



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



2022-1564

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH 45368

Investigative Activity: Neighborhood Canvass

Activity Date: 7/24/2022

Activity Location: Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, OH

Authoring Agent: SA John Butterworth

Narrative:

On Sunday, July 24, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent John Butterworth (SA Butterworth) conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Ohio. The purpose for the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting that occurred at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Ohio on Sunday, July 24, 2022. During the neighborhood canvass, Special Agent Butterworth made or attempted contact with the residents at the following addresses:

1121 Ashwood Drive

There was no answer at this residence when SA Butterworth attempted contact.

1123 Ashwood Drive

SA Butterworth was able to make contact with the resident, Margret Statler as well as Karl Brown who had been visiting the home. While speaking with Statler, she referred to WHITE as "Wright."

According to Statler, she had been sleeping when she heard sirens that caused her to wake up. When she went outside to look, she was told by officers to go back inside. Statler said she could see the officers standing outside, but couldn't exactly see what they were doing and which house they were at. Statler recalled hearing gunshots and what she described as "the smoke stuff" or tear gas that they put in the house. She could hear a female police officer yell "Wright" and other names to come to the door. Statler described WHITE as a "weirdo" who had moved in a while ago. In March or April Statler noticed that WHITE would walk down to the field past her house and would walk around barefoot, no shirt and saggy pants. He would stop and stare at the homes at times and then walk down to the field and disappear. A neighbor to Statler had told her about WHITE trying to talk to her little daughter. (SA Butterworth was unable to talk to the neighbor as no one answered) Statler had not seen WHITE with a weapon nor did she attempt to speak with him. Statler described the amount of gunshots as "a lot, quite a lot" on two different occasions. They also heard one of the police trucks hitting the back of the house, but did not see it. Statler



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could not provide an amount of gunshots she heard, but heard two different types, possibly pistol and/or rifle.

While at the residence, SA Butterworth also spoke with Karl Brown, who had been staying with Statler. Brown said around 1030 this morning he came out and saw the "cop cars" and a "state boy" (Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper). Brown described the sound of the gunshots as a .223 as he heard a couple pops and then "boom, boom, boom." Brown did not see the exchange of gunfire, but heard it through the walls of the trailer. Brown thought it was around 1045 when the cruisers came up and shortly after heard gunfire. Brown was asked if there was anything else he saw or heard. Brown described the "concussion grenades" probably 6 or 7 of them. Then there was quiet and what Brown thought was .223 rounds going off and possibly shotgun rounds going off. Brown said shortly after that the trailer was on fire.

Brown described WHITE as "mental" and his mother paid his rent. Brown said his mother had just been up at the office to pay his rent. SA Butterworth asked if he knew anything particular about WHITE being "mental" and he did not have specific details.

1125 Ashwood Drive

SA Butterworth made contact at 1125 Ashwood Drive and initially spoke with Trevor Burch, and then the remaining residents. Included in this interview are Mike Crawford, Charles Crawford, Kristin Crawford, Mary Crawford, and Sabrina Robinson. Each were at the residence when the incident occurred.

According to Trevor, he did not see or hear anything with the incident. Trevor directed me to Mike as he was an adult who was present at the home during the incident. SA Butterworth asked Mike what he saw or heard during the incident. Mike said he heard the sirens and when he looked out there were police everywhere. Mike asked someone (described as a Black male) if they needed to leave and was told that would be a good idea. Mike woke everyone up to leave, however, by the time everyone was up and ready to leave it was too late and they were told to stay inside. Mike said he saw the officers scramble after hearing gunshots and the officers took cover. Mike and others said they did a good job controlling things.

SA Butterworth spoke with Charles Crawford who explained that he had observed Greene County SWAT arrived and started using tear gas. After the use of gas, Charles said he watched as the fire started. Charles said they were all asleep during the initial start of the incident and did not see or hear it. Charles had said he was recording on his phone, and had talked to a BCI Agent from the Cyber Crimes Unit. SA Butterworth asked if there was anything else they saw or heard and they



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did not. When asked who lived at the residence, Mark described WHITE as acting strange as he would walk around at night, with a machete in his hands. Mark said he had talked to him about being close to the cars as they have a camera and record. Charles said he also spoke with WHITE about being close to the cars or messing with them. Kristin Crawford was with Charles and Mark when speaking with SA Butterworth and she indicated that she saw WHITE carrying large sticks using them as a sword at times when she would get home from work.

SA Butterworth also spoke to Mary Crawford as well who said that WHITE would come by their vehicles and just stop and stare. Mary said she almost called the police on one occasion when WHITE was by their vehicles and staring at those sleeping on the porch of the trailer.

SA Butterworth was also directed to speak with Sabrina Robinson, who had been staying at the residence during the incident. Sabrina said she heard some noise, maybe the flash bangs, and laid down on the floor. She did not hear or see anything else during the incident that she could provide details on.

1127 Ashwood Drive

SA Butterworth spoke with Shane and Shirley Bexfield at this residence in regards to anything they may have heard or seen during the incident. Shane was not present at the time of the incident, but was down the road on the phone with his elderly mother, Shirley. Shirley was at the residence during the incident, however, she stayed at the rear of the trailer and did not come out to see what happened. Shane did state that there was an APC or some sort of protection vehicle in front of the trailer during the incident. When speaking to Shirley, she also said she had not seen or heard anything during the incident. SA Butterworth also asked Shirley if they knew the people that lived across the street and she replied no. Shirley said she has not seen anyone. Shane commented that a couple of days ago he did see him (WHITE) with a machete but nothing else was observed during that time.

1137 Ashwood Drive

SA Butterworth stopped at this residence and spoke with Benetta Myers and Luis Milanes. Benetta said Luis had been at home but she was at work. Luis was texting with her and Luis does not recall things very well. Benetta said Luis had texted her that someone had been shot. Benetta said "he was sick anyways" and SA Butterworth asked her to explain how he was sick, referring to WHITE. Benetta explained that about 2 years ago WHITE helped her with a bed for her grandson putting it in the car. Two months ago, she saw WHITE walking down the street with no shoes and no shirt on talking to himself. She said WHITE would appear randomly and would talk



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into the air, waving his hands around. Benetta said he appeared "lost." Benetta said her son has been friends with WHITE and the other boys around the neighborhood. Benetta explained that people would leave food and pop on the porch but he wouldn't get it. She also heard the kids tried to have an intervention with him a couple days ago.

Luis said he was home during the time of the incident but didn't recall anything. Benetta did say that Luis messaged her that he had heard shooting, a lot of shooting, more than 20, 40 shots. Benetta saw the smoke as she approached back home from work. Luis was asked if he had observed anything or only heard, and he said he had only heard.

The interviews conducted were recorded. A copy of the recordings are attached to this investigative report.

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 3

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 4

Included as a separate file.