



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



2022-2608

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 28 N. Paint St, Chillicothe

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: RCSO-Sgt. Eric Kocheran

Activity Date: 1/26/2023

Activity Location: 28 N. Paint St, Chillicothe, OH

Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 1010 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) Sergeant (Sgt.) Eric Kocheran (Kocheran). The interview took place at 28 N. Paint St., Chillicothe, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Sgt. Kocheran was read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form. Prior to the interview, Captain Addy inquired if he would be permitted to sit-in on the interview with Kocheran, as Kocheran had asked him to be there. SA Collins explained it is typically not BCI's practice to allow anyone from administration to sit-in in on the interview due to potential implied Garrity statements. SA Collins asked and clarified with Kocheran whether he was going to consent to be interviewed by SA Collins if Captain Addy was not present. Sgt. Kocheran stated yes.

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 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 and 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 from the interview.



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



2022-2608

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 28 N. Paint St, Chillicothe

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: Erik Kocheran	Rank: Sergeant (Sgt.)
Badge Number: 362	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: N/A
Radio Call Sign: 362	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Carl Lawhorn; acting Lt.
Radio Channel Utilized: SO Channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present N/A
Assignment: Patrol	Normal Shift: 0500 hours to 1700 hours
Shift Day of Incident: 0500-1700 hours	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Rotating; Occurred on his Friday	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No
	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 18 years; Franklin Co SO; South Bloomfield	Length at Current Agency: 12 years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: Glasses
Uniform Worn: Gray Pants; Black long sleeve; Patches	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Handcuffs, firearm, key holder, handcuffs (2nd), baton holder, radio, taser, mag pouch
Ballistic Vest: Not Worn	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: N/A
Injuries: Yes; Gunshot wound; Hospitalized	Equipment Damage: uniform
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT; Advanced tactical shooting 2022 @OTOA	OPOTC Certification: 2004
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: Annual Policy review
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No	



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



2022-2608

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 28 N. Paint St, Chillicothe

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P320
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Hip; Duty holster
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17+1
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Doesn't recall	Number of Rounds Fired: Doesn't recall
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: 10/2022	Type of Holster, if any: Level II

Narrative:

Sgt. Kocheran, referring to November 17, 2022, stated he was on duty and had just returned to the station near the end of his shift. Kocheran stated he was on station writing reports. He stated there was another deputy who was on station, but they had left shortly after Kocheran arrived. Kocheran stated he could not recall who the other deputy was. Kocheran described, "sitting in the back, in the squad room, near the back door." Kocheran said it is very common for the public to come to the backdoor and inquire about various things. Again, Kocheran commented how it was not typically unusual, however, on the night of the incident, he heard a very loud knock on the back door. Kocheran noted it sounded urgent, so he went to the back door.

Kocheran said when he first opened the door, he did not see anyone. When he opened the door up all the way he noticed a male subject standing there about twenty (20) feet away. He said the male (later identified in BCI's investigation as Nicholas Mitchell) had his hands inside his pockets. When Kocheran asked him what he could do for him, Mitchell said he "needed to get more cops out here." Again, Kocheran did not believe the request to be totally unusual. He said it was common for the public to report a fight at local bar, in or near that parking lot. Kocheran said he asked, "what's going on?" Kocheran said Mitchell responded with something



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



2022-2608

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 28 N. Paint St, Chillicothe

to the effect of "someone was threatening his family. They were going to hurt his family, if he didn't kill kids and he couldn't do that." Kocheran stated that statement began to alarm him because it was not a normal statement someone would make. Kocheran said Mitchell, who was now about ten (10) feet away now, produced a gun and he did not know where it came from. Kocheran suspects Mitchell had it in his pocket because that was where Mitchell's hands were. Kocheran described Mitchell producing the gun so fast and said something to the effect of, "well we're just going to have to do this." Kocheran said Mitchell raised the gun up (demonstrating above his head) manipulated the slide action and chambered a round. Looking back on the situation in hind-sight, Kocheran believed Mitchell had done so in a manner to make sure Kocheran saw he had a gun and wanted Kocheran to see him using it. Kocheran said he let the door close slightly and Mitchell moved towards the building, or closer to Kocheran. Kocheran said he drew his weapon and issued commands to Mitchell. Kocheran said he told Mitchell to put the gun down at least once, maybe twice. Kocheran said he knew Mitchell had a gun "with 200% certainty," based on he saw a gun and the way Mitchell was holding and manipulating it.

Kocheran said he recalled hearing Mitchell fire one round, but he didn't see the muzzle flash. Kocheran said he recalled pulling the trigger on his weapon and believed he fired four to five (4-5) rounds. Kocheran said he does not recall seeing Mitchell go to the ground. However, Kocheran recalled when he, himself, "got knocked down, it felt like somebody just took a poker and shoved it right through me all the way down here."

Kocheran described the perception of time at that point, felt like things were happening at "a thousand miles per hour." Kocheran said it almost seemed like the squad was waiting in the parking lot for them to shoot each other, they were they that fast. Kocheran recalled being transported to the hospital, life flighted to Columbus, and believed he passed out after landing in Columbus. Kocheran said he recalled waking up about nine days later.

Kocheran was asked if he knew Mitchell and he stated no. Later, Kocheran signed a medical records release waiver.

The interview concluded at approximately 1048 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.