

Witness Statement Form

Incident Date: 01/18/24 Time: 0214hrs Incident # 2024-015839
 Address of Occurrence: 7702 Spafford District: 4 Zone: 1
 Officer Name: Sgt. Mark Blaine #9222 Badge# 9222 Bureau/District SWAT Platoon B
 Citizen Name: Robert Perkins

Witness Statement

On January 17, 2024 while assigned to City of Cleveland, Division of Police, Special Weapons and Tactics Unit as a Supervisor, I was inside a Lenco Armored Bearcat at the location of 7702 Spafford Ave, Cleveland Ohio, 44105. The SWAT Unit was called out in connection with a male armed with an AR Style rifle barricaded inside a home. During the several hour standoff the suspect male made no attempts to answer repeated telephone calls from CNT or anyone that tried to make contact with him. The suspect also ignored multiple callouts from the Armored Vehicles PA system and the AV LRAD. The suspect had free reign of the address of 7702 Spafford Ave and paced around the entire residence with an AR-15 style rifle. A few times the suspect would try and talk into a mic and could be heard saying something about he was sent to kill the bad guys and something to the effect like people are always trying to manipulate him. The suspect disappeared from downstairs and went upstairs and appeared to load magazines. Suspect brandished AR rifle from upstairs window and fired a few rounds out. The male then targeted the Lenco Bearcat and fired multiple from the AR rifle into the front windshield of the armored vehicle in an attempt to compromise the integrity of the glass to injure the driver and the front passenger of the vehicle. Seeing the damage of the glass and not knowing how many more impacts it could withstand before being compromised, subjecting the driver and passenger possible injuries, I ordered the driver to reposition the vehicle to provide better protection. I then opened up the top turret and ordered P.O. [REDACTED] to man the AV turret, and P.O. [REDACTED] to and provide supporting cover to the turret so if the suspect re-emerged and targeted the front glass of the bearcat before repositioned, we would have to return fire if he attempted to fire at us again. I moved on the right side of the AV to get an angle of the suspect and heard shots from the shotgun P.O. [REDACTED] was holding.

Signature: mblaine # 9222 Badge# (if applicable) #9222
 Address/Agency Name: 2001 Payne Ave / SWAT Unit Date: 01/18/2024
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