



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



2024-3996
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 780 Taylor Road,
Gahanna, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with civilian witness
Involves: Songyi Cai
Activity Date: 12/19/2024
Activity Location: 735 Taylor Rd., Gahanna, OH
Authoring Agent: SA Aja Chung

Narrative:

On Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 1347 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and SA Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) interviewed Songyi Cai (Cai), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place earlier that day. The interview took place at 735 Taylor Rd., Gahanna, OH, at the Doyle Human Capital Management (HCM) (Doyle HCM) office, where Cai is an employee. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Cai.

Gahanna Police Department (GPD) attempted to make contact with Alex Russell (Russell) at SpringHill Suite at 665 Taylor Road regarding a fraud complaint. Russell fled his room through the room window and walked in an easterly direction. GPD officers followed Russell on foot to 780 Taylor Rd., where Russell reportedly aimed a gun at GPD officers. GPD officers discharged their weapons, striking Russell, who later died from his injuries.

Cai told agents at 0953 hours, he heard a co-worker, Susie, yelling about something. Cai stated he walked to the window and saw Russell walking eastbound towards the MEPS building at 775 Taylor Rd. Cai further stated he saw Russell holding a small black gun in his right hand as he walked away from the police officers. Cai stated he saw Russell look back at the police officers a couple times, however, Russell did not stop or listen to what officers were saying.

Cai explained five (5) police officers that were clearly distinguishable as police officers by their uniforms were following Russell as he continued to walk eastbound. Cai observed Russell cross the street near 780 Taylor Rd. and stop walking. Cai indicated for roughly two minutes there was no movement and Cai suddenly saw Russell running eastbound on the grass.

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Cai stated he could not see Russell after he ran and then he heard nineteen to twenty (19-20) gunshots. Cai indicated he did not see Russell point the gun he was holding towards the police officers.

Cai did not see discussion between Russell and the police officers. Cai confirmed the police officers followed Russell at a safe distance.

Cai stated he saw police cruisers on the west side of 780 Taylor Rd. and one police cruiser near 820 Taylor Rd. Cai further stated the police cruisers had the emergency lights activated.

Cai recorded the incident and provided twelve (12) videos and/or photographs of the incident. The videos and photographs were uploaded to Evidence.com.

The interview concluded at approximately 1354 hours.

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

References:

A-Civilian Witness Video & Photographs

Attachments:

1-Songyi Cai interview

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