



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



2023-3223
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 807 Alan Page Dr SE, Canton,
OH 44707

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Date of Activity: 12/06/2023
Activity Location: Canton Police Department – Business – 221 3rd Street SW, P.O.
Box 24218, Canton, OH 44701
Author: SA Eric Lehnhart, #84

Narrative:

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 0113 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart (SA Lehnhart) and SA John Tingley (SA Tingley) interviewed [REDACTED], relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. The interview took place at 221 3rd Street SW, Canton, Ohio 44702, the Canton, Ohio, Police Department. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

[REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] Canton, Ohio 44707, the [REDACTED]. She continued to state that she has been married to [REDACTED] for three (3) years and this relationship has produced two (2) children. She and [REDACTED] has been separated since February of 2023, and living in separate residences.

[REDACTED] stated that she first met Zachary Fornash (Fornash) through her husband, and after the separation with [REDACTED] she provided a place for Fornash to stay as he was estranged from his wife also. Shortly after Fornash moved in, their relationship became sexual.

On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, [REDACTED] stated that she and Fornash were having a normal relationship day in which they would text and call each other throughout the day. As the day progressed, Fornash stopped calling [REDACTED] and after a few hours, the two reconnected and began to argue. During the argument, Fornash demanded to return to [REDACTED]'s apartment to retrieve his belongings. [REDACTED] stated that she advised Fornash that she had taken the laundry to her mother's home and she would need some time to go retrieve and sort what was his. According to [REDACTED] Fornash continued to be defiant and stated that he was coming over to get his things.

As [REDACTED] had been on the telephone with [REDACTED] earlier in the day, She called and advised him of the situation with Fornash and his persistent request. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to come to the apartment as she didn't want any trouble with Fornash.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

█████ stated that as █████ █████ arrived at the apartment, she was outside to meet him when they observed Fornash coming across the lawn towards █████'s vehicle. Once Fornash approached, he continued to demand his belongings and eventually brandished what █████ described as a black 9mm style gun, and "cocked" (cycled) the slide. As █████ █████ engaged Fornash in questions about the weapon, █████ began "laying on the horn." which attracted the attention of the Canton Police officer who was working at the complex in an off duty status.

As the officer approached, Fornash ran from the officer. █████ stated that █████ █████ told her to shut the car door and the two of them retreated to her northeast side apartment and locked the door. A short time later, she and █████ █████ exited the apartment and walked back to the parking lot, where she was approached by other Canton Police officers who had arrived. Prior to being transported to the Canton Police Department for an interview, █████ struck a tree with her hand, causing minor scrapes.

█████ advised SA Lehnhart and SA Tingley that she didn't see or hear anything that was related to the officer-involved critical incident shooting that took place while she was in her apartment.

The interview concluded at approximately 0139 hours hours.

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

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-12-06 █████ █████ Interview