



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



2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Davon Fields

Activity Date: August 2, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Tuesday, August 02, 2022, at 1053 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Joseph Goudy interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Davon Fields (Fields), who was accompanied by his attorney, Michael Callahan, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Malarcik, Pierce, Munyer, & Will. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio and video recorded.

Officer Fields was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Fields 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.

Officer Fields stated his radio call sign on June 27, 2022, was Car 8. Officer Fields has been a police officer for approximately three years, all with the APD. Officer Fields wore his standard police uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. Officer Fields was the driver of Car 8, a Ford Explorer marked with APD emblems and emergency lights; his partner, Officer Hall, was the passenger. Officer Fields considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses

Prior to the interview, SA Momchilov was advised that Officer Fields had typed a supplemental report that documented his involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting. Officer Fields wished to read the narrative out loud and then he would answer any follow-up questions, if needed.

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Officer Fields' typed narrative reads:

NARRATIVE
<p>On 06/27/2022 Officer (Ofc.) R. Hall #1530 and I (Ofc. D. Fields #1506) were assigned to work uniformed patrol in district 8. At approximately 0030hrs AKA7 was dispatched to a welfare check (2022-078917) for a male that wasn't supposed to be at this address in the area of 5th Ave, which I advised dispatch that we'd assist with.</p> <p>At approximately 0036 I heard AKE [REDACTED] attempt a traffic stop on the listed suspect's vehicle. We continued to search for the unknown male to AKA7's welfare check. While in the area of 4th St SW/ Maryland Ave, I heard AKE [REDACTED] announce Sig21, the suspect vehicle just fired a round out of his vehicle. I headed to the area of E Wilbeth Rd/ Mission Dr where I assisted with blocking intersections for the vehicle pursuit. As the pursuit passed us going West on E Wilbeth Ave, I began driving West on Wilbeth in an attempt to continue blocking intersections.</p> <p>While in the process of making a northbound turn onto Evergreen Ave to assist with blocking intersection if the pursuit went North, the officers calling out the pursuit stated the suspect vehicle was starting to slow down near E Wilbeth Rd/Clairmont Ave. I continued to drive West on E Wilbeth Rd to catch up to the other units believing the armed suspect was in the process of bailing out of the vehicle.</p> <p>As we approached the intersection of Dallas Ave/E Wilbeth Rd the suspect fled from the vehicle on foot running North bound toward a large brick building. I grabbed my patrol rifle and began running NorthWest in an attempt to catch the suspect. As I approached the parking lot, the Officer involved shooting occurred. I advised all units to get onto line and held lethal coverage on the suspect until he was taken into custody.</p> <p>I advised dispatch and all units enroute that we needed a Medical bag for the suspect, to get AFD medics enroute, and to have them approach from the east. I then ran back toward our cruiser, securing other cruisers on the way. I moved several cruisers on E Wilbeth Ave, East of Clairmont Ave to make an entrance point for AFD medics. I waited near the intersection of Dallas Ave/ E Wilbeth Ave to ensure the cruiser that was blocking the intersection could be moved when needed for officers and medics.</p> <p>Eventually I was advised to take our cruiser to the intersection of Clairmont Ave/Palmetto Ave to block traffic. While blocking traffic I assisted with placing crime scene tape around the southside of the scene. I remained on the southside of the scene at our cruiser until we were eventually relieved by dayshift.</p> <p>We cleared assist and left the scene.</p>

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Based upon Officer Fields' body-worn camera footage, the above image is the approximate time when gunfire starts. It appears that Officer Fields is running and has not yet made it to the parking lot.



Based upon Officer Fields' body-worn camera footage, the above image is the approximate time when gunfire stops.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields what caused him to respond to the scene. Officer Fields advised that he responded because shots had been fired, and he assumed that someone was shooting at the pursuing police vehicle. SA Momchilov asked if a signal 21 is called, "is that pretty much all hands on deck, anybody who is available?" Officer Fields responded, "Yes, so when someone calls signal 21, that's like our top line of this is the incident, something crazy's

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happening, whether it's an officer-involved shooting or someone is actively shooting at us or someone's life is at risk. So if you can, you get there."

SA Momchilov responded, "No matter where you are in the city?" Officer Fields replied, "Yes."

SA Momchilov stated, "It says when you, 'catch up to other units believing the armed suspect was in the process of bailing out the vehicle.'" Officer Fields responded, "Yes." SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields how far away he was from the fleeing vehicle or from the individual bailing out of the car. Officer Fields estimated about two blocks away.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields if he could tell who was shooting when he approached the parking lot. Officer Fields replied, "No." Officer Fields stated, "As they ran through the parking lot, I couldn't tell who was chasing, I seen just silhouettes due to how dark it was. I knew everyone was running north and the suspect had to be in front of them, so I ran as well, but I couldn't see who was chasing or anything like that."

SA Momchilov then asked how Officer Fields knew the officer-involved shooting occurred. Officer Fields advised that he heard the shots being fired from what he presumed to be the officers.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields if he knew how far away from the other officers he was when the shooting occurred. Officer Fields responded, "I do not, when the initial round was fired, so I was, if they're all running north, I was to, I guess to their east. Um, I would say maybe 50 feet."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields if he could see what the individual was doing. Officer Fields responded, "No, so I never actually seen him until he hit the ground. I couldn't see who was who, I seen silhouettes."

SA Momchilov then asked if Officer Fields could see the individual as the officer-involved shooting was occurring. Officer Fields replied, "No I didn't, so he eventually fell to the ground and then I, um, I believe where he fell there was light being shined in the parking lot so that's when I seen him, someone on the ground and I was able to identify him."

SA Momchilov then asked, "Where officers still firing at that point, do you know?" Officer Fields responded, "I believe so, yes." SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields why he did not fire. Officer Fields stated, "I didn't have a clear shot, due to our training, we train if someone is within three feet of your muzzle or they're in front of you, side of you, you don't fire and I had several officers around me so I didn't fire."

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SA Momchilov asked, "Could you see if the subject was moving or was he making any movements?" Officer Fields replied, "Yes, while on the ground he continued to move, um, so he was actively flailing and like, waving his arms and everything. So, yes he continued to move."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields if he had conversation with any of the shooting officers. Officer Fields stated, "No, I didn't."

Officer Fields stated he did not have any involvement in clearing/searching the individual's vehicle and was never close enough to look in it.

Officer Fields advised that he had watched his body-worn camera footage once, prior to this interview. Officer Fields also stated that he had watched other officers' body-worn camera footage in the media.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Fields if his statement was based on his recollection or based on what he observed in the body-worn camera footage. Officer Fields stated it was based on his recollection.

After the interview, Officer Fields was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage again. Afterward, no further statements were obtained.

Reference Items:

The video recordings of the interview were placed onto a DVD and were labeled as Reference Item L.

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this report.

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