



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



2023-1535

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 311 25th Street SW, Canton, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview – Domnita Neff
Activity Date: June 8, 2023
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On June 8, 2023, at approximately 2:12 AM, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) interviewed Domnita Neff (Domnita). Domnita had been transported to the Canton Police Department (CPD) by the CPD after the shooting incident and was present at the department when agents arrived. Domnita was the wife of Jeffrey Neff (Neff). The interview was audio and video recorded and took place in an interview room at the CPD. The video recording has been stored on a DVD in the BCI case file as Reference Item D.

The following is a summary of 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. The information 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 recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Throughout the interview, Domnita provided the following information:

She has been in a relationship with Neff for 10 years and they have been married for the past seven years. He was a drug addict who used drugs all day, everyday, and would come and go from their home regularly. Neff stayed at their home the previous two nights.

Earlier that day she had a dentist appointment at 2:30 PM. Her daughter, Madylynn Neff, had told her the drug dealer, Frank (Last name possibly Lomabardi or Stalickney), had shown up while she was at the dentist. Domnita said Neff also took a nap while she was at the dentist. When he woke up, he started acting weird. Frank supposedly supplied Neff with cocaine but she suspected it was meth. Domnita said whatever he was on, he was not acting his normal self.

She also explained Neff had rented a truck from Lowes and loaned it out to Frank. Earlier that day, she received a certified letter from Lowes regarding the rented truck and they began arguing about it. Domnita told Neff if he didn't leave for rehab that night he couldn't come back at all.

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The continued arguing and Neff was standing in the front yard with his clothes waiting on Frank to come pick him up. She and her sister, April Betz, were in the front yard with Neff while he was yelling. Domnita was hoping she could just get him to leave but she texted Brittney (unknown last name) who lived the next road over, and told her if she heard anything to call the police.

While they were in the front yard yelling the police pulled up. Neff took off running through the backyard and jumped the fence. Two police officers ran after him and she followed the police. When she got to the fence and was climbing over she heard a lot of gunshots. She also fell and lost sight of them. When she stood up she saw one of the officers standing over top of Neff with his gun pointed at Neff. She did not hear the police yell anything at Neff and she did not hear Neff say anything to the police.

Domnita described the gunfire as repeated gunshots. She said there were so many that she did not know how many gunshots she heard. She believed Neff's gun only held 6 bullets and believed the officer's fired more than Neff did. She confirmed she did not actually see anyone fire a gun but she did hear the gunshots.

Domnita was not aware of Neff ever being diagnosed with a mental illness. When asked if Neff had any hatred toward the police, she said she didn't think anyone likes the police, but Neff had never verbalized any negative feelings about the police. She said Neff would have never shot at the cops and it had to have been the drugs he was on that caused him to do that.

Neff did not carry guns. Approximately four years ago when his grandfather died, his sister gave him one of his grandfather's old .22 caliber guns. She said Neff was not able to legally have guns and she never let him bring it into the house.

She did not record any videos of the incident on her cell phone. She had surveillance cameras on her home but they had not worked since her house fire on the 4th of July.

Her daughter, Madylynn Neff, was inside the home when the police arrived but Domnita did not believe Madylynn or her sister, April, had witnessed the shooting incident.

Reference Items:

Item D – Video Recorded Witness Interview – Domnita Neff