



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



2024-2727

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1370 Belmont Avenue,
Youngstown, Ohio 44504, Mahoning County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Date of Activity: 09/10/2024
Activity Location: Dollar General – 1370 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44504
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Youngstown Police Department (YPD) Detective Sergeant Fulmer and Detective Latch conducted interviews with civilian witnesses to the officer involved critical incident which occurred at the Dollar General store, which is located at 1370 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interviews. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions nor is it a word for word translation of either the questions or answers. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

The interviews were recorded by YPD Detective Sergeant Fulmer and Detective Latch, and will be listed individually with the AXON body worn camera video number listed as well as the start time of each individual recording and the length of each individual recording also being documented.

AXON BODY 4 D01A80155 – Interview Physician's Assistant (PA) Alexandra McClurg

This recording began at 18:24:25 hours and was 0:05:33 in length. The interview took place at the Mercy Health – St. Elizabeth's Youngstown Hospital, which is located at 1044 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. Initially there was no audio.

At approximately 18:24:55 hours, the audio was activated.

PA Alexandra McClurg (McClurg) stated that Maureen Stopperich (Stopperich) came into the Emergency Room at the hospital about an hour and fifteen (15) minutes prior to the officer involved critical incident (which occurred at the Dollar General store a short distance from the

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hospital). Stopperich was complaining about [REDACTED].

As the exam started, the boyfriend, Shane Linderman (Linderman) was very "jittery" and made a statement that PA McClurg thought was odd. Linderman asked: "Are you going to get the microchip out of her eye?" (18:25:38 mark of the recording). PA McClurg asked Linderman: "Do you mean glass?", to which Linderman replied: "You need to do a CAT scan of her brain." (18:25:50 mark of the recording).

PA McClurg advised Linderman that the hospital do not do CAT scans of the brain for a piece of glass in the eye. PA McClurg then began treatment of Stopperich. During the time that treatment was being given to Stopperich, Stopperich had to keep calming down Linderman.

Once the treatment was complete, Stopperich was given a prescription [REDACTED] but, when told that Hospital Registration was coming in to get her information, Stopperich and Linderman left the hospital without ever registering.

Towards the end of the interview, PA McClurg stated: "She was trying to calm him down most of the visit." (18:29:30 mark of the recording).

The interview then concluded.

AXON BODY 4 D01A80155 – Interviews of witnesses Dixon and Rushton

This recording began at 17:38:41 hours and was 0:06:24 in length. The interview took place near the Dollar General store at the incident location. Initially there was no audio.

At approximately 17:39:11 hours, the audio was activated.

Detective Latch began the interview by asking the individual to identify himself. The subject stated his name was Joseph Dixon (Dixon) and his date of birth was October 2, 2001. Dixon continued and said his address was 737 Fairmont Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, and his phone number was [REDACTED].

Dixon was then asked to describe the events leading up to the officer involved critical incident. Dixon stated that he was standing in line while there were multiple employees working. He noticed a white female (later identified as Maureen Stopperich) and a male (later identified as Shane Linderman) picking up some items. Dixon then observed Linderman walk down an aisle and grab an item before walking back towards Stopperich.

Dixon then stated: "She ... trying to back up from him and they get to fighting and all we seen was blood." (17:41:06 mark of the recording)

Dixon was asked who had the knife and he replied "Him". (17:41:22 mark of the recording)

Dixon was then asked if he saw Linderman slice Stopperich with the knife. Dixon stated: " ... I guess so, ya." (17:41:40 mark of the recording)

At approximately 17:42:45 hours, another subject came to the interview location. The subject is asked for his information, and he stated that his name was Zion Rushton (Rushton) and that

his date of birth was July 17, 2002. He gave his phone number as [REDACTED] and stated that he lived at 380 Fairgreen Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. Rushton also indicated that he was an employee of the Dollar General Store where the incident occurred and was working at the time of the incident.

