



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



2022-1090
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8643 Werger Road, Windham
Township, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Richard Knerem (W), Barbara Knerem (W)
Date of Activity: 05/17/2022
Activity Location: Knerem, Richard – Home – 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, OH
44231, Portage County
Author: SA Arvin E. Clar, #127

Narrative:

Note: This report summarizes information deemed by the author to be most relevant to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. This report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

On May 17, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Arvin Clar (Clar) and SA William Conn conducted a recorded interview with Richard Knerem (Richard) and Barbara Knerem (Barbara). The interview occurred at Richard and Barbara's home, located at 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio.

The interview began at 1755 hours.

Richard is an electrician and Barbara is a registered nurse. Richard and Barbara said they have resided at the address (8643 Werger Rd.) for approximately 25 years.

Richard began by saying about "nine something" in the morning, he was in his office that is located in the back area of the house. Richard then said that the "Ring" doorbell went off.

Richard also said that when he got up in the morning on Saturday, he opened the left side garage door to allow air flow through the house.

Richard said he got up to investigate the doorbell; at which time, he opened the door and he saw "my neighbor standing there."

Barbara interjected and said that the incident with the doorbell occurred around 0930 hours.

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Barbara then said that the neighbor they were referring to was known to them as Cora Baughman. Barbara and Richard described the subject as an "older lady, heavy set with gray hair."

Richard then said he told Barbara that the subject was in the garage. Barbara told Richard to call 911.

Richard said that he confronted the subject in the garage and told her to leave.

Richard said he used his cell phone (330-861-3132) and told the police that his neighbor is in his garage and needs the police to have her "removed from my garage."

Barbara said that Richard became very frustrated with the police dispatcher and said that he wanted the police to come to his home and remove the lady from his garage.

Richard said the lady remained in their garage and when he got off the phone with the police dispatcher, he opened the door to the garage again. Richard said, when he opened the door again, he saw the subject standing with a gun pointed at him.

Richard then said, when he opened the door for the second time and saw the subject with the gun pointed at him, he told the subject to remove herself from his property.

Richard said that when he demanded the subject to leave his garage and his property, the subject replied, "We need to talk."

Richard, again, said that he told the subject to vacate his garage and property. Richard then said that he took his cell phone and took the below photo of the female in his garage pointing the gun at him.



Richard backed into the kitchen, from the garage, after being confronted by the subject and closed and locked the door to the garage. Richard then again called 911 and spoke with another dispatcher and advised that the subject has a gun and is still on his property.

The dispatcher said the officers are on their way. Richard, again, stated that he was very frustrated with the police and the dispatchers.

Richard and Barbara said that after they spoke with the dispatcher, the subject had come up the steps and began to shake and push on the door leading from the garage to the kitchen.

Barbara said when the subject began to shake and push on the door, they (Richard and Barbara) went to the back bedroom at the opposite end of the house to seek cover. Barbara said they were both "scared we were going to get shot."

Richard said that he had a weapon in the garage by the door leading into the kitchen but did not attempt to gain access to the weapon.

Richard said that he observed the police come to his house. He also said he observed the officers come up to the house with their guns drawn. Richard then said, "That's all I seen."

Richard said, where they were located in the bedroom of the house, they could only have limited vision of the officers' involvement.

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Barbara and Richard both heard the police give the subject commands. Barbara said she heard the police say, "Put your hands up and drop your weapon." Barbara also said the police were screaming and gave the subject commands more than once.

Barbara became very emotional and said that the officers began firing. Barbara said it was a "horrible experience."

Richard thought the officers fired 15 shots. Barbara said they could not see anything but could hear the incident and the shooting.

Richard and Barbara only heard the commands of the officers and the shots being fired. Barbara or Richard claimed not to have heard any words uttered by the subject.

Barbara said that after the incident, one of the officers told them to stay in the house.

Barbara also said that the officers appeared not to care about the wellbeing of her and her husband. Barbara then said one officer came to the door and gave her a piece of paper and told her to complete the form about what they observed.

Barbara also said that once they placed the subject into the ambulance, the police came to their house and told them "we need to remove ourselves."

Richard and Barbara voiced their frustration on the directions being given by the police officers on the scene.

Richard said that they were advised by the police that a search warrant was being obtained so that the area and house could be processed as a crime scene. Richard then advised the police that he and his wife would be leaving the area, and they were welcome to conduct their investigation. Richard advised the police to lock the house when they were completed with the processing of the crime scene.

Barbara then downloaded all the activity from the Ring doorbell of the May 14th incident, where the subject is observed at the front door. Barbara then forwarded the files to SA Clar's BCI cell phone (330-573-5808) for additional review.

Barbara also said that the subject, Cora Baughman, is observed first at the front door on May 14th, attempting to gain entry through the front door.

The below photo was downloaded from the "Ring" doorbell data that was forwarded to SA Clar from Barbara. The photo is recorded at 0909 hours, on May 14, 2022.



The second photo shows Cora Baughman holding a revolver in her right hand, as she attempts to again access the front door. This photo is obtained from the Ring doorbell video taken at 0914 hours.



Barbara said that they have not spoken with the subject, Cora Baughman (Baughman), for over eight years.

SA Clar asked both Richard and Barbara why would Baughman come over to their property

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brandishing a gun. Barbara replied, "We don't know."

Richard then said that when he confronts Baughman in the garage, he (Richard) told Baughman that she needed to remove herself from his property. Baughman replied by saying to Richard, "We need to talk." Richard also said that when he told Baughman to "remove herself from my property," she had the gun pointed at him.

Barbara also said that when you review the Ring doorbell data, you can see Baughman trying to gain access to the front door of the house, before she enters the open garage.

Barbara then said that after reviewing the Ring doorbell video, you can also see that Baughman is holding a gun in her hand, while she tried to gain access through the front door.

Barbara said, at 1003 hours on Saturday the 14th, she spoke with the neighbor located to the right of the property. That neighbor is the ex-son-in-law of Cora Baughman. Barbara then said that she knows him as Timothy Campbell. Barbara had limited phone conversation with him, only to confirm that Baughman came over with a gun and they called the sheriff.

Barbara also said that when the neighbor, Timothy Campbell, called her, he stated that his son (Campbell) informed him that Baughman did not have a gun, that her gun was still at her home.

Barbara said that she is aware that Baughman has called the sheriff to report fireworks that occurred at their (Knerem) property in the past. Barbara then said that is the only instance she can recall involving Baughman.

Richard said that he would like the authorities to pay for damage that has occurred at his home. Richard said he did not want to claim it on his insurance.

The interview was terminated at 1825 hours.

The recorded interview, #WS510242, has been attached to this report and a copy has been placed in the file.

The Ring doorbell data depicting video footage from the May 14, 2022, incident has been placed in the case file for further review.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: C Baughman 2022-5-14

Attachment # 02: WS510242

