



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



2022-2121
Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6463 Tara Brooke Court,
Hamilton, OH 45011 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer James Leisinger (S)
Date of Activity: 10/20/2022
Activity Location: Hamilton Police Department – Business – 331 South Front Street ,
Hamilton, OH 45011, Butler County
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On October 8, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 6463 Tara Brooke Court, Hamilton, Ohio, which resulted in the death of Stephaun Jones. BCI Special Agents (SA) Steve Seitzman, Rick Ward, and Lauren Frazier interviewed Officer James Leisinger (Officer Leisinger) with the City of Hamilton Police Department about his involvement with the OICI.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

The interview with Officer Leisinger (Badge #193) was conducted on October 20, 2022, at 1502 hours at the City of Hamilton Police Department located at 331 South Front Street, Hamilton, Ohio. Attorney Jeffery Grey and City of Hamilton Union Representative James Carpenter were present for the interview. Officer Leisinger was read the Criminal Investigation Notification Form (see attachment #01).

Officer Leisinger has been a police officer at the City of Hamilton Police Department for approximately two years (since December of 2020) and went to the Great Oaks Police Academy.

On October 8, 2022, Officer Leisinger stated that he was wearing a clearly marked City of Hamilton police uniform and driving cruiser #461. Officer Leisinger stated that he heard via police radio there was a crash, which was upgraded to a male with a gun, who was shooting into traffic.

Once Officer Leisinger arrived, he said there was a male shot lying in the middle of Route 4. He heard the subject was headed toward Morris Road in Fairfield Township and that officers were engaging with the subject. He and Officer Bowlin went to the Morris Road address to assist.

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At this time, Officer Leisinger stated that they were given a description of the subject, described as a Black male with dreads and green jacket who was firing a gun. Officer Leisinger and Officer Bowlin began toward Tara Brooke to help establish a perimeter. A resident on Tara Brooke approached them and stated there was an intoxicated male walking down the street, trying to get back to Lindenwald.

Officer Bowlin got into the passenger seat of Officer Leisinger's cruiser to search the neighborhood. Officers observed the subject near 6463 Tara Brooke walking toward them on the sidewalk. Officer Leisinger stated that the subject matched the description of the subject with the gun. Officer Leisinger stopped in the middle of the street and exited his cruiser. Officer Bowlin also exited the cruiser and used a vehicle in a nearby driveway for cover.

Officer Leisinger stated that they identified themselves as police and asked the subject to show his hands several times. The subject was facing officers and began walking backward. Officer Leisinger said that he had his AR-15 rifle in a "low-ready" position and he went to a "high-ready" position when the subject began reaching into his right pocket. The subject pulled out a black gun and Officer Bowlin yelled, "gun, gun, gun!"

Officer Leisinger said that the subject began walking toward the street to line up with him. The subject then pointed the gun directly at him. He stated that he had his cruiser "take-down" lights on and utilized his flashlight on his rifle, so the subject's gun was well illuminated. Officer Leisinger stated he was in fear for his safety and others safety, when he fired one round towards the subject, from approximately 65 feet away. He believed his round struck the subject in the abdominal area. He said that Officer Bowlin fired approximately two shots right after he fired.

Officer Leisinger described that the subject was on the ground and Butler County Deputy Duane Monroe had just arrived on scene. Deputy Monroe secured the gun, which was laying on the ground behind the subject. Officer Leisinger stated that he handcuffed the subject and Deputy Monroe handled all the radio traffic, before Officer Leisinger and Officer Bowlin separated themselves from the scene. Both rifles were initially put in the back of Officer Leisinger's cruiser before being given to their sergeant.

SA Seitzman provided a near scale diagram of the scene for Officer Bowlin to reference. Officer Leisinger stated that his cruiser was moved to allow the fire engine to fit. He marked where his cruiser and the subject were, when the OICI occurred. See attachment #02 for a copy of the diagram.

