



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



2021-1772

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 300 Wood Street Apt. A8, Mansfield,
OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Laconya Williams
Activity Date: 07/29/2021
Authoring Agent: SA Momchilov #64

On July 29, 2021, at approximately 2029 hours, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Laconya Williams (Williams) at the Mansfield Police Department, 30 N. Diamond Street, Mansfield, Ohio. Also present in the interview was Mansfield Police Detective Terry Butler.

Williams, a cab driver, was identified by the Mansfield Police Department as a potential witness to the officer-involved shooting that occurred on Wood Street.

Prior to the interview, SA Momchilov informed Williams that he works for the State of Ohio, and the state was requested to investigate the officer-involved shooting portion of the incident.

Williams advised that she works for TNT Taxi, and she was having a typical day when she received a call to pick someone up and transport them to 248 Wood Street. Williams advised the charge for the fare was \$5.

Williams explained she picked up two individuals on Mulberry and began to transport them to Wood Street. Williams described the two individuals as "strange." Williams further explained that her son does not feel safe that Williams is a cab driver; because of this, Williams will often times give her son the address that she is going to, via text message, so he can check the address beforehand. Williams stated, in this circumstance, she gave her son the address (248 Wood Street) and her son advised that the address did not exist.

Williams stated, once she learned that information, she asked the individuals where they were going. Williams stated the individuals told her to take them up the street. Williams stated, at some point, she passed a police officer who was sitting in his vehicle and she made eye contact with that officer.

Williams advised that she eventually stopped at 300 Wood Street and then pulled into the parking lot. Williams advised that she told the individuals to exit the cab and the fare was \$5. The individuals then told Williams they would be right back with the fare.

The individuals did eventually exit the cab and went to apartment A-8. Williams stated the "skinny one" exited the apartment and came back down. According to Williams, the individual stated that he would be right back and that he was "making a phone call." Williams advised that the individual then stated that he did not have the money and asked if he could work something

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out with Williams for the fare. According to Williams, the individual stated he did not want her to call the police.

Williams stated that she told the individual that her boss was not going to like this and that they should not have called for a cab if they did not have the fare. Williams advised that she told the individual "let me see what I can do."

Williams stated, "So I kind of calmed them down because they were trying to get back into my vehicle, so I locked the doors as I was speaking with them." Williams stated she called her boss and told him that he needed to come down and deal with the individuals. Williams stated the "skinny one" was walking around the apartment building, at which point she attempted to call 911. Williams stated she observed the individual with money in his hand and then put the money in his pocket and began walking towards Williams' cab.

Williams stated she had a gun in her vehicle and at this point she loaded it. When the individual approached her cab, Williams stated she looked at him and said, "Hey, I don't know what's going on, but you're going to have to work it out with the police because I'm gonna leave and I'm gonna call them back to the location."

Williams stated the individual stated, "No, don't do that, no, don't do that," and then ran back up the apartment building stairs. Williams stated the "heavy set one" was already in there (apartment A-8). According to Williams, "The heavy-set guy got stabbed, they were in there arguing or something."

Williams stated that she talked to her son who asked where she was and Williams advised 300 Wood Street. Williams stated her son told her that he was going to call the police.

Around this time, a Mansfield Police officer pulled into the parking lot. Williams stated that she got the officer's attention. According to Williams, she told the officer about the two individuals who did not pay their cab fare. Williams stated the officer asked which apartment and Williams replied, "A-8." Williams stated that she also gave a description of the individuals to the officer. Williams stated the officer told her that he was going to try and make contact with the individuals.

Williams explained that the officer then began to walk up the apartment complex stairs to apartment A-8. Around this time, another officer pulled in, and Williams stated she told that officer that the other officer was walking up the apartment complex stairs.

Williams advised that both officers climbed the stairs and arrived on the landing near the apartment. According to Williams, the officers knocked on the door and said, "Mansfield Police,

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can you come out.” Williams explained, because she was in her car, she could not hear what was going on inside the apartment, but Williams stated she knew “they were in there.” According to Williams, the officer knocked again and said, “Mansfield Police.”

According to Williams, the officers knocked again and said, “Mansfield Police Department, come out.” Williams then stated, “He comes out, he’s got a knife in his hand, dripping blood, he’s got a white shirt on, the shirt is all bloody, you can tell whatever happened in the apartment that he was responsible for what was going on because he had blood all over his hands. So, he like ‘drop the knife, drop the knife’ he said ‘sir I’m telling you to drop the knife’ so they backen back, he steady approaching them, and he is like getting angry with them. So, I’m like oh my god, you know am I really seeing what I’m seeing, is he really running up on the police with a knife.”

Williams stated before she could even blink her eyes, the individual took his arm/elbow and broke the apartment window out. Williams continued, “and he burst the apartment window out and the police officer told him ‘hey, you know, stop and -inaudible-‘ didn’t want to. He end up shooting him. He falls into the apartment window, the one he burst.”

