



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



2024-3258
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1273 Rosedale Drive, Dayton,
OH (Montgomery Co.) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Taylor Coleman Anthony Cotton (S)
Date of Activity: 11/04/2024
Activity Location: Doll, Jansen & Ford – 111 West First Street, Suite 1100, Dayton, OH 45402
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Dayton Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation in investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on the same date on Access Road near Rosedale Drive in the city of Dayton.

On Monday, November 04, 2024 at approximately 1338 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Richard Ward interviewed Dayton Police Officer Keri Urekar (Urekar), who was accompanied by his Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Scott O'Reilly. The interview took place in a conference room at the law office of Doll, Jansen & Ford, located at 111 West First Street, Suite 1100, Dayton, Ohio 45402. The interview was audio recorded.

The details below summarize what the author believed to be the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. 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. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Officer Keri Urekar has been employed with the Dayton Police Department for six years and assigned to the west road patrol division, working 0630-1630 hours. In the morning hours of October 19, 2024, Urekar received a welfare check call for service, but the CAD comments from the call taker revealed a male in the background of the original call stated he will have a shootout with officers. Additional comments from the call taker stated a female caller reported a male was threatening her life and may be going through a mental health crisis. The call taker reported hearing the a male make these specific comments. Based upon the additional information, Urekar requested additional units response to the call for service.

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Urekar stated the call for service was on Rosedale Drive, but before proceeding to the scene, she pulled off near Oxford and Cambridge Streets to wait for additional officer to form a plan for the approach. Urekar and other officers arrived on scene together and [REDACTED] and she would proceed to the Rosedale address. Urekar had knowledge of historical calls to 1273 Rosedale of shots fired over the previous summer and mental health issues. An officer advised via the primary dispatch channel he had a recent mental health call at the address.

When Urekar and other officers arrived, there was nobody in front of the residence or in the street as requested by the call taker to have the caller meet officers out front. The officers located in the rear of the residence had no contact or movement also. Urekar pulled her patrol vehicle closer to the address and used the PA system to make contact with the caller and a female caller came to the front door. Both a female and male, parents of Taylor Cotton, exited the residence and spoke with officers. While speaking with the parents, Cotton's mother pointed to Taylor Cotton, who was operating a motor vehicle. Either the mother or father of Cotton stated to Urekar that Cotton indicated he would shoot it out with the police. Cotton traveled, operating a tan Buick, south of Rosedale then turned west on Access Road and then stopped in the street. [REDACTED] requested via the primary channel for officers stop the vehicle, but the vehicle had already stopped. Urekar yelled to Cotton to show his hands and Cotton initially displayed both hands from inside the vehicle then placed his right hand down, which Urekar informed Cotton not to reach. Cotton, who had his left leg out of the vehicle, displayed a long gun and rested the buttstock of the gun on his leg. The barrel pointed upward with Cotton's his hand on the trigger guard.

Urekar shouted commands for Cotton to drop the gun. As more officers arrived, [REDACTED] attempting to talk with Cotton for a peaceful conclusion. Cotton did not respond, but visually tracked officers from the vehicle's B pillar. Shortly after Sergeant Savage arrived, Urekar transitioned from her Glock to the Pepper Ball (less lethal) launcher, which she is an instructor for the deployment of Pepper Ball. Although she had a direct shot to deploy the Pepper Ball, Urekar believed it would force the issue with Cotton who was armed. Urekar was informed an armored vehicle was on the way, which is the reason she maintained possession of the Pepper Ball.

Urekar is positioned behind a civilian vehicle with Sergeant Spires to her left and [REDACTED] to her right, just northwest of Cotton, which she indicated on a diagram. According to Urekar, [REDACTED] was at the front passenger wheel well of the civilian vehicle and was attempting to communicate with Cotton almost pleading with Cotton. [REDACTED] was receiving intelligence from Sergeant Spires while speaking with Cotton. The only words Urekar heard Cotton utter was, "this is the only way up." Shortly after they were notified an armored vehicle was on the way, Cotton exited the vehicle and pointed the shotgun in the direction of officers. Agent Ward asked Urekar if she observed which officers fired, she did not.

After Cotton was shot, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] approached Cotton and rendered medical aid. Agent Ward asked Urekar if she observed the long gun, but she believed that the gun was moved. Urekar approached Cotton and assisted other officers from different agencies in rendering medical aid.

Agent Ward concluded the audio recorded interview (attached below) with Urekar at 1409

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hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-11-04 / DPD Keri Urekar audio recorded interview

Attachment # 02: Written Statement of Keri Urekar

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2

STATEMENT OF KERI UREKAR

OCTOBER 24, 2024

I am a Patrol Officer with the Dayton Police Department. I have been employed as a law enforcement officer since 2019. I started my career at Dayton Police Department. I worked ten months for Fairborn Police Department. I have been employed by Dayton since 2021. I graduated from the Dayton Police Academy in 2019.

I am currently assigned as a Patrol Officer.

