



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



2024-1015  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 100 Block 8th Street, N.E. New  
Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

**Investigative Activity:** Information Provided/Obtained, Interview with Witness

**Involves:** Zahary Eugene Law (W)

**Date of Activity:** 04/03/2024

**Activity Location:** [REDACTED]

**Author:** SA Charles H. Snyder, #90

**Narrative:**

**Background:**

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 2221 hours, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was dispatched through Who’s Responding notification system to an officer-involved critical incident at 834 East High Street and Tell Avenue SE, in New Philadelphia, (Tuscarawas County) Ohio. Personnel from the Tuscarawas County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO) were indicated as involved. Initial reporting indicated at least one citizen and one law enforcement officer were injured and en route to hospital(s) for treatment. BCI Special Agent Charlie Snyder (Snyder) was dispatched to assist the on-call team at 2224 hours.

**Action Taken:**

On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at approximately 1355 hours, Snyder met with and conducted an audible recorded, in-person interview with possible witness Zachary Eugene Law (Law), at the Law residence. Law provided his identification and contact information and agreed to participate in this interview. Law confirmed witnessing events that occurred on March 31, 2024, in his neighborhood and relative to this matter.

Law indicated on March 31, 2024, he was in the second story of his residence, playing computer games, when he heard what he thought was loud screaming followed by a loud “boom”. Law believed that the noise was from a neighbor who may have been shot or had been defending themselves from a burglar.

Law ran downstairs and outside his residence and observed several people running towards the house where a wreck had occurred. Law realized at this time, “... a truck went through the house...”. He got about two steps off his front porch when Law heard people screaming that the subject was running.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Law advised that he and neighbor [REDACTED] and a couple of other neighbors, began following the subject. Law indicated he ran through his backyard as did Austin, where they then cornered the subject in the alley behind their residences. Law indicated they kept their distance from the subject initially, because of concerns he may have been armed. Law indicated the pursuers were attempting to calm the subject down, who appeared very nervous and out of breath.

Law described the subject as dressed in a hoodie type jacket and sweat or jogger type pants. Law advised he had not seen the subject in the crashed vehicle and first observed him in the alley.

Law advised returning to his residence to get his cellular telephone and going back out his front door. He then heard the TCSO coming down Ray Avenue. Law then walked out onto the curb in front of Austin's house and advised the responding TCSO deputy where the subject was at.

The TCSO deputy then pulled up and blocked the alley when the subject ran in front of the TCSO vehicle and then jumped into the passenger side. The TCSO deputy then exited his vehicle with his weapon drawn and began ordering the subject, "... Get out of the car now!". Law then added that when the subject ran across the front headlights of the TCSO vehicle headlights, the deputy likely believed the subject would continue running down the alley. The deputy exited his vehicle as the subject got into the right front passenger seat of the deputy's vehicle.

Law advised watching many police-type videos and being aware of what was going to happen next. Law indicated telling everyone to get cover and back up and that the deputy was going to shoot the subject.

The deputy reportedly gave the subject five or six commands to get out of his vehicle.

Law indicated he observed the reverse lights of the vehicle "tic", he knew the subject put the TCSO vehicle in "drive" and this was when the deputy began shooting through the car. Law was uncertain, but he believed the TCSO deputy was outside the vehicle's right side by the front fender or passenger side door. As soon as the vehicle was placed into "drive", the deputy shot possibly three or four times. According to Law, the subject then drove off, down (south bound) 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE, to East High Avenue, where he turned to the right (west).

Law indicated he was not able to see what had occurred inside the TCSO vehicle, due in part because of the dark tinted window coverings. Law confirmed that he did hear the deputy issuing multiple verbal commands to the subject but heard no response from the subject.

Law indicated his mother [REDACTED] advised that the TCSO deputy was lying in the middle of the road (8<sup>th</sup> Street). Law indicated he then went to aid the deputy and learned that he had a finger that had been shot off. Law then yelled for neighbors to get something to bandage the deputy's injured hand and he ran to his residence to get something to bandage it. People were then provided aid to the deputy.

When other law enforcement officers arrived at the scene, the deputy advised the officers that the subject had taken his vehicle following the confrontation.

Law advised at that time, they did not know if the deputy had additional gunshot wounds or injuries. The deputy was also complaining of pain in his leg.

The subject and his vehicle are not known by Law to have been seen in this area previously.

Law advised that his mother, [REDACTED], was also at home when the incident occurred, but was currently at work.

At approximately 1420 hours, the Law interview was concluded.

Note: This report summarizes information deemed by the author of the most relevance to the investigation and does not 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 the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-04-03 – Zachary E. Law – Interview 240403\_0327