



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Brian Adkins
Involves: Brian Adkins (O)
Activity Date: March 23, 2023
Activity Location: BCI - 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente #139

On March 23, 2023, at 1308 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) and SA Arvin Clar (Clar) met with Brian Adkins (Adkins) at his home, 1433 State Route 7 NE, Brookfield, Ohio, to conduct an interview regarding his knowledge of Fred Wild (Wild). The interview was audio recorded and attached to this report.

During the interview, Adkins told agents the following:

Adkins phone number is [REDACTED]

Wild's son, Mason, was close to him. Mason's phone number is [REDACTED]

Adkins and Wild knew each for many years prior to Wild's death. Adkins could not recall exactly how he met Wild but the two men had friends in common and have been friends themselves for many years. Adkins knew Wild to consume alcohol to his detriment. Adkins knew Wild to be schizophrenic and believed he was prescribed medication for his schizophrenia. Adkins believed he could tell a difference in Wild's behavior based on whether or not Wild was taking medication for his schizophrenia. Adkins recalled Wild being treated in the "psych ward" for his mental health issues in the past. Adkins recalled past incidents where Wild acted recklessly, including an incident where Wild drove a truck through his own home while upset about a divorce he was going through at the time.

Beyond suffering from schizophrenia and being a heavy drinker, Adkins believed Wild to be an honest and non-violent person who was a very good carpenter. Adkins did not believe Wild was paranoid but thought he could be when not taking medication. Adkins did not believe Wild held any negative beliefs or ill will against law enforcement.

In the recent past, the relationship between Adkins and Wild had been distant. Adkins had not heard from or seen Wild in a significant amount of time until last summer when Wild unexpectedly showed up at his home with his son to practice fly fishing in his pond. Adkins felt Wild was doing well during that interaction. After that unexpected visit, Adkins did not see Wild again until the days leading up to his death.

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On a date Adkins couldn't recall specifically but referred to as the day Liberty Police chased Wild, Adkins arrived home in the evening to his wife telling him someone in a black truck went flying down their driveway past the home towards a group of sheds and small structures further down their driveway behind the home. Upon receiving this information Adkins went to the outbuildings along his driveway. Adkins then found Wild, who was drinking a beer and accompanied by his dog. Wild told Adkins he had just been in a police pursuit and fled to Adkin's property to hide. Adkins talked to Wild briefly and left the back of the property thinking Wild would soon leave. Sometime later that evening Adkins noticed Wild was still at the back of his property, and noting the cold weather, went to check on him. Wild told Adkins he could not leave because he was out of gas. Adkins retrieved a red gas can containing gas and placed it on the rear bumper of Wild's truck.

The next day Adkins noticed Wild was still at the back of his property and "that's when the real goofiness started." Adkins recalled that Wild began spray painting orange zebra stripes and a large heart with arrows on his truck. Wild also used a bungee cord to affix his front bumper to the truck which was falling off the vehicle.

In a conversation with Wild's son after Wild's death, Adkins learned the day before his death, Wild finally left Adkins property and went to Yankee Lake, Ohio and got dinner. Adkins then believed that Wild went to his boss's property where Wild had been staying in a camper on the property. According to what Adkins was told by Wild's son, Wild then began to work on a gas line on his boss's property but got frustrated and threw tools through a wall and was kicked out. Wild's boss then called the police about this issue. When police arrived Wild fled from his boss's property back to Adkins property. Around this same time Adkins got an alert on his phone about a police chase from Lordstown, Ohio to Brookfield Township, Ohio, and immediately believed the alert was about Wild. Adkins then called his wife and told her to lock the doors, not knowing what state of mind Wild was in.

When Adkins arrived home, he reviewed his home security cameras and noted that sometime around 6:00 pm a blue truck drove down his driveway past the house and to the outbuildings. Adkins knew the owner of the blue truck, Bill Schaefer, who is a chef at Yankee Kitchen. Adkins went to the back of his property to determine who was there. Adkins then encountered Wild. Adkins was originally unaware Wild had stolen the truck. As the two men talked Adkins learned Wild had indeed stolen the truck. Adkins told Wild he was spiraling out of control and needed to get help. Wild told Adkins he did not want to go to jail. Adkins told Wild he needed to go to a hospital. Wild asked Adkins to give him some work to do so that he could make money to buy a plane ticket and flee (to an unknown location). Adkins did not give Wild any work or money. Adkins told Wild the police knew where he was or would find out soon. Adkins told Wild

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“they’re going to shoot you” while referring to the police finding him. Adkins stated he repeated this comment to Wild a second time. Adkins told Wild if police came to the home looking for Wild he would not tell the police he was on the property but would not stop the police from searching the property for him.

Wild, who was now hiding near a hunting cabin at the rear of Adkin’s property, was unarmed throughout his time at Adkins property to the best of Adkins knowledge. However, Adkins noted he had ammunition and crossbows in the cabin. Adkins gave Wild some coffee and cigarettes and told Wild he needed to leave the property. Adkins then returned to the home and later that evening called the police non-emergency number to request to meet with a police officer at a warehouse near his home.

Adkins then met with a police officer at a nearby warehouse and told the officer that Wild was hiding at the back of his property. During the conversation Adkins told the officer and a second officer who arrived shortly thereafter, they would not be able to drive down his driveway without Wild noticing their presence and being alerted. Adkins told the officers that Wild had a history of mental problems, had previous arrests for drunk driving and domestic violence, currently had a stolen truck, was schizophrenic, and “out of his mind.” Adkins stated the officers began calling for additional police help to locate and arrest Wild. Adkins gave the officers a description of the area where Wild was. Adkins offered to lend the police night vision to help locate Wild which they declined.

After speaking with the officers Adkins returned to his home. Shortly thereafter he noticed police staging in the street in front of his house. Knowing they were there to locate and arrest Wild, Adkins went outside and sat on his back porch to observe with binoculars. Adkins then observed a motion light on one of the buildings behind his home go off. Due to the lack of light Adkins could not see anything else that happened. Adkins did however hear, seconds later, what he believed to be police giving Wild orders to “get down, get down.” Adkins could not make out exactly what was being said. Almost immediately after hearing the police yelling orders, he heard the sound of gravel being flung backwards by truck tires. Adkins heard the sound of gunfire immediately afterwards. Adkins could not tell how many shots were fired but recalled it was multiple shots all in very quick succession which began “not even one to two seconds” after he heard the gravel being flung out from the tires of the truck.

Adkins described the weather present at the time to be clear but noted it was dark near the cabin as there was no artificial light present.

At the end of the interview Adkins allowed agents to review his home security cameras. SA Valente noted the time displayed on the recordings were 6 minutes ahead of the time noted on a

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cellular telephone connected to the Verizon cellular network. Agents were unable to copy the footage at that time due to technical issues. Adkins advised agents the owner of the company who installed the surveillance cameras on his property was scheduled to come out the following day to copy any relevant footage. Adkins advised agents he would notify them once the video had been copied to an external drive. Agents confirmed the DVR utilized by Adkins held footage for 30 days prior to leaving.

Attachments:

1. 2023-03-23: Audio - Brian Adkins Interview