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

2023-2598
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 415 Gregg Street, Washington
Courthouse, OH – Fayette County (L)

Investigative Activity:	Case Opening, Initial Briefing
Involves:	Timothy D West (S), Officer Trevor Phillips (S)
Date of Activity:	10/01/2023
Activity Location:	- 415 Gregg Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160
Author:	SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Sunday, October 1, 2023, at approximately 1847 hours, the Washington Court House Police Department requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred after the involved subject, Timothy D. West (West), fled on foot from a traffic stop and was subdued by the pursuing officer, Officer Trevor Phillips, with a Taser energy weapon. After the taser deployment, West became unresponsive and was later pronounced deceased.

BCI Special Agent Supervisor William Jones assigned the matter to Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Lauren Frazier. BCI Crime Scene Unit Special Agent Mathew Austin also responded.

BCI Special Agent Steven Seitzman arrived at approximately 2015 hours. He spoke with Washington Court House Police Lieutenant Matthew Pfeifer, who provided additional information. Lt. Pfeifer advised that Officer Phillips initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle in which West was a passenger. The traffic stop was initiated on Gregg Street near Grace Street in Washington Court House. As the vehicle came to a stop, West fled on foot. Officer Phillips gave chase as West ran northeast on Gregg Street. West ran behind 415 Gregg Street onto a concrete patio, which did not have egress. West then turned around and ran back toward Officer Phillips. As West charged toward Officer Phillips, Officer Phillips discharged his Taser energy weapon. West subsequently fell to the ground, face first, into a mulch bed and struck his head on a brick-like object embedded in the mulch. Life-saving measures were attempted on West. Fayette County EMS transported West to Adena Fayette Medical Center, where he was ultimately pronounced deceased.

SA Austin arrived at approximately 2100 hours. He processed the scene and involved the officer.

SA Seitzman and SA Frazier completed a neighborhood canvass. The driver of the vehicle from which West fled, Jonathan Penn, returned to the scene at approximately 2152 hours. SA Frazier and SA Seitzman interviewed Mr. Penn. Washington Court House Police Officer Gavin Moore and Sergeant Jeffery Heinz were also interviewed, as they arrived shortly after the use of force.

SA Seitzman and SA Frazier introduced themselves to Officer Phillips. He was advised of the investigative process. He was further advised to contact his union attorney to schedule an interview if he wished to provide a statement to BCI.

On October 2, 2023, SA Seitzman requested multiple records from Lt. Pfeifer.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Request for Assistance– Chief Jeff Funari

Exhibit 1

To: The Ohio Bureau of Investigation

From: Chief Jeffrey D. Funari

Date: 10/02/2023

I am writing to formally request your assistance in the investigation into the critical incident that occurred on Gregg Street within the City of Washington Court House on October 1st, 2023. I am here by requesting that your agency handle the investigation and all following proceedings. My department will provide full support and cooperation throughout the investigation. Thank you for your assistance I this matter.

Jeffrey D. Funari

Chief of Police