



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: Interview with Witness
Involves: Jonathan M Penn (W)
Date of Activity: 10/01/2023
Activity Location: – 415 Gregg Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160, Fayette
County
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On October 1, 2023, the Washington Court House Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving a use of force incident with a taser. The involved subject, Timothy West (West), was the passenger in a vehicle, who fled on foot from a traffic stop. During the foot pursuit, West ran onto a concrete patio, then turned and ran toward the officer, and the officer deployed his taser. West became unresponsive and was ultimately pronounced deceased.

The driver of the vehicle involved in the traffic stop was identified as Jonathan Penn (Penn). Penn was initially interviewed by Washington Court House officers and released from the scene. Penn later returned to the location of the incident, at 415 Gregg Street, Washington Court House, Ohio, while agents were on scene. Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Steven Seitzman, spoke to Penn at this location. The interview began at approximately 2152 hours.

Penn stated that he has only known Timothy West for a couple weeks. He said that he met West through a mutual friend of his from high school, Ashley (unknown last name). On October 1, 2023, around noon, Penn received a message via Facebook from West asking if Penn could give him a ride to Bloomingburg for \$20 gas. Penn said that he didn't see the message at that time, but later around 1800 hours, he ran into West while he was at Walmart, and Penn agreed to give West a ride.

Penn stated that he was driving on North Street near Gregg Street when a police officer initiated a traffic stop behind them. West was a passenger in the vehicle at this time. Penn stated that West told him to get ready to run and Penn said he wasn't going to. Penn turned onto Gregg Street and stopped his vehicle. Penn described that West jumped out of the car, took off running, and the police officer took off after him. Penn said that everything on West's lap

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scattered when he got up to run.

Penn remained in the vehicle and waited until an officer came to talk to him. Penn stated that he could not hear or see what happened, but recognized that a life squad responded approximately 15 minutes after the traffic stop, and he figured something had happened. Officers searched the vehicle and collected West's property from the car. Penn provided a written statement to officers (see attachment #01).

After Penn was released from the scene, he said he contacted Ashley to get West's mom's information. Penn said that he sent a Facebook message to Lori Defisher, believed to be West's mother. Penn also said that he received a message from a mutual friend, Tabitha Everhart, who called and told him that West was deceased.

Penn said that the night before around 0230 hours, he brought West a gas can at a nearby Frisch's. Penn also said that he has driven West around on at least one prior occasion. When he drove him, Penn said that he took West to several houses and a restaurant, where West picked up money from different individuals. Agents requested copies of Penn's Facebook communication with West, but he claimed his phone was not working and that he would send the communication on a later date.

The interview concluded at 2204 hours. A copy of the audio recorded interview is attached (attachment #02).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-10-01 Jonathan Penn Written Statement

Attachment # 02: 2023-10-01 Jonathan Penn Audio Interview

Exhibit 1



CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

(740) 636-2370

Additional Address
891 Potomac

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

CASE # _____

NAME: Jonathan Penn DATE: 10-1-23 TIME: 18:44

ADDRESS: 912 Falls Road Balabridge OH 45612

DOB: 05-12-1989 SSN: _____ PHONE: _____

Picked him up at Walmart after he called for a ride to Blomington, after picking him up we got pulled over he told me to keep going when I said no he jumped out the car dumping his bags as he ran off

WITNESS SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 10-1-23
OFFICERS SIGNATURE: [Signature] PAGE 1 OF 1

Exhibit 2

Included as a separate file.