



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



2023-1614
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 428 Foster Ave, Cambridge (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Ptl. Jarod Eubanks (W)
Date of Activity: 12/04/2023
Activity Location: Cambridge Police Department – Business – 814 Wheeling Ave,
 Cambridge, OH 43725
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On December 4, 2023 at approximately 1005 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) conducted an interview with Cambridge Police Department (CPD) Patrolman Jarod Eubanks (Ptl. Eubanks), regarding an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred at 428 Foster Avenue in Cambridge, OH, on June 15, 2023. The interview took place at the CPD station located at 814 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, OH. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information known or observed by Ptl. Eubanks as a witness to the OICI.

Prior to conducting the interview, SA Douglass advised Ptl. Eubanks he was being interviewed as a witness to the OICI, and his statement was voluntary. Ptl. Eubanks acknowledged and agreed to answer questions regarding the OICI. Ptl. Eubanks' legal counsel from the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Jess Franken, was also present during the interview.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Ptl. Eubanks obtained his peace officer certification from Zane State College in 2013. Prior to his employment with CPD, Ptl. Eubanks had prior law enforcement experience with Byesville Police Department and Newcomerstown Police Department. Ptl. Eubanks' badge number is 70. Ptl. Eubanks is currently assigned cruiser #K9-1 and his K9 partner is Breez. Ptl. Eubanks' current immediate supervisor is Sergeant Cody Baker (Sgt. Baker), and his commanding officer on the date of the OICI was [REDACTED] Ptl. Eubanks is currently assigned to first shift from 0700 hours to 0500 hours, from Wednesday to Saturday. Ptl. Gerdau has been on the CPD SWAT team for almost eight years.

On the date of the incident, firearms equipped by Ptl. Gerdau were a Sig Sauer MPX rifle and

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a Glock 17 pistol. Ptl. Eubanks was also equipped with "less lethal" including a Taser and his K9 partner. Ptl. Eubanks reported his cruiser dashboard camera was operable, as well as his body-worn camera (BWC) was functioning and recording. Ptl. Eubanks was wearing his standard patrol uniform.

Ptl. Eubanks explained on the date of June 15, 2023, he was working his normal assigned shift in his regularly assigned cruiser with his K9 partner Breez. Ptl. Eubanks was advised via radio of a possible home invasion involving a female victim and her child who may have been assaulted. Ptl. Eubanks recalled [REDACTED] was the first responding officer to make contact with the victim. The female victim identified the individual who assaulted her as Taurean Brown (Brown). Ptl. Eubanks stated he had been involved in multiple previous law enforcement encounters with Brown. CPD officers were advised Brown had fled the victim's location on a bicycle. Ptl. Eubanks confirmed the victim had visible injuries from the assault, and there was broken glass inside the victim's house.

Ptl. Eubanks explained he and other CPD responders separately conducted a search of the area to attempt to locate Brown before going to Brown's mother's house at 428 Foster Avenue. Upon arrival at the residence on Foster Avenue, Ptl. Eubanks observed a bicycle behind the house and believed Brown to possibly be inside. The first CPD officers on scene were Ptl. Eubanks, Sgt. Baker, and Patrolman Greg Johnson (Ptl. Johnson). Ptl. Eubanks remained at the rear of the residence while other CPD officers at the front door attempted to make contact with Brown.

Ptl. Eubanks recalled Brown's mother, Yvette Brown (Yvette), eventually arriving on scene. As CPD was unable to make contact with Brown inside the residence, CPD allowed Yvette to enter the structure to attempt to locate Brown. Deputies from the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) began to arrive, and Ptl. Eubanks moved from the rear of the residence to the front. CPD officers in the front of the residence used vehicles parked on the street as cover. Ptl. Eubanks explained Sgt. Baker was in communication with Yvette, who eventually exited the residence via the front door. Ptl. Eubanks was positioned near the front of a gold Chevy Tahoe SUV parked on the street in front of the residence.

Ptl. Eubanks recalled Yvette had confirmed with CPD officers on scene that Brown was inside the residence. Yvette had also advised Brown had access to weapons inside the house. Ptl. Eubanks could hear Brown speaking to Yvette from inside the residence, but he could not decipher what Brown was saying. Yvette attempted to convince Brown to exit the home, but he refused. Ptl. Eubanks explained the encounter with Brown became a "barricade situation" at that point, and CPD SWAT officers were ordered to the scene.

Ptl. Eubanks and other CPD officers on scene remained on standby until SWAT team members arrived. CPD Captain Dave Peoples (Cpt. Peoples) brought an armored vehicle to the incident location. Ptl. Eubanks received his SWAT equipment from Lieutenant Tim Ferguson (Lt. Ferguson), who arrived on scene from the CPD police station. Ptl. Eubanks equipped his SWAT gear to prepare for possible entry into the residence. Ptl. Eubanks recalled at least two hours had passed since CPD had initially arrived at Foster Avenue. Ptl. Eubanks stated CPD had also received reports that Brown was live streaming a video on Facebook Live, and was allegedly "saying his goodbyes" to people.