Williams stated she could not tell if the individual fell into the apartment through the window or if the individual pulled himself through. Williams stated that once the individual went into the apartment through the window, the officers again knocked on the door and stated, “Mansfield Police Department.” Williams stated that one officer then kicked in the door and said, “Drop it, right now, drop it right now.” Williams continued, “And I guess he is still holding the weapon or he is still in there attempting to stab this gentleman that he was with and that’s when I heard like, 5, 6 shots.”

At this point in the interview, SA Momchilov began asking Williams follow-up questions. SA Momchilov asked Williams if she could further describe the individuals that she gave a ride to. Williams stated one individual was a heavy-set black male that weighed approximately 350 pounds and also had “dreads.” Williams also said that individual “walked funny” and had a hard time walking. Williams had previously described the other individual as being “skinny.”

SA Momchilov asked Williams if the two individuals were conversing with each other in the back of the cab. Williams advised the individuals were but they were mostly whispering to each other, therefore, Williams could not hear what they were talking about. Williams stated that she mostly just watched the individuals when they were in the back of her cab and described the “little one” as being aggressive. Williams further explained that the “little one” kept shoving the heavier set individual.

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Williams advised that based upon the way these individuals were acting, she now believes the individuals were going to rob her. Williams stated she based that belief on the fact that there was no 248 Wood Street and when she informed the individuals that 248 Wood Street did not exist, she had already passed 300 Wood Street. Williams further advised that the heavier set individual told her to keep going. Williams stated she then told the individuals that they would need to exit her cab. Williams then turned around and the very first driveway she pulled into was 300 Wood Street.

SA Momchilov asked Williams if both individuals went up to the apartment. Williams stated that the heavier set individual went up to the apartment first and stayed up there for two to three minutes. After that time, Williams stated she beeped her horn. The skinny individual came from the back of the apartment complex and that is when he was holding the money. Williams stated that the skinny individual told her that he was "going to pay" but that he had to run back upstairs first. Williams stated the heavy-set individual came out of the apartment as the skinny individual was going up the apartment complex stairs. According to Williams, the heavier set individual was looking at the skinnier individual, "like, telling him to give me the money."

Williams stated she did not understand why the skinnier individual was not paying her with the money he had in his hand. It was at this point, Williams was speaking with her boss, via phone, and told him that he may need to come to her location to handle his matter. Williams stated her boss told her that he was on his way but advised her that she may need to stay there in case the police are called, so she could give a statement. It was at this point, an officer pulled into the apartment complex. Williams stated, to her knowledge, no one called the police except maybe her son because he said he was going to.

SA Momchilov asked Williams how fast the individual was approaching the officers when he exited the apartment with the knife. Williams responded, "Oh, very fast." Williams further explained that "basically like, like he was going to dive on one of them." Williams also stated that the individual was close enough to dive on the officers. Williams continued, "He did not give them any opportunity or no option but the one they had to take, because he had this weapon in his hand, he was refusing to drop it, he was told multiple times, I mean over 10 times this was shouted to him and both officers were being patient and everything but this guy kept approaching."

Williams also advised that the officers were also running out of space on the landing when they were backing up.



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SA Momchilov asked Williams if she felt the officers acted appropriately. Williams responded, "Very professional, the guy that did this to himself, he left them no decision. They asked him more than one time, he pleaded with him. I believe they were all trying to handle it the best way, professionally they can but this guy left them no choice."

Williams also stated that the individual was very aggressive with his look and that the individual was raising his arm up with the knife in it. Williams stated that she believed this encounter lasted anywhere from three to six minutes.

Williams also stated that she did not see any other individuals exit the apartment after this incident, other than the heavy set and skinner individuals. Williams also stated she did not actually see the skinner individual stab the heavier set individual. Williams stated, "I could just tell that something was going on because when the little guy went into the apartment he slammed the door and you know, some of the windows in the complex, in the apartment, they were like weak and they rattled and I seen like the windows -inaudible- and I'm like this is a conflict right here and the next thing I know, before your officers can get completely up the stairs -inaudible- he game out the door with a knife. Like hey, I'll take you guys out too."

Williams explained she concluded that the skinner individual stabbed the heavier set individual because the skinner individual exited the apartment with a knife and had blood on him. Williams also stated that she could hear some screaming coming from inside of the apartment.

It should be noted that during the interview, Williams did contradict herself on a minor statement. Williams initially stated that officers knocked on the door of apartment A-8 numerous times before the individual exited the apartment with the knife. Later in the interview, Williams stated the officers did not completely make it up the stairs when the individual exited the apartment with the knife.

The interview with Williams was recorded via video. The video recording was placed onto a DVD; the DVD was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item 64.