



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



2023-2306

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Alliance, OH 44601, Stark County

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview – [REDACTED]
Activity Date: September 3, 2023
Activity Location: Aultman Alliance Community Hospital, 200 E. State Street,
Alliance, Ohio 44601
Authoring Agent: SA Nick Valente #139

Narrative:

On September 3, 2023, at 1704 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) responded to Aultman Alliance Community Hospital and interviewed witness [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] regarding the September 3, 2023, officer-involved shooting. [REDACTED] was accompanied by her sister Nina Kelly (Kelly) at the time of the interview. The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report and the video recording was saved as Reference Item A.

Note that SA Valente did not direct the video camera at [REDACTED] during the interview as she was receiving medical care and her medical gown left her partially exposed at times. This report only summarizes the information the author deemed most relevant to the investigation. For a full accounting of what was said refer the audio/video recordings of the interview.

Prior to speaking with [REDACTED] Kelly advised SA Valente that [REDACTED] was developmentally disabled and functioned at “about the level and eleven-year-old.”

SA Valente introduced himself to [REDACTED] and explained the reason for his presence. SA Valente asked [REDACTED] if she would consent to BCI agents entering her home to collect evidence and process the scene. [REDACTED] understood the request and voluntarily provided consent. SA Valente then completed a “Consent to Search” form documenting the same. SA Valente read the form aloud to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] indicated she understood and again consented to BCI agents conducting a search of her home and collecting any potential evidence. [REDACTED] did not wish to sign the form and asked her sister to sign on her behalf. Kelly then signed the form and indicated in writing she was doing so on behalf of her sister.

SA Valente asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened earlier today. [REDACTED] stated “he took a butcher knife and was gonna kill me” and began to cry.

[REDACTED] referred to George Appleby (Appleby) as Joe. When asked how she knew Joe and what their relationship was [REDACTED] stated he was a friend and she had known him for a couple of years. [REDACTED] s sister Kelly then provided SA Valente with additional details regarding the relationship between her sister and Appleby. Kelly stated that Appleby had a history of violently

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physically assaulting her sister. Kelly described her sister as protecting Appleby and lying about injuries she sustained from him in previous assaults.

When asked what happened on this occasion, [REDACTED] stated "I can't remember" and again began to cry.

SA Valente told [REDACTED] he noticed she had stitches on her neck and asked if those were the result of Appleby holding a knife to her neck. [REDACTED] stated "yes." When asked if she knew why he caused that injury to her, [REDACTED] stated "cause he's crazy."

When asked where she and Appleby were when the police arrived, [REDACTED] stated "in the bedroom and they had to kick the door in." When asked how she got into the bedroom, [REDACTED] stated "I don't remember."

When asked if she was present when the officer shot Appleby, [REDACTED] stated "no, they got me out of there" and seemed to be surprised when her sister told her Appleby was killed by the police. Note that earlier in the interview, [REDACTED] volunteered that she knew Appleby had been killed by police during the incident.

When asked if she heard the shooting, [REDACTED] stated "I'd have to ask my sister. I think I was here. I wasn't there, I don't know. I really don't know." When asked again if she saw or witnessed the shooting, [REDACTED] stated "no." SA Valente told [REDACTED] he was under the belief she was in the apartment when the shooting occurred. [REDACTED] replied "oh no."

SA Valente noted blood present on [REDACTED] s hands, chest, and neck while conducting the interview. SA Valente also noted a small row of 4 fresh stitches present on the left side of [REDACTED] s neck. [REDACTED] allowed SA Valente to photograph her injuries. Those photographs were attached to this report.

When asked, [REDACTED] stated she would voluntarily allow Aultman Hospital to release her medical records related to this event to BCI. [REDACTED] declined to sign the form and again requested her sister do so on her behalf. Kelly then signed the release of medical records waiver on behalf of [REDACTED]. The medical records release waiver was also attached to this report.

[REDACTED] stated she did not have a phone and the best way to contact her was through her sister, Kelly. [REDACTED] provided SA Valente with Kelly's cell phone number ([REDACTED]).

Throughout the interview [REDACTED] seemed distraught, annoyed, and mostly focused on leaving the hospital.

Reference Item:

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1. A – Video Recorded Interview of [REDACTED]

Attachments:

1. 2023-09-03: Consent to Search Residence - [REDACTED], Alliance, Ohio
2. 2023-09-03: Audio - Interview of [REDACTED]
3. Collection of three photographs showing injuries sustained by [REDACTED]

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CONSENT TO SEARCH



Date & Time SUNDAY SEPT. 3RD 2023

Location AULTMAN ALLIANCE HOSPITAL

I [REDACTED], having been informed of the constitutional right not to have a search made of the premises, property, or items hereinafter mentioned without a search warrant (and of my right to refuse to consent to such a search), hereby authorize

BCI SPECIAL AGENTS AND ANY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT, CRIME SCENE TECHNICIANS, OR ANY OTHER RELATED PERSONNEL

- to conduct a complete search of my
 - premises, and all curtilage
 - any vehicles
 - personal property, to wit: _____
 - computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device, (including data acquisition, copying, and analysis), to wit: _____

located at 842 E. LINDEN, ALLIANCE, OHIO 44601

These above-named officers/agents are authorized by me to take from my premises, curtilage, vehicles, property, computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device (as specified above) any letters, papers, materials, data, or other property which they desire. I state that I am a person who is authorized to give consent for the search of the above mentioned property.

This written permission is being given by me to the above-named officers/agents voluntarily, of my own free will, without threats or promises of any kind, I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol that prevent me from understand this document, and I understand this document and the English language.

Nina Kelly NINA KELLY 3 Sept: 2023
Signature on behalf [REDACTED] 5/16/23

Printed Name _____