Rushton was asked if Rushton had seen Linderman with the knife in his hand. Rushton replied: "Ya. The knife was already on her neck when I got there." (17:43:33 mark of the recording)

Rushton then added: "When I first got to him, he had the knife on her neck." (17:43:55 mark of the recording)

Rushton was then asked to demonstrate how Linderman was holding the knife to the neck of Stopperich. Rushton then demonstrated on Dixon who was standing nearby.



Rushton demonstrating how Linderman was holding the knife to the throat/neck of Stopperich

Rushton then said that Linderman was on top of Stopperich. Rushton was asked by Detectives to demonstrate how Linderman was on Stopperich. Rushton then knelt down and demonstrated the positioning of Linderman.



Rushton was asked if Stopperich was on her back. Rushton replied: "Ya." (17:44:13 mark of the recording)

Rushton was then asked about how Linderman was cutting Stopperich. Rushton stated : "He cut her neck. Like pulling it out... He sliced it one time and then he started pulling it out." (17:44:19 mark of the recording)

Rushton continued with his statement and after a few moments said that the YPD Officers arrived a short time later.

The interview was the concluded.

AXON BODY 4 D01A80155 – Interview witness Tiffany Mayer

This recording began at 17:49:25 hours and was 0:06:44 in length. The interview took place near the Dollar General store at the incident location. Initially there was no audio.

At approximately 17:49:43 hours, the audio was activated.

Detective Latch began the interview by asking the individual to identify herself. The subject stated her name was Tiffany Mayer (Mayer) and that her date of birth in September 22, 1971. Mayer continued and said her address was 784 Oxford Street, Youngstown, Ohio, and her phone number was [REDACTED]. She also stated that she was an employee of the store and was one of the 911 callers reference to this incident.

Mayer stated that a female (later identified as Maureen Stopperich) and a male (later identified

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as Shane Linderman) were shopping together. Mayer noticed something odd about Linderman and said: "You could tell from the beginning the guy was on something." (17:51:22 mark of the recording)

She continued and said that she was working in the aisle next to the aisle where Linderman grabbed the knife in the kitchenware aisle.

Mayer continued and stated: "At the end of the aisle he was sitting on her. He would not let her up and he had a knife in his hand." (17:52:11 mark of the recorded interview)

Mayer then said: "And he was stabbing her and hitting her and hurting her." (17:52:29 mark of the interview)

At this time Mayer was on the phone with the 911 dispatcher. Eventually the store manager told her to leave the store.

Mayer was then asked how Linderman was holding Stopperich. The Detectives then demonstrated for Mayer and she said yes, that is how he was holding her.



Mayer continued and stated that she was still on the phone with the 911 operator when the YPD Officers arrived. The Officers then went into the store, and she heard three shots.

The interview was then concluded.

AXON BODY 4 D01A80155 – Interview Witness Cynthia Saunders

This recording began at 17:45:07 hours and was 0:04:11 in length. The interview took place near the Dollar General store at the incident location. Initially there was no audio.

At approximately 17:45:35 hours, the audio was activated.

Detective Latch began the interview by asking the individual to identify herself. The subject stated her name was Cynthia Saunders (Saunders) and her date of birth was September 1, 1971. Saunders continued and said her address was 1300 MLK Boulevard, Youngstown, Ohio, and her phone number was [REDACTED].

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Saunders stated that she was in the Dollar General shopping when she observed a female (later identified as Maureen Stopperich) and a male (later identified as Shane Linderman) enter the store together. She also noticed that the female appeared "antsy".

She said Linderman stated that he wanted something and Stopperich replied that she did not want to spend the money. Linderman then grabbed Stopperich by the shirt. (17:46:58 mark of the recording)

About this time, Saunders was exiting the store.

Saunders then stated: "I started hearing all this screaming." (17:48:11 mark of the recording)

Saunders was then asked if she saw Linderman with the knife. Saunders replied that she did not as she was not in the store when the incident happened.

The interview was then concluded.

Attachments:

No attachments.

References:

C – Stored in Evidence.com – Youngstown PD BWC Videos