The interview concluded at 1529 hours. A copy of the audio recording is also attached (see attachment #03).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Criminal Investigation Notification Officer James Leisinger

Attachment # 02: Diagram Officer James Leisinger

Attachment # 03: 2022-10-20 / Interview with Hamilton Police Officer James Leisinger

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Exhibit 1



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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

James Leisinger
Printed Name of Interviewee

10/20/22 3:05
Date / Time

[Signature] 193
Signature of Interviewee

STEVE SEITZMAN
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

Exhibit 2

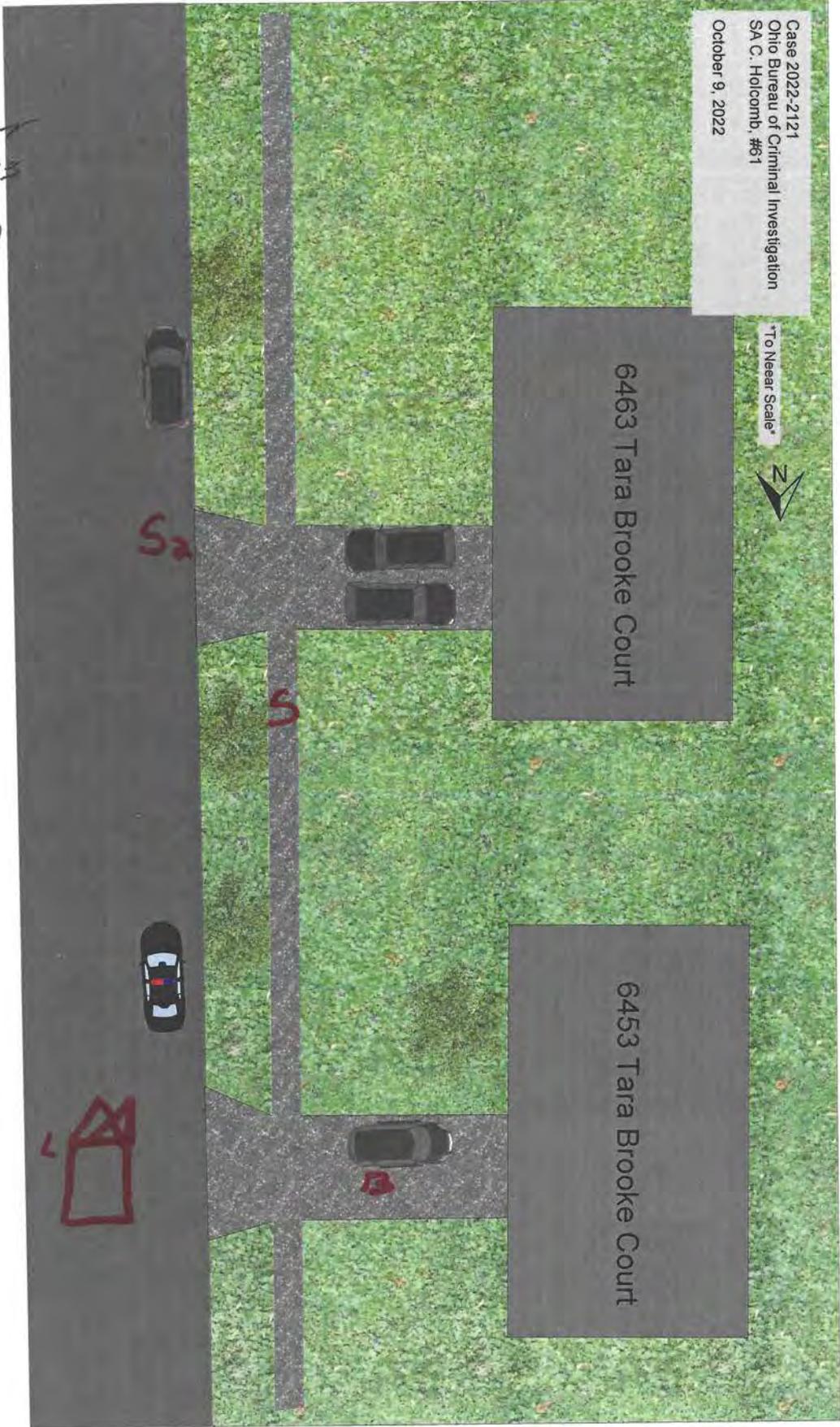
Case 2022-2121
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
SA C. Holcomb, #81
October 9, 2022

To Nearest Scale



6463 Tara Brooke Court

6453 Tara Brooke Court



James Wisinger
JW 10/12/22
10/12/22 3:30

Exhibit 3

Included as a separate file.