I am providing this statement voluntarily. I have prepared the statement to the best of my recollection. I have had the opportunity to review available videos of the incident. My body camera was not among the videos I was able to review. It is possible that a future review of additional materials might refresh my recollection in the future.

I am familiar with the Dayton police department policies and procedures on use of force. My most recent training on use of force occurred within the last year. I most recently completed my firearm qualifications for rifle in May 2024. I most recently completed my firearm qualifications for handgun in the December 2023.

On the morning October 19, 2024, I worked a shift from 0630 to 1630. I was wearing my uniform and operating my patrol car during my shift.

While on duty, I carry my Glock 17 9mm pistol along with 3 magazines containing 17 rounds each. One magazine is contained in the firearm, the remaining 2 are carried on my belt. My firearm had 18 rounds (1 in the weapon and 17 in the magazine).

I also have a Rock River .223 rifle stored in a carrying case in the cabin of my vehicle along with two magazines. Each magazine was loaded with 28 rounds.

I had a Tippman SA200 pepperball launcher. I am a pepperball launcher instructor. I most recently completed my qualifications for the pepperball launcher in March 2024. A pepperball launcher is considered to be non-lethal by Dayton Police.

I added on to a call from Dispatch at approximately 0830 on October 19, 2024. The weather that morning was clear and cold. I was located on Salem Avenue near Harvard.

██████████ received a call for a "welfare check" on Rosedale Drive. A welfare check means a request to check on the health of an individual and often involves mental health issues. ██████████ asked me to add to the call. He did this because welfare checks require two officers for safety.

I recognized the address from prior calls. I recalled calls for domestic violence, shots fired, disorderly subjects at this location.

I read the call comments and understood that an individual at the scene had threatened to have a shootout with officers. I got on the in car radio. Based on this information, I asked for all available crews to add and respond to the call based on the call comments and the history at the location.

██████████ communicated to the other responding officers that we should meet at the intersection of Bryn Mawr and Oxford.

I, along with ██████████ and ██████████ approached the scene on Rosedale. Other Officers took a different route to the scene in order to control access to the scene and maintain visual from all directions.

We set up a perimeter at the scene. I did not observe anyone at the scene. We asked dispatch to call the residence; no response was received.

I brought my vehicle to the front of the residence and requested the occupants to come out of the residence to speak with officers in relation to the call. While I was giving commands, a black female came out. She indicated that her husband was in the house and that they had called about their son. As she was approaching me on the sidewalk, she pointed at gold four door Buick with loud exhaust approaching the residence. He identified the suspect as her son. Her husband also indicated that the suspect wanted to have a shootout with police.

The suspect drove on Access Road and stopped about ten feet from a stop sign. He opened the driver's front door. I had pulled out my Glock 17 and pointed the weapon at the suspect. I and the other officers gave verbal commands to show his hands and exit the vehicle. The suspect initially had both hands in the

air. I observed the suspect reach with his right hand over to the center console of the vehicle. I gave further commands to stop moving. I observed the suspect remove a long gun from the passenger side of the vehicle. He held the gun with the barrel facing up with his hands near the trigger.

██████████ reported an individual with a firearm over the radio. Officers from Moraine Police Department and the Sheriff's Office responded.

I remained in the front yard for some period of time. Eventually, along with ██████████ and ██████████ took cover behind a blue four door car. Sgt. Spires and Officer Kloos later arrived at the location. Since other officers had lethal coverage, I transitioned to the pepperball launcher.

A family member appeared at the scene and started yelling. Another officer was able to remove the family member from the scene.

██████████ spoke to the suspect in an effort to diffuse the situation. He, along others, gave the suspect verbal commands to drop the weapon and leave his vehicle.

I communicated to Sgt. Spires my belief that the pepperball launcher was not a safe option in this situation. He agreed, but I continued to maintain the use of the pepperball launcher because I was informed that armor, meaning a SWAT vehicle with shields, was on the way to the scene.

The suspect exited his vehicle and pointed his long gun at my direction. I believed that I and the other officers on the scene were in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and the only means of escape from danger was the use of deadly force. I did not believe that I could safely withdraw from the location and adequately protect myself or other possibly innocent persons in the area. I remained behind the car. I did not fire at the suspect because I had the pepperball launcher. I had a clear line of sight on the suspect.

Other officers fired on the suspect. I observed the suspect fall to the ground. The shotgun was no longer in his hands. I handed my pepperball launcher to someone. I approached the suspect. I observed other officers patting him down for weapons. The suspect was rolled on his back after it was determined he did not have any other weapons. I held the suspect's hand and checked for a pulse while another officer

performed CPS. A medic arrived. I provided assistance and information to the medics. The suspect was transported to a hospital.

I remained on the scene for a period of time. I left my vehicle at the scene. I, along with other officers at the scene, was transported to the Safety Building. I remained in my uniform until an evidence tech from BCI arrived. BCI photographed me. I did not receive any injuries as a result of this incident.