



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 Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 10/03/2024
Activity Location: Youngstown City Building – 26 South Phelps Street, Youngstown,
OH 44503
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On Thursday, October 3, 2024, at approximately 1000 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) and SA Jack Shea (Shea) interviewed Youngstown Police Department (YPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by Dominic Vitantonio (Vitantonio), attorney from the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association (OPBA). Also present was Union Representative Mike Quinn from the YPD. The interview took place at the Youngstown City Building, which is located at 26 South Phelps Street, Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

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. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited 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 interview began with SA Tingley presenting [REDACTED] with the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form which [REDACTED] read, stated that he understood, and signed.

SA Tingley then asked a number of Preliminary and Demographic Information questions with [REDACTED] responses included in the following tables.

NAME: [REDACTED]	RANK: [REDACTED]
BADGE NUMBER: [REDACTED]	CRUISER/VEHICLE NUMBER: Unknown
RADIO CALL SIGN: [REDACTED]	IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Detective Sergeant Staley
RADIO CHANNEL UTILIZED: YPD Primary	MOBILE DATA TERMINAL: Yes
CRUISER DESCRIPTION: Unmarked	OCCUPANTS OF CRUISER AND SEATING POSITIONS: Sole Occupant
ASSIGNMENT: [REDACTED]	NORMAL SHIFT: [REDACTED]
IN-CAR CAMERA: No	SPOTLIGHT: No
EMERGENCY LIGHTS: Yes	SIREN: Yes
SHIFT DAY OF THE INCIDENT: 0900 - 1700	DUTY STATUS: Active
DAYS OFF: [REDACTED]	PRIOR OVERTIME OR EXTRA DETAILS WITHIN PRECEDING 48 HOURS OF INCIDENT: No
HOURS OF SLEEP PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT: 8	CONSIDER SELF WELL RESTED AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT: Yes
TOTAL LENGTH AS OFFICER: 6 years	LENGTH AT CURRENT AGENCY: [REDACTED]
PHYSICAL ISSUES (TO INCLUDE HEARING AIDS):	CORRECTIVE LENSES:
UNIFORM WORN: Plain Clothes	EQUIPMENT AND LESS-LETHAL OPTIONS CARRIED ON PERSON/BELT/VEST: Firearm, Spare Magazines, Radio, Taser, Handcuffs
BALLISTIC VEST: Yes. Outer Carrier	BODY WORN CAMERA: Yes
OTHER RECORDING DEVICES: No	PARTNER: No
INJURIES: None	EQUIPMENT DAMAGE: None
TRAINING OR AREAS OF SPECIALTY: CIT and FTO	OPOTC CERTIFICATION: Yes
MILITARY EXPERIENCE/TRAINING: [REDACTED]	USE-OF-FORCE TRAINING: Yes. Annual
PRIOR SHOOTING INCIDENTS: No	PRIOR DISCIPLINE OR USE-OF-FORCE COMPLAINTS: No
MEDICATIONS, PRESCRIPTIONS, OR DRUGS THAT MIGHT IMPAIR YOUR DUTIES AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT: No	MEDICATIONS, PRESCRIPTIONS, OR DRUGS THAT MIGHT IMPAIR YOU NOW FOR THE INTERVIEW: No
ALCOHOL IN THE PAST 24 HOURS: No	LAST CONSUMED ALCOHOL PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT: None

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MAKE: Sig Sauer	MODEL: P320
CALIBER/GAUGE: 9MM	SERIAL #: Unknown
TYPE: Semi-Auto	METHOD OF CARRY: Belt Holster
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 21	TOTAL ROUNDS AS CARRIED (INCLUDING CHAMBER): 22
EXTRA MAGAZINES: 2	NUMBER OF ROUNDS IN EXTRA MAGAZINES: 42
DISCHARGED DURING THE INCIDENT: Yes	PRIMARY OR BACKUP WEAPON: Primary
ROUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE INCIDENT: Unsure	NUMBER OF ROUNDS FIRED: 3
RIGHT/LEFT HANDED CARRY: Right	OWNERSHIP OF WEAPON: Personally Owned
LAST QUALIFICATION DATE: Not Sure	TYPE OF HOLSTER (IF ANY): Belt. Level 2

After getting the preliminary and demographic information from [REDACTED] SA Tingley asked [REDACTED] to describe the incident in detail, including the nature of the initial incident that he responded to.

[REDACTED] stated that he was working an overtime detail when he heard radio traffic dispatching units to the Dollar General on Belmont Avenue for two (2) people inside of the store "cutting their throats". [REDACTED] was close to the call location and responded.

