complying. Dep. Severance said he understood CPD had a no-pursuit policy. He heard officers requesting someone with stop-sticks. Dep. Severance stated he responded in order to see if he could be of assistance, as he had stop-sticks and the K-9. Dep. Severance stated, due to the radio channels, he could hear them but they couldn't hear him.

Dep. Severance said he heard radio traffic indicating the subject vehicle was pulling in and out of gas stations and driving around parking lots. When Dep. Severance arrived in



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the area, he understood the subject vehicle had pulled out of a gas station lot, headed north and pulled into a parking lot for a strip mall (Huntley and St. Rt. 161).

Dep. Severance stated officers were putting stop sticks out at the exits near the St. Rt. 161 and Huntley intersections. He traveled north on Huntley and positioned himself at the exit on the north side of the parking lot, where he deployed his stop sticks. Dep. Severance stated he believed the subject vehicle, as well as CPD officers, were across the parking lot to the southeast of him. Dep. Severance described not being able to see them because of other vehicles parked in the lot.

Dep. Severance stated he witnessed (heard) yelling, gunshots, and tires squealing. He also witnessed officers running toward the south of parking lot. Dep. Severance collected his stop sticks and drove south on Huntley and witnessed [REDACTED] getting up from being in the road (St. Rt. 161). Dep. Severance said he utilized his vehicle to stop traffic from the east and prevent vehicles from entering the scene. Dep. Severance checked on [REDACTED] and let him know medics were on their way. [REDACTED] asked Dep. Severance to assist with securing the scene and putting out crime scene tape, which Dep. Severance did so.

Dep. Severance asked several passers-by if they had witnessed anything and each stated no. Dep. Severance said he witnessed casings and other debris in the parking lot, ditch and roadway. Just as he began placing cones out to mark the items, a CPD sergeant told him he needed to step out of the crime scene. Dep. Severance then left, as he was no longer needed.

SA Collins asked, other than placing some cones out, if Dep Severance had touched or removed any items and he stated no.

The interview concluded at approximately 1319 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.