



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



2023-2057

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 6900 Block of S. High St, Columbus

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness; Next of Kin Notification

Involves: Cody, Steven and April Bryson

Activity Date: 8/7/2023

Activity Location: 341 Rocky Springs Dr., Blacklick, OH

Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Monday, August 07, 2023 at 2200 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins), SA Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and CPD Sgt. Terry McConnell (Sgt. McConnell) spoke with Cody Bryson, Steven Bryson and April Bryson, relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Saturday, August 5, 2023. The interview took place at the residence of Cody Bryson. Also present during the interview was Cody's wife. The purpose of the interaction was to conduct a next of kin notification related to the death of Zachary Bryson. At the time of the interview it was unknown if Cody (brother of Zachary), Steven (Father of Zachary) or April (Mother of Zachary) were aware of Zachary's death.

When agents arrived they first spoke with Cody and his wife. It was apparent Cody was already aware of Zachary's death. Cody indicated his parents, Steven and April, had a condominium in the area and were in fact in Ohio on that evening.

SA Collins learned the following about Zachary from a combination of Cody, Steven and April. Zachary, while originally from North Carolina, had been living in Los Angeles, California, for approximately four (4) years. It was within the week of August 1st, Zachary had flown to Ohio, from California, in order to seek treatment for his drug addiction and mental health. SA Collins learned Zachary had been struggling with both ailments for several years and while his move to California helped, a recent event triggered a decline in Zachary, which caused him to need professional treatment. Zachary arrived in Ohio on August 2, 2023, and was housed in a mental health facility in Grove City, OH (Ohio Addiction Recovery Center-Stringtown Road area). SA Collins was told Zachary had attempted to commit suicide just a week prior (July 28, 2023), by taking Tylenol while he was in Los Angeles, California. Cody said Zachary was placed in a facility for 48 hours and they were eventually permitted to transition Zachary to Ohio.

Cody stated Zachary called on Friday (8/4/23) afternoon around 1600 hours. Cody described Zachary as "manic" and said he wanted to leave. Cody said he thought they had talked him into staying. Cody indicated they had talked to Zachary again and Cody said, "... Then we talked to him. We kinda thought we talked him off the ledge a little. But then they were walking the



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



2023-2057

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 6900 Block of S. High St, Columbus

perimeter and he just took off." When asked about the time, Cody believed it was around 1900 hours. Cody said he believed Ohio Addiction Recovery had called police, because they were a "lock-down" facility. Cody said he believed April had called the police a couple hours later as well.

SA Collins asked Cody what type of struggles Zachary was having. Cody stated it was more so related to his mental health but he had previously been dealing with drug addiction.

Steven and April, who were staying nearby, arrived to Cody's home. They were briefed on CPD and BCI's involvement. April shared her concern with having contacted the police (Grove City) and made them aware of Zachary's status and having left the facility. She was asking, specifically, if that information was shared. It was explained to her, agents were unaware if that were the case. It was explained to April contacts were made to multiple law enforcement agencies in the area but Grove City was not one of them, given the location and information known at the time. April made a comment about the incident being a confirmation of Zachary's suicidal tendency.

The family was offered to view the body camera video. Steven and April declined. Cody and his wife wished to see it and were permitted to do so. While viewing the video, Cody mentioned seeing Zachary's arms were cut and indicated he saw Zachary doing that particular motion, in the video. SA Collins asked Cody about the last time they had seen Zachary. Cody said it was on Wednesday. SA Collins asked if Zachary had any marks on his arm/s similar to what was seen in the video and he stated no.

The interview concluded at approximately 2258 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.