[REDACTED] said that YPD [REDACTED] followed him into the parking lot and that [REDACTED] parked near the front entry doors. [REDACTED] contacted two (2) unknown individuals and asked them what was going on. One of the individuals was a female and responded that a male subject was inside and had just killed a female by slitting her throat. [REDACTED] asked where the subjects were inside of the store and the female led [REDACTED] inside and pointed to an area near one of the aisles.

[REDACTED] stated that he walked around a display wall and observed a male subject (later identified as Shane Linderman (Linderman) on top of a female subject (later identified as Maureen Stopperich (Stopperich). Both Stopperich and Linderman were observed to have been covered in blood and both had serious visible injuries to the neck and throat area. At that point, [REDACTED] was unable to determine if Stopperich was alive or dead.

[REDACTED] said he then took a position where both Stopperich and Linderman could be observed, and he began giving commands to Linderman to stop and to get off Stopperich. Linderman ignored the commands and did not move. Linderman then tried to say something, but because of his injuries, he was unable to speak. [REDACTED] continued to give Linderman commands to get off of Stopperich and to show his hands. At that point, Linderman became more agitated.

[REDACTED] stated he then told Linderman "You need to get off of her, or I am going to shoot you in the face." When Linderman did not react, [REDACTED] continued giving commands to Linderman, which Linderman continued to ignore. [REDACTED] then instructed [REDACTED] to holster his weapon and to move in and try to secure Linderman. At that point, Linderman still had one of his hands near Stopperich's throat, but [REDACTED] could not see if Linderman still had a weapon.

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██████████ said that he and ██████████ then began moving forward. Linderman then reacted and began moving about more energetically and going into his pocket. Both ██████████ and ██████████ then stepped back. Linderman then pulled something out of his pocket. Linderman then began "slashing" with the unknown item in his hand (0:16:42 in the progression of the recording). About that time, an unknown store employee advised that Linderman still had a knife and a boxcutter (0:16:58 in the progression of the recording). However, Linderman was still on top of Stopperich. ██████████ then observed Linderman reach into the throat/neck wound on Stopperich to the point that his hand was almost to the wrist inside of her throat/neck area and begin "pulling" (0:17:22 in the progression of the recording).

██████████ stated that he and ██████████ both then moved forward slightly. At that point, Linderman stood up and faced ██████████. Linderman then took a step forward toward the Officers (0:17:56 in the progression of the recording). ██████████ then fired one (1) round (0:18:02 in the progression of the recording) and Linderman fell to the ground. However, ██████████ weapon had a malfunction and ██████████ took a step back to create distance and clear the malfunction. Once the malfunction was cleared, ██████████ turned and fired two (2) more shots at Linderman, who was still moving on the ground. At that point, Linderman quit moving.

██████████ continued and said that he approached Linderman, and with the help of ██████████, handcuffed and secured Linderman, who was still lying on the ground. ██████████ then moved to and checked on Stopperich. He then observed a large knife on the floor in the aisle a short distance from where Stopperich was lying. By this time, ██████████ had notified YPD dispatch that shots had been fired. ██████████ then called for an ambulance.

██████████ stated that he then left the business while other YPD units were arriving and went to get medical supplies out of the medical bag in a cruiser. ██████████ retrieved a large dressing which he took back into the business and placed on Stopperich's injuries. After an undetermined amount of time, ██████████ left the business.

██████████ then concluded his narrative.

SA Tingley then asked ██████████ a number of question in order to clarify a few points.

SA Tingley asked ██████████ if he had viewed any of the body worn camera footage (BWC) of the incident from either his or ██████████ BWC. ██████████ said that he had not.

SA Tingley asked ██████████ what the approximate distance was between Linderman and himself when he fired his weapon. ██████████ stated that there was less than three (3) feet of distance between him and Linderman when he fired his first shot.

SA Tingley asked ██████████ if Linderman was still moving towards him after Linderman fell to the floor after the first shot. ██████████ replied that Linderman was still moving but was not moving directly towards him.

SA Tingley asked ██████████ if, during this time, when Linderman was moving while lying on the ground, he had anything in his hands. ██████████ stated that he did not know.

SA Tingley then asked [REDACTED] if his actions were consistent with his training and experience. [REDACTED] said yes.

SA Tingley finished up by asking [REDACTED] if he had any previous contact with either Linderman or Stopperich. [REDACTED] replied no.

The interview was then concluded.

This interview was audio recorded. The audio recording and the signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form are attached to this report. Please review the attachment and audio recording for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-2727 Interview YPD [REDACTED]

Attachment # 02: 2024-2727 [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Notification Form

References:

No references.



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

10/3/24 1020 hrs
Date / Time

Signature

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)