Ptl. Eubanks recalled hearing items being thrown out of an upstairs window from the rear side

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of the residence. After he had equipped his SWAT gear and was returned to his cover point behind the gold Chevy Tahoe, Ptl. Eubanks heard a single gunshot. Ptl. Eubanks described the shot as muffled, and believed it may have come from inside the rear part of the residence. CPD officers called out "shots fired" and Ptl. Eubanks proceeded towards cover at the gold Chevy Tahoe. As he's approaching the Tahoe, Ptl. Eubanks heard multiple gunshots coming from an upstairs window of the house. Ptl. Eubanks said the shots were fired in quick succession and sounded to be coming from a semi-automatic weapon. Ptl. Eubanks observed a round strike the roadway near where Sgt. Baker and SWAT medic Steve Helton were positioned close to a patrol vehicle facing the residence. Ptl. Eubanks was unsure how many gunshots he had heard. "It could have been five, it could have been ten, I don't know," Ptl. Eubanks stated.

Ptl. Eubanks observed ■■■■■ Sgt. Baker, Sergeant Zach Wolfe (Sgt. Wolfe), and Patrolman DJ Gombeda (Ptl. Gombeda) were all in cover near the gold Chevy Tahoe when Ptl. Eubanks heard and saw the initial gunshots. Ptl. Eubanks retreated to cover behind another vehicle, and as he did so witnessed the rear windshield of the gold Chevy Tahoe shatter and heard several additional gunshots. Ptl. Eubanks believed Brown was aiming directly at the CPD officers behind the gold Tahoe. Ptl. Eubanks then observed ■■■■■ returned directive fire with his rifle to the upstairs window where the threat appeared to be coming from inside the residence. Ptl. Eubanks was unsure exactly how many rounds ■■■■■ fired. Ptl. Eubanks recalled ■■■■■ ordered other CPD officers with him near the gold Chevy Tahoe to retreat while he provided them cover. Ptl. Eubanks then provided cover to ■■■■■ so he could retreat as well.

CPD officers then conducted an assessment to ensure nobody was injured. CPD officer then held the scene while they waited for GCSO to bring an armored vehicle and negotiators to the scene. Ptl. Eubanks and other CPD SWAT members entered the GCSO armored vehicle and took position closer to the residence. CPD was still getting reports of Brown making suicidal comments on social media and to family members. CPD officers on scene continued to standby until the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Special Response Team (SRT) arrived with an armored vehicle to assist. CPD attempted to contact Brown via cell phone and with their public address (PA) system, but Brown was unresponsive.

Ptl. Eubanks was unsure about exact times but recalled by this time during the incident it had become dark outside. OSP SRT and CPD devised a plan to insert "gas" canisters into the residence in an attempt to extract Brown from the residence. Brown did not respond to police gas being released inside the home. Ptl. Eubanks said OSP SRT then inserted "throwbots", which he described as mobile robotic cameras, into the home to locate Brown. OSP SRT also flew aerial drones into the residence. CPD officers on scene were notified by OSP SRT that Brown was "down" on the upper level inside the structure.

Ptl. Eubanks and other CPD SWAT officers entered the residence to secure and clear it. Ptl. Eubanks entered the home through the front door. Ptl. Eubanks and other CPD officers cleared the first floor, then proceeded to the second floor. Ptl. Eubanks observed multiple firearms on the floor in the upstairs hallway. Ptl. Eubanks then stated he could see Brown laying on the ground upstairs, with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Ptl. Eubanks also recalled seeing at least one gun near Brown's body. As they continued to secure the upper level, Ptl. Eubanks saw multiple cartridge casings from fired gunshot rounds. Ptl. Eubanks remembered

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seeing casings in the upstairs hallway and in the bathroom area. Ptl. Eubanks recalled there was a window in the second floor bathroom which he believed Brown may have been shooting from during the incident. Ptl. Eubanks and other CPD officers finished clearing the second floor, then exited the residence and secured the incident scene.

Ptl. Eubanks explained CPD SWAT does not use body-worn cameras when they operate. When Ptl. Eubanks switched from his patrol vest to his SWAT vest, his BWC was left in his cruiser attached to his patrol vest. Ptl. Eubanks switched to his SWAT vest before any gunshots occurred. Therefore, his BWC would not have captured any of the shooting incident.

Ptl. Eubanks did not believe ■■■■■ had any other reasonable choice than to return fire after being shot at by Brown. "I believe without a doubt that he was trying to kill one of us," Ptl. Eubanks stated. Ptl. Eubanks described how the gunshots fired at them came dangerously close to striking ■■■■■ or one of the nearby CPD responders.

Interview concluded at approximately 1100 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-12-04 Cambridge PD Ptl. Jarod Eubanks Interview Audio