



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



2022-0535
Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-71 N. Mile Marker 123, Lewis
Center, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Samuel Rippey (W)
Date of Activity: 03/11/2022
Activity Location: Fraternal Order of Police Lodge – 6800 Schrock Hill Ct, Columbus,
OH 43229, Franklin County
Author: SA John Rodriguez, #62

On March 11, 2022, at approximately 1305 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (Ohio BCI) Special Agent John Rodriguez interviewed Columbus Police Department (CPD) Officer Samuel Rippey (Officer Rippey).

Ohio BCI was asked to investigate an Officer Involved Critical Incident, which involved CPD that had occurred earlier that morning. Ohio BCI was informed CPD officers were involved a shooting which reportedly took place on Interstate 71 North and just north of Gemini and Polaris Parkway.

The purpose of this interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Officer Rippey. The interview with Officer Rippey took place inside the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge located at 6800 Schrock Hill Court, Columbus, Ohio. Attorney Catherine Harshman, attorney hired by the Fraternal Order of Police was for present for this interview.

The interview was audio recorded. A copy of the recording is attached to this report and a copy was saved electronically within the Matrix case file.

The following information was provided by Officer Rippey:

On March 11, 2022, CPD Officer Rippey and CPD Officer Joseph Valiski were at SR 161 when received radio traffic is aired; black male on Interstate 71 was shooting at cars. Radio traffic reported, vehicle operators traveling on Interstate 71 reported their windows had been shot out.

Officers Rippey and Valiski respond to the scene in separate vehicles and while en-route received additional information their were two male subjects involved in the shooting on Interstate 71. After his arrival, Officer Rippey immediately noticed one of the subjects previously reported as male was in fact a female. Both individuals were standing outside of the vehicle and male subject was standing in front of the vehicle and holding some type of firearm. Officer Rippey reported, the vehicle the male subject is standing next to is "wrecked".

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Officers Rippey and Valiski take flanking positions to engage the male subject and begin yelling orders at him. The male subject is not responding to commands. Officer Rippey grabs his shotgun from his cruiser and reported "he racked a round".

Officer Rippey moves up to Officer Valiski's position and bangs on the passenger window for Officer Valiski to open the passenger door to his patrol vehicle. Officer Rippey points the shotgun towards the subject and remained behind cover.

Another Columbus Police Officer eventually taps Officer Rippey's shoulder and advised Officer Rippey that he had a rifle. Officer Rippey moves off his position and moves back momentarily given his position to the Officer with the rifle. Officer Rippey placed his shotgun down on Officer Valiski's patrol car's floor board and removes his handgun (duty firearm) from his holster.

At this point additional officers responded to the scene engaged the male subject and yelled orders to stop. The male subject continued to ignore orders and he runs off northbound on Interstate 71; away from officers. Officer Valiski got into his vehicle and drives towards the male subject to cut off his route to the southbound traffic of Interstate 71. At this point, Officer Rippey heard gunfire and witnessed the male subject go down. Officer Rippey reported; he did not fire his weapon.

Officer Rippey and other officers advance to the male subject's position with weapons pointed at the male subject. Officer Rippey puts on gloves and grabbed the subject's wrist, placing the male subject in custody.

Officer Rippey noticed the subject had been hit with gunfire on his hip and reported the male subject leg may be injured and possibly "broken". Officer Rippey started talking to the male subject asking his name and where he was hit while checking the male subject for injuries. The male subject responded, "suicidal and my name is too long." Officer Rippey reported the male subject comments are "unintelligible" and his comments made no sense.

Officer Rippey rendered aid to the male subject by applying pressure to the gunshot wound on his hip. Officer Rippey, while rendering aid, noticed a semi-automatic weapon laying on the ground approximately seven to eight feet from where the subject came to rest after the shooting had stopped.

Officer Rippey stayed with the male subject and continued to render aid until he was relieved by medics.

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 interview. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Officer Samuel Rippey

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