



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



2025-0512

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 294 Ira Avenue, Akron,
OH 44301, Summit County

Investigative Activity: APD Officer Michael Thornton interview
Involves: Officer Michael Thornton (W)
Activity Date: 03/07/2025
Activity Location: Ohio Defense Firm 121 S. Main Street, Akron, OH 44308
Authoring Agent: SA Jonathan Lieber

Narrative:

On Friday, March 07, 2025, at 1444 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Lieber (Lieber) and SA John Tingley (Tingley) interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Michael Thornton (Thornton), who was accompanied by his attorney, Marie DiCola, from the Fraternal Order of Police. Also present during the interview was Fraternal Order of Police President Brian Lucey. The interview took place at the Ohio Defense Firm 121 S. Main Street, Akron, OH 44308. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Officer Thornton read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Thornton was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the February 17, 2025 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 294 Ira Avenue, Akron, OH 44301, Ohio. Reportedly, Thornton did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Thornton stated his radio call sign on February 17, 2025, was Car 7. He has been employed by the Akron Police Department for about 11 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 11 years. During the incident, Thornton wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove APD unit #7, an SUV marked with APD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated that 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.

Thornton was on a call for a disabled vehicle when he heard the radio call to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] regarding an individual leaving a rental car at his father's house

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and then taking the father's vehicle, a white color Toyota sedan. Thornton also recalled a BOLO (Be on the lookout) from Columbus PD for a vehicle involved in an armed robbery.

While Thornton was still on his disabled vehicle call, he heard [REDACTED] radio that he spotted the father's vehicle (white Toyota Camry) traveling at a high rate of speed on Kenmore Boulevard. [REDACTED] attempted to stop the vehicle and subsequently notified dispatch that the occupant of the vehicle had fired 2 shots at him. Thornton then left the call he was on to respond to assist [REDACTED]. The pursuit continued on Kenmore Boulevard and turned north on Lakeshore Boulevard. Thornton heard the officers who were already on scene radio that the subject was out of his vehicle and firing shots at them. The officers also radioed that they had returned fire.

When Thornton arrived on Ira Avenue, he saw officers [REDACTED] [REDACTED] moving one of the APD cruisers up closer to the subject. Thornton paralleled the officers with his cruiser in an effort to provide additional cover. After they stopped their vehicles, Thornton recalled hearing [REDACTED] say that the subject still had the gun in his hand and yelling at the subject to drop the gun. Thornton then saw [REDACTED] fire 1 to 2 shots at the subject. [REDACTED] moved behind a cruiser near Thornton. The officers then moved toward the subject and began to render medical aid.

Thornton was then given the opportunity to view his BWC video. After reviewing the video, Thornton did not have anything to add to his statement.

The interview concluded at approximately 1500 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings were added as Reference Item H and stored on Evidence.com. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was also added to Reference Item H.

References:

H – Involved officer interviews

Attachments:

None

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