



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: James David Myers (W)
Date of Activity: 07/24/2022
Activity Location: – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Vienna, OH 45369, Clark County
Author: SA Ryan D. Scheiderer, #89

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022 at approximately 1833 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Scheiderer obtained a recorded statement from James Myers (Myers) regarding the July 24, 2022, Officer-Involved Critical Incident between numerous law enforcement agencies in Clark County, Ohio, and the resident of 1132 Ashwood Drive, Cole White (White). As a result of the incident, Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Deputy Matthew Yates (Deputy Yates) was fatally shot by White. White and his mother, Jodie Arbuckle (Arbuckle) were later found deceased inside White's residence after it had been consumed by fire. The following is a summation of the contact with Myers and additional details can be found in the attached audio recording.

While conducting a neighborhood canvass in the area of 1140 Ashwood Drive, SA Scheiderer was contacted by Myers who claimed he was White's brother and could shed light on the events that unfolded earlier involving White and law enforcement. Myers claimed to be too upset at the moment, but agreed to speak with SA Scheiderer as soon as he calmed down. SA Scheiderer later located Myers walking around and requested he accompany SA Scheiderer to his BCI vehicle to provide a statement.

Myers lives in Dayton, Ohio, but sometimes stays with his mother, Bennette Myers, who resides across the street from White. Myers stated White is "level headed", but dealing with some "mental struggles" and just wanted to be left alone. Recently, White had been distancing himself from friends and family which had caused them to be concerned for his well-being. Myers claimed to have been working daily with White in attempt to resolve whatever was affecting him. Arbuckle had also been checking up on White and concerned about his well-being.

Myers stated that today Arbuckle disregarded his advice and attempted to climb through a window of White's residence to check on him. Myers stated White got "spooked" because somebody was breaking into his residence so he shot the person not realizing it was his

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mother. Myers stated “cops” and “EMS” were allowed to enter into the residence to provide life-saving assistance to Arbuckle, but after White realized what he had done and to who, it “broke him” and things escalated. It was later determined Myers had not witnessed the incident involving White, Arbuckle, and law enforcement and that he was simply offering his opinion on what happened. It should be noted that Myers never referenced White shooting Deputy Yates.

SA Scheiderer asked Myers to walk him through his day today starting with where he woke up at. Myers had been staying at his mother’s residence, 1137 Ashwood Drive, across the street from White for the past week so that he could try to work with White. Myers and others have tried numerous times to contact White, but have only communicated with him from outside the residence. On this morning, Myers was unable to get a response from White, but could hear activity from inside the residence. Myers left the area at approximately 0600 to 0700 hours to open a store for work. While on his way back from Fairborn, Myers received a call from White’s neighbor who advised him that Arbuckle attempted to contact White and there was a situation.

Myers stated he last confirmed White was alive two nights prior (Friday) when the sheriff’s office was there conducting a well-being check. That contact was through the window. Myers was there trying to contact White and communicating with Arbuckle. When Myers didn’t respond to a text Arbuckle sent him, she contacted the sheriff’s office and requested a well-being check on White and Myers. According to Myers, he believed White was “schizophrenic” and “bi-polar”. Myers stated White had only been violent to those who “earned” it. Myers stated White never lashed out at anyone. Myers was aware White had purchased firearms in the past and stated he was present for 90% of the purchases. Myers believed White should be in possession of a .45 caliber Glock, smaller .380 pistol, a .410/.45 Judge or Executioner pistol, an AK-47 rifle, and an AR-15 style rifle. SA Scheiderer asked Myers if he was aware of an incident where White’s firearms had been taken and then returned. Myers was aware of an incident involving White where he was at a job interview or it was White’s first day on the job and he was at a “No Gun Zone”. White got into a disturbance with management and law enforcement was called which led to them discovering White was in possession of a firearm.

Myers was aware of numerous welfare checks on White conducted by the sheriff’s office. Myers stated a sergeant from the sheriff’s office was aware of White’s situation and had been trying to assist the family. Myers stated White had been committed to the hospital in the past, but believed it was for malnourishment issues. Myers stated White hasn’t worked in months, his car was broken down, and he was sure how or what White had been eating.

Myers suspected there were a couple of events that led to White’s downward spiral and isolation. The loss of his grandmother approximately ten years ago and friends taking different paths in life leading to less interaction. Myers was not aware of White having issues with law enforcement other than just wanting to be left alone.

SA Scheiderer asked Myers to clarify his relationship to White. Myers admitted he is not related to White in any way and had known him since childhood. Myers claimed he lived with White as a child, but never provided details about that situation. Myers stated that when White’s grandmother passed away, Myers and his mother moved into the mobile home park across the street from White. Myers advised White’s father was never around and he had only met White’s father a few times. Myers did observe White’s father on scene today, but claimed his father

stated he had to leave for work.

Myers was unaware of White being romantically involved with anyone. Myers was unaware of White's medication status. Myers was unaware of the status of electricity inside White's residence. Myers didn't have any additional information.

Prior to ending the contact with Myers, SA Scheiderer explained BCI's role in the investigation and why BCI was requested to investigate the incident.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-24 / James Myers Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.