



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



2024-1814
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8401 South Dixie Highway,
Rudolph, Ohio 43462

Investigative Activity: Supplemental Interview, Telephone Interview
Involves: Jamar Harris (O), Edward Meyer (O), Donna Armstrong (O), Areli Olivares (O)
Date of Activity: 08/13/2024
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On August 13, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) reviewed the cyber analysis data completed by SA Robert Surgenor (Surgenor) on the cell phone belonging to George Eric Taylor (Eric). The cell phone was seized by the use of a search warrant from Eric's residence due to an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving the Wood County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and Eric that took place on June 16, 2024, at 8401 South Dixie Highway, Rudolph, Ohio.

During the review of the data, SA Rammel observed that Eric either spoke with or texted multiple individuals the day leading up to the OICI. The individuals were identified as Jamar Harris (Harris), Edward Meyer (Meyer), Donna Armstrong (Armstrong), Ariel Olivares (Olivares), and the Sidney Police Department. SA Rammel contacted each individual in order to see if there was any additional information that SA Rammel might be able to gather regarding Eric leading up to the OICI with the WCSO.

On August 13, 2024, SA Rammel contacted Harris at [REDACTED] Harris was listed in Eric's phone as "Jay ODOT Pony". Harris confirmed that he was the correct person and stated that he talked to Eric on June 15, 2024, the day prior to the OICI. Harris advised that Eric told him he was going through a divorce and that Eric was going to transfer back up to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 2 and work with Harris once he had all of his stuff moved back up to Rudolph. Eric informed Harris that he knew the relationship with Jessica Taylor (Jessica) was coming to an end, but Eric stayed in the marriage because it helped Eric keep his mind off of other issues. Harris mentioned that Eric was working on some of his cars that day and requested a phone number of one of Harris's friends due to him ending his relationship with Jessica.

Harris advised that he found out the following day, June 16, 2024, that Eric had been shot and was dead. Harris stated he knew Eric had "issues" of [REDACTED] and talked with Eric in the past about them, but Eric did not give any indication on June 15, 2024, that he was in the mindset to harm himself or others. Harris told SA Rammel that he had known Eric for four years, and that Eric had been suicidal in the past but always seemed to come out of it due to having friends available. Harris

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
08/16/2024

advised that he did not have anything else to tell SA Rammel that he thought would be beneficial that was not Harris's own opinion about what caused Eric to act the way he did with WCSO.

On August 13, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Meyer at [REDACTED]. Meyer confirmed he spoke with Eric on June 15, 2024, and his contact in Eric's phone was "Ed SOHO". Meyer stated that Eric told him he was going through a divorce and that Eric was moving back up to Rudolph. Eric told Meyer that he was "fine", and that Eric was working on some of his cars with Matt Patton (Patton). Meyer mentioned the conversation was a "little rushed", but Eric just wanted Meyer to know that Eric was moving and that he was getting a divorce. Meyer informed SA Rammel that Eric was a very private guy and did not display his feelings, but Meyer clarified that he did not notice any indication Eric was depressed or had thoughts of harm.

Meyer indicated he knew Eric for about two years and that he never saw Eric have any form of depression or suicidal thoughts. Meyer mentioned that Eric was very upset a couple of years ago when his dad died, but even at that time Eric did not seem depressed. Meyer indicated he was very surprised Eric acted that way towards the WCSO. Meyer stated he did not have any additional information to provide or any other questions at this time.

On August 13, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Olivares at [REDACTED]. Olivares mentioned she never met Eric before, but her friend Harris gave Eric her number earlier on June 15, 2024, because both of them were going through bad breakups. Olivares admitted to texting Eric the night of June 15, 2024, and that Eric seemed noticeably upset about his relationship. Olivares mentioned she offered to be someone that Eric could talk to because she understood what he was going through. Olivares stated she never spoke on the phone with Eric and the only form of contact they had was the single text message thread. Olivares advised she knew Eric had died shortly after texting with her, but Olivares thought it was a suicide until speaking with SA Rammel and hearing what actually happened.

On August 13, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Armstrong at [REDACTED]. Armstrong identified herself as a former girlfriend of Eric's and that she dated Eric just prior to Eric being with his wife Jessica. Armstrong advised that on June 15, 2024, Eric left a voicemail for Armstrong to call him back, but Eric never answered any of Armstrong's return call attempts. Armstrong stated she eventually fell asleep and woke up around 0800 hours on June 16 to a few missed texts from Eric. Armstrong described one of the texts as being sent around midnight on June 15/16 and it was Eric stating, "I'm killing myself". Armstrong told SA Rammel that this was the first time Eric had ever said or sent anything like that to her in the years that Armstrong had known him. Armstrong advised she sent texts back to Eric trying to convince him of reasons that Eric had to live, but Armstrong informed SA Rammel that by the time she got the messages and eventually tried to call him back it was already too late, and Eric was deceased. Armstrong indicated that she knew Eric had [REDACTED] but that Eric had never made any comments like that before, nor had Eric ever acted like he was going to self-harm or harm someone else. Armstrong also mentioned that she never saw Eric take any medication for [REDACTED] nor did there ever appear to be a time when Eric would have needed it.

Armstrong said the last time she saw Eric in person was around a month prior to the OICI and that Eric "seemed fine" and did not mention anything about having issues with Jessica.

Armstrong advised that Eric was in a very "dark place" around the time that his dad died, and that

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Armstrong had been told by one of Eric's friends that Eric got worse after he left Armstrong for Jessica. Armstrong described Eric as being "too scared to do anything on his (Eric's) own" and mentioned that Eric was a "Christian" and that by committing suicide Eric would have "disappointed his dad". Armstrong clarified that she believed Eric would have seen the WCSO response as making it "easy on him".

On August 13, 2024, SA Rammel spoke with Lieutenant Jeremy Lorenzo (Lorenzo) with the Sidney Police Department (SPD). Lorenzo was able to locate the CAD entry regarding the call made to Eric from SPD on June 16, 2024. Lorenzo advised that Robert Van Norman (Van Norman) contacted the SPD for a Wellness Check on Eric, and that the call to Eric was unsuccessful. Lorenzo stated no additional information was listed in the CAD except for Van Norman's return number. Lorenzo further advised that the individual who took the call is no longer an employee with the SPD. SA Rammel thanked Lorenzo for the